



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families have had a good week and are looking forward to the half term holiday.

You should by now have received a separate email outlining our plans for the next day of strike action by teachers who are members of the National Education Union (NEU). This day of strike action is due to take place on Wednesday 1st 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.

Thank you to parents, carers and Year 8 students for your fantastic support at the Year 8 Curriculum and Options evening yesterday evening. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers there, supporting your child with the next stage of their education. Staff were really impressed with the informed discussions that took place throughout the evening and we hope that you found the event useful. Please remember to complete any taster lesson requests via the separate email that was sent again today. And a reminder that the final deadline for all Option choices is Monday 13th March. We would also like to say thank you to our brilliant Year 10 student helpers who all spoke so expertly and articulately to parents and carers about their subjects (and to our car park team too!). As always, you were a credit to the school, and many parents commented on how well you came across. We couldn't have done the event without you!

This week Year 11 parents/carers have received details of revision classes that will be taking place over the Easter holiday. Please encourage your son/daughter to sign up to these classes. Our research over the last few years shows that students who attended both after school and holiday revision classes performed better on average than students who did not take advantage of revision classes. Please remember that revision classes after school will continue after the February half-term break.

Congratulations to all the Year 9 and 10 students who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge earlier this month. Out of 140 entrants from Higham Lane, 25 students were awarded a Bronze Certificate as they were in the top 50% of entrants across the country and 9 students were awarded a Silver Certificate as they were in the top 25% of entrants across the country. Two of our Year 10 students, Amy and Kovin, achieved a Gold Certificate placing them in the top 8.3% of entrants – an excellent achievement! The Certificate for Best in School went to Harry in Year 9 who achieved a Gold Certificate and has qualified for the Grey Kangaroo placing him in the top 8000 Year 9 entrants. Well done, Harry! We wish Harry well in the next round.

Please check out the Able and Ambitious section of this newsletter for details of a house poster competition, Bikeability courses during the half-term break and signing up for the Police Cadets and Warwick University Summer School.

We are delighted to learn that one of our Year 13 students has received a conditional offer from Cambridge University to read Law from September. We wish them well in their A-level examinations this summer.

Half term is an ideal time for you to check whether your son/daughter has the correct uniform and arrange for a replacement if they haven't. A very small number of students are in school without ties today. Please can I ask that you purchase a replacement tie over half term if they have lost them. We also have a number of girls wearing skin tight trousers which sit above the ankle (causing bare ankles to be on show!). These have never been permitted under our uniform policy which is as follows:-

Girls' trousers school policy

Please remember that girls may wear the school trousers with the logo on, but are also able to wear plain, black trousers. Please remember that Trousers must be plain, black polyester. They should be tailored and suitable for business wear, in good condition and not fraying. These trousers tend to be looser in fit and style.

Unacceptable items include: cords, cotton, denim or flares. Trousers that are skin-tight such as leggings and also that limit the ability to tuck shirts in, trousers that are cropped and/or sit above the ankle.

Please can I ask that you arrange for replacement trousers over half term if your daughter's current trousers do not meet our policy. We do have a limited supply of girls trousers amongst our second hand uniform stock. Please contact Student Services if you wish to view these. Students who attend school in incorrect uniform will be loaned uniform by the school. Thank you for your support with this.

Well done to our Year 11 students who have completed the second week of their trial exams. I hope that the feedback you receive from your teachers based on your performance in these exams will stand you in good stead for the "real thing" in the summer. Good luck for your exams the first week after half term.

In sports news, in badminton the Under 14 boys beat St Thomas More and Polesworth, the Under 16 boys lost to St Thomas More A and beat St Thomas More B and Polesworth. The Under 14 girls and Under 16 girls beat Polesworth. In netball, Year 7 A team beat Bablake A 16-11, Year 7 B team lost to Bablake B 8-14, the Year 10 team beat King Henry VIII 17-16 and Year 9 drew with King Henry VIII 17-17. Well done to all of the students involved.

I hope that you and your family have a safe and restful half term. We look forward to welcoming the students back in school at 8.35am on Monday 27th February.

Kind regards,



Acting Headteacher



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



Mental health support online for yourself and your child.



Bulletin board

WHOLE SCHOOL (more information can be found on our website)

Could you win £2,500 for your school or college? Enter our competition!

We believe being child friendly means that every child and young person should be Happy, Healthy, Skilled, Safe and Heard. You've told us that you are concerned about climate change and the cost of living, want more open green spaces and access to mental health support. You'd also like more opportunities such as clubs and activities and careers advice, and to see progress on the Safer Streets programme.

