



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 10TH MARCH 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families have had a good week.

You should by now have received a separate email outlining our plans for the next two days of strike action by teachers who are members of the National Education Union (NEU). The next two days of strike action are due to take place on Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March. We hope that by releasing our plans now that it will support you in planning for any childcare arrangements you may wish to make. Thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

Making decisions about whether to keep the school open on snow days is always challenging, with the safety of students and staff of paramount importance. Such decisions have to take into account conditions both on site and whilst staff and students are making their way to and from the School. This morning's decision to close was delayed until the latest possible time before some staff set out on their journeys to work to see if conditions improved. Unfortunately they didn't, and the forecast suggested further sleet/snow throughout the morning. We were very pleased to be able to keep the school site open on Thursday despite the continued falling of snow during the morning! Unfortunately conditions were worse on site today than yesterday and conditions in the local area were also a concern. Please always assume that on snow days the school site will be open unless we inform you otherwise. Thank you.

Thank you to Year 13 parents/carers for making appointments for yesterday's Student Progress Evening and for your patience and understanding when we had to move the event online due to the inclement weather. This was a final opportunity for families to hear from A-Level subject teachers about what their sons/daughters can be doing over the next few weeks to really make a difference to their A-Level grades. Revision is well underway both at home and at school and students are fully focused and committed to the demands ahead. We are really proud of the way that our Year 13s are coping with the rigour of Year 13. For our Year 13s, this is the first time they will sit public examinations; when they were in Year 11 their GCSE exams were cancelled nationally by the Government due to Covid and Teacher Assessed Grades were used by all schools to determine grades. They are showing great perseverance and resilience towards their studies and we know that this determination will help them to do well in the summer.

This week Mrs Robinson has been leading assemblies to all year groups to cover our key values of courtesy, kindness, respect and resilience. We have been explaining that being able to practise and demonstrate these life skills helps to build a strong school community. In turn this helps to ensure that students will understand the skills that they need to be successful citizens in their lives. Students were also encouraged to think about and show gratitude - to pause and reflect on the good things in their lives, or the good things that happen in their day. We also reminded students of how important it is to follow instructions first time, whether that is in lesson, or at social times - instructions from staff are because we are trying to either run the school safely and smoothly, and/or to ensure that effective learning is always taking place. We acknowledged with students that the overwhelming majority of them always display these skills and this will bode well for them in their lives - people always have a positive and lasting impression of those who display honesty, courtesy, kindness and respect!

Excellent attendance to school is key. Research shows that when a student has attendance of 90% this really has a detrimental effect on GCSE performance, with students achieving at least a grade lower than those students who attend school regularly. Please reinforce with your son/daughter the skill of resilience – a paracetamol and a box of tissues is often enough when feeling under the weather! If your son/daughter has more serious issues around attending school, please remember to share these issues with us at school so that we can work together to ensure that all students are getting the best opportunity to improve their life chances through achieving an excellent education. This is something that was also shared with students in assembly this week.

It was genuine privilege this week to host visitors from Morocco in school. This was part of an exciting new collaboration and partnership with the Abi Gate School in Agadir Morocco which Higham Lane School has just entered into. Our visitors included two university professors, one of whom was the co-founder of Abi Gate School, a Chief Inspector with the Moroccan Ministry of Education and a Higham Lane parent, who is an ambassador for Abi Gate School. We are very excited about the opportunities that this new partnership offers and will bring you further news as we launch joint projects.

The Higham Lane Sixth Form led a very successful event for all Higham Lane School applicants from Year 11 on Wednesday of this week. Presentations about the Sixth Form were given by Mr Ladha (Head of Sixth Form), Mrs Doyne-Ditmas (Assistant Head of Sixth Form) and students from the Student Union. Year 11 were offered a Q and A session and were given tours around the Sixth Form Centre. We are looking forward to our next event which is a Year 12 Experience day in June.

On Monday Year 11 had their second Personal Development day on the theme of adult health, looking after yourself & others. The event involved a talk from Tony Kelly, a recovering gambling addict who spoke to our students about gambling addiction and what problem gambling led to in his life, tutor led activities on domestic abuse & violence, first aid and organ/blood donation, and also talks by CoppaFeel, a breast cancer awareness charity and OddBalls, a testicular cancer awareness charity. The event proved to be a great success, with positive feedback from staff, students and outside speakers.

