

9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you had an enjoyable summer with your family and that September has started well for you all.

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II yesterday. I know The Queen touched the hearts of many people. Some parents and carers who were pupils at the time will remember the Queen's visit to the School along with Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on 8th December 1994 to open our Science block and visit the school farm.

During our morning line-ups this morning, our Progress Leaders read out a tribute to Her Majesty and students were asked to reflect on the service and duty that The Queen has given to our country. During afternoon registration, students will be shown an assembly reflecting on events during her lifetime and her service to the nation and commonwealth. A Book of Remembrance will shortly be available in the Library for staff and students to record their thoughts and memories and express their condolences.

We have now entered a period of national mourning that will continue until the end of the State Funeral. At this stage we do not have details and I will update you in due course. On behalf of the school community, I'd like to extend our sincere condolences to the Royal Family at this very sad time.

Senior Leadership Team arrangements from 1 September 2022

As you may be aware, Mr Kelly's replacement as Headteacher, Mr Haddon is currently unwell, following a stroke, and has not been able to start his new post at the beginning of the autumn term, as planned. Mr Haddon will take up the post of Headteacher at an appropriate time in the school year, when he has fully recovered. We have sent Mr Haddon and his family our very best wishes.

In the interim, I have stepped up from my role as Deputy Headteacher to take on the role of acting Headteacher until Mr Haddon is well enough to return. I'm delighted to inform you that Mrs Robinson, one of our Assistant Headteachers, has agreed to take on the role of acting Deputy Headteacher and we will shortly be appointing someone to fill her Assistant Head role.

An excellent start to the term!

Welcome to our newly-arrived Year 7 students! They are cheerful, enthusiastic, polite young people and I know they will enjoy their time with us. We wish them every happiness and success!

I'd also like to congratulate students in other year groups on the start they've made to the term. Almost without exception uniform has been immaculate, students have been on time and are engaging well with their teachers and their learning. It is a delight to have you back in school. Good luck for the year ahead.

Strong Recruitment into Year 12

A large number of students have chosen the Higham Lane Sixth Form for their post 16 studies, both from Higham Lane School and from schools across Warwickshire and Leicestershire. Students are enjoying all the benefits of excellent teaching and learning, strong pastoral support and an impressive programme of extra-curricular activities. We look forward to welcoming parents/carers of current Year 11 and 10 students to our Post 16 Open Evening on Thursday 20th October.

School Uniform and Personal Appearance Reminders

In line with recent changes to government policy on uniform in schools, a number of changes to our School Uniform Policy were adopted before the summer in order to reduce the cost to parents. Thank you for your support for these revised school uniform expectations. Please can parents/carers of female students ensure that skirts and trousers meet the following expectations, as outlined in our uniform policy:-

Skirts: These can either be:-

- the official plain black pleated HLS skirt with school logo.
- a plain, black, **pleated** skirt with no logo that is of an appropriate length - that sits just on or above the knee and is not rolled up or worn high above the knee.

Please note: The 2022-23 Years 10 and 11 are the last two year groups who can wear straight skirts if they fit appropriately. Younger year groups will not be able to wear these.

Trousers: Girls are no longer required to wear trousers featuring the Higham Lane logo. Trousers must be plain, black polyester. **They should be tailored and suitable for business wear**, in good condition and not fraying. 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.

We appreciate that there may be financial issues for some families in the current climate. If for financial reasons you are unable to acquire the correct uniform, please contact the school and we will endeavour to assist you. We have quite a large supply of clean, donated uniform which is available free of charge and which you are welcome to contact us about.

As we move into autumn and inclement weather a reminder as well that school coats must be black.

Please also name all items of uniform as well as your son/daughter's coat and bag so that we can return it to them should they mislay it! Thank you.

Parents' Information Evenings

These are taking place on the following dates over the next fortnight:-

Year 9 – Tuesday 13th September 2022

Year 11 – Wednesday 14th September 2022

Year 8 – Thursday 15th September 2022

Year 10 - Tuesday 20th September 2022

Year 12 - Wednesday 21st September 2022

Year 7 – Thursday 22nd September 2022

All of these events are taking place in Coombe Hall with a start time of 6.30pm apart from the Year 12 event which starts at 6pm.

The Parents' Information Evenings provide an excellent opportunity to hear from your son/daughter's Progress Leader or the Head of Sixth Form about the year ahead as well as senior staff who will provide you with key information about your child's learning. We hope that you are able to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

Fobs and topping up your child's ParentPay account

Our school canteen operates a cashless payment system which relies on student's bringing a fob. These fobs are paired to the student's personal ParentPay account. Where students forget their fobs, this causes delays at the checkouts and can make it difficult for cashiers to verify that the student is who they say they are! Please can we ask for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter brings their fob with them every day if they are purchasing food or drinks from the canteen. Replacement fobs can be purchased from the canteen any day before school at a cost of £1. The canteen opens at 8.30am each morning.

Please can we also remind parents/carers to top up their ParentPay accounts on a regular basis so that your son/daughter has sufficient funds to cover any purchases from the canteen. If you have forgotten or mislaid your ParentPay log in details, please contact School Reception. Thank you.

Dropping off and Collecting Children on the School Site

A polite reminder that only parents/carers of children who are disabled or have medical needs should be driving onto the school site to drop off or collect their children. This must be agreed with the School in advance through a letter to the Progress Leader. No other vehicles should be driving onto the School's site as this creates a health and safety risk to our staff and students. Thank you for your understanding.

MyEd

Have you downloaded the MyEd app yet? If not, you can download it for free from your app store. The app gives access to school and student information as well as instant messages and absence reporting facilities.

School Website!

Please take a look at our website. It is by far the best way to keep up-to-date with all that is going on at Higham Lane School! You will find it at www.highamlaneschool.co.uk

Do Keep in Touch!

Please remember that we value your feedback. Do get in touch with the relevant member of staff (eg form tutor, Progress Leader, subject teacher or Subject Leader or member of the Senior Leadership Team) if you have any questions or concerns. Please also let us know when you are impressed by something that we have done!

Please follow us on Twitter!

Please connect with our Twitter account @HighamLane for regular tweets from the School or follow us on Instagram (@highamlaneschool) or Facebook (Higham Lane School).

Thank you for your on-going support of the School.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Banks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr P Banks

Acting Headteacher