We need your help to bring these ideas to life by creating a piece of media that reflects these themes and answers the question: What does being child friendly mean to you?

Entries can be any form of artwork or media: a video, animation, written response of up to 300 words, a song, rap, a sculpture, a photograph or anything else you like!

If you're in full-time education in Warwickshire, you can enter the competition in one of four age categories: (4-7, 8-11, 12-15, 16-21 or up to 25 years old for SEND young people). There will be a winner for each category, and their school will receive £2,500 to spend on projects related to Child Friendly Warwickshire and our five outcomes. The winning entries will also form part of a showcase to children, young people and professionals at the Warwickshire Youth Conference in November 2023.

Entries should be submitted by emailing childfriendly@warwickshire.gov.uk by the competition deadline of 27 February 2023. More information can be found on our website: www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/childfriendlycompetition.

Early closure Thursday 2nd March – Year 10 Parents Progress Evening.

The school/college will be close at 2.15pm on Thursday 2nd March. This is due to the year 10 students progress evening which begins at 2.45pm.

Careers with Words:

Are you 14 and interested in a career in writing?

Join Writing West Midlands for Careers with Words during National Careers Week at Leamington Library on Wednesday 8th March, the event will take place between 6pm and 8pm.

Join them for this FREE event to hear about how you could forge a career as a writer, librarian, content creator, publisher, editor, literary agent, or copywriter.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite

- Speakers include editor at Amazon and author Kasim Ali
- Poet and workshop leader Kurly McGeachie
- Poet, YouTuber, and content creator Leena Normington
- Literary Agent Juliet Pickering

YEAR 11:

Sixth Form Subject Experience sessions:

Our Sixth Form subject teachers invite all Year 11 students to experience and find out about the subjects offered at sixth form.

All workshops will be held at the Sixth Form Centre.

Health and Social Care 6th March 2023 SF04 3.15 to 3.45pm

Law 6th March 2023 SF Conference room 3.15 to 3.45pm

Criminology 6th March 2023 SF Conference room 3.15 to 3.45pm

Economics 15th March 2023 SF14 3.15 to 3.45pm

PE 16th March 2023 SF15 3.15 to 4.00pm

Business 22nd March 2023 SF06 and SF07 3.15 to 3.45pm

Psychology 22nd March 2023 SF Conference room 3.15 to 3.45pm

Media Studies 22nd March 2023 SF05 3.15 to 3.45pm

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Art, English Literature and English Language will be offer sixth form subject experience sessions in lessons. Geography will continue to offer these during Year 11 revision sessions in SF16.

Helpful Links for Parents and Carers

This link is for the FIS newsletter which includes information around money management and Warwickshire Partners Leading the Way on Inclusion.

<https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=a24b439ef7022ae0d86f9ca6e&id=ff3db6ad0c>

Parenting programmes such as understanding your teenagers brain, mental health, understanding children's behaviour to name a few. These are free and can be booked via the below link, some are virtual and others are face to face.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warwickshire-children-and-families-17595309993>

Family links, the centre for emotional health offers parents step by step guides in matters such as positive praise, problem solving and internet safety.

<https://www.familylinks.org.uk/resources-for-parents>

There is also a variety of information on our website in the health and wellbeing hub

<https://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/parents-and-students-health-and-wellbeing-hub>





Books that educate and support health and well-being:



Dates for your diary

Please note that these dates are subject to any future government announcements

- 20th to 25th February – February Half Term
- 27th February – Return to School
- 28th February – Year 10 Virtual Careers Event
- 2nd March – Year 10 Student Progress Evening
- 6th March – Year 11 Personal Development Day
- 9th March – Year 13 Student Progress Evening
- 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

Able & Ambitious

CHALLENGE & POTENTIAL

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: to promote the House System within school, students are being asked to think of a famous person who represents each of the House values (Honestas: honesty; Luctamen; effort; Spiritus: inspiration) and give a reason WHY they represent that value. The winning entries will have their ideas made into a poster and win a £10 voucher and chocolates. The deadline has been extended to March 3rd.
- There is a song writing competition open to students of any age with some very exciting prizes on offer: musical instruments, professional song recordings and many more.

Years 7-9:

- Students can learn to ride on the road for FREE with these Bikeability courses being run over half-term.

Years 8-13:

- For students looking for fun, unique life experiences and something really worthwhile to put on their CVs, there is the chance to sign up for the Police Cadets.

Years 10-13:

- Students interested in life at university and those wishing to challenge themselves academically can sign up for the warwick University Summer School.