Please visit the Able and Ambitious section of this newsletter for details of some exciting competitions which students can enter along with details of the House Poster competition winners, the next in the series of talks as part of the Memorable Moments Passport scheme and details of university summer schools and residential.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,



Acting Headteacher

Dates for your diary

17th March – Year 10 Personal Development Day

20th March – Year 8 HPV 1 Vaccinations

21st March – Year 9 Personal Development Day

22nd March – Year 9 HPV 2 Vaccinations

23rd March – Year 8 HPV 1 Vaccinations / Year 9 HPV 2 Vaccinations

30th March – Year 11 Student Progress Evening

31st March – End of Spring Term

Please note: details of all these items are on the Able & Ambitious Google Classroom pages and they will also be communicated through Sharepoint where necessary.

All competition entrants will be awarded House Points for entering as well as prizes for the winners.



All Years:

- House Poster Competition Winners: Eve G in Year 10 for suggesting Emma Watson to represent kindness and compassion for Honestas and Mahatma Gandhi for effort and determination for Luctamen. She wins a £10 Love2Shop voucher and 10 House Points. Mia B in Year 8 for her idea to have Sir David Attenborough to represent the inspirational qualities of Spiritus. She gets 5 House Points and everyone else who entered gets 2 House Points.
- The poster competition was judged by our 3 new Heads of Houses: Mrs Betteridge, Head of Honestas; Mr Turley, Head of Luctamen; and Mr Ash, Head of Spiritus. They have been appointed to help push the House System on so that it becomes even more effective and helps raise standards in academic achievement, behaviour, relationships, teamwork and friendly competition. More details to introduce you to their manifesto and roles as Head of House to follow.
- Historical fiction writing competition for those with an interest in ancient history and writing. £100 to be won!
- French and Spanish fiction writing competition. Another £100 to be won!!
- Mr Goldstraw - ex-Higham Lane teacher - will be coming into school on Thursday 23rd March to give a fascinating talk on his career in the army, and life as a history teacher and historian. This is open to ANY students and will take place in Coombe Hall straight after school and last approximately one hour.

Years 8-13:

- Memorable Moments Passport (MMP) students: there is a lecture by Mr Goldstraw on Thursday 23rd March that MMP students must attend as we'll be giving them their Unifrog log-in details.

Years 11-13:

- Unsung Heroes of Science Video Competition: There is the chance to win a visit to Oxford University and have your work promoted through the university by creating a 2 minute video about someone you believe is an unsung hero of science.

Years 12 & 13:

- Choosing Oxford Conference: A virtual conference for anyone considering choosing Oxford University as their choice for higher education is taking place.

Year 12:

- Oxford University Summer Schools: for anyone interested in studying Classics, Modern Languages and Biology & Human Sciences, Oxford University are putting on a series of summer schools.
- Easter residential events at Oriel College for philosophy, a classics study day, a Women in Sustainability Programme day for students considering a career in STEM or the social sciences, including Chemistry, Engineering, Law, Earth Sciences, etc.
- Free face-to-face university study days in in Geography, Chemistry, Maths & Computer Science and Modern Languages.
- Engineering taster day at Baliol College.

Bulletin board

YEAR 8:

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

The Immunisation Team will be in school on Monday 20th March and Tuesday 21st March to administer the initial dose of HPV vaccination to Year 8 students.

The vaccination sessions will be held in the School Library over the 2 days.

To enable your child to receive this vaccination an electronic consent form must be completed. The link to the electronic form has been emailed from the school last week. Please note that the link for this consent form will close on Sunday 12th March.

If you require any further information or have any concerns you can contact the North Warwickshire Immunisation Team on 02476 321550.

YEAR 9:

Year 9 HPV Vaccinations

The Immunisation Team will be in school on Tuesday 21st March and Wednesday 22nd March to administer the second dose of HPV vaccination to all Year 9 students (where consent was given)

The vaccination sessions will be held in the School Library over the 2 days.

A letter has been emailed to you from the school with information about these vaccinations.

If you require any information or have any concerns you can contact the North Warwickshire Immunisation Team on 02476 321550.



In sports news, the Year 12/13 football team narrowly lost 3-2 to St Thomas More in the league decider. Year 7/8 girls football team drew 2 games 0-0 and won one 1-0 in the first round of the School Games competition. At the Nuneaton league first round of fixtures, our Year 7A netball team won all 4 of their league games to a total of 51-0, Year 7B netball team won all 4 of their matches to a total of 51-1, Year 7C netball team won 1, drew 1 and lost 3 of their matches. Our Year 9A netball team sadly lost 34-16 to Bablake A team.

Our Year 7 rugby team played St Thomas More, Nicolas Chamberlaine, Polesworth and George Eliot Schools in a mini-tournament last week and were unbeaten in all of their matches. The team are coached by rugby coaches from Nuneaton RFC. Mr Bottrill, one of our PE staff who was watching from the sidelines, described their standard of play as phenomenal and commented on how they improved every game. Well done to all of our sports teams.



Online mental wellbeing community. Free, safe and anonymous support.



Mental health support online for yourself and your child.

