



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

We were delighted to be informed by the Department for Education earlier this week that our new free school, Higham Lane North Academy, has moved a step closer by progressing from the 'approved in principle' phase to the 'pre-opening' phase. The process has now begun to appoint a contractor to build the School. We are very excited by this project as we feel that it will bring benefits to both schools, primarily through the sharing of best practice in curriculum design and teaching and learning across both institutions, joint opportunities for the students in both schools and the potential for sharing resources.

You will have seen my email yesterday regarding the unfortunate incident around the alleged sale of vapes to some of our students on the way home from school. We remind our students regularly that vaping is not only illegal for anyone under 18, but research also shows how damaging and dangerous it is. Buying vapes from a stranger is even more dangerous of course as there is no way of knowing fully what the vape may contain. I know that as parents/carers you will also be reinforcing the serious message at home with your son/daughter that vaping is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 and is also dangerous. The law surrounding vapes and vaping is there to protect young people. If students are found vaping/in possession of a vape at school, they can expect a serious sanction and you will of course be informed of this.

Within school, we have been really impressed with the overwhelming majority of Year 10s who have shown a mature and conscientious attitude towards their exams this week. Completing this set of exams is a crucial part of building exam stamina towards their final GCSE qualifications next year. As a school we take these exams very seriously as we work together with students and you as parents/carers to ensure that everyone in the year group can be as successful as they can be. As students enter their second week of examinations, we know that we can count on your support to keep them focused on their revision at home, and to praise them for their efforts, and in particular to thank you as parents/carers for your son/daughter's superb conduct in the examination venues. Teachers are looking forward to giving your son/daughter detailed feedback over the next few weeks which will celebrate their strengths and give them crucial advice on how to be even more effective.

On Monday, our 'Loyalty Card' revision scheme launches again for Year 11! We are really excited to find out which form will collectively attend the most revision sessions. This scheme is very popular with Year 11 students where attendance to revision sessions means they can choose from a range of rewards! Year 11s continue to impress all of their teachers with an exceptional attitude towards their GCSEs - it is their effort and perseverance that we know will bring them the GCSE success they desire! They have three weeks to go until their second set of trial exams, week beginning 6th February, and have been planning their time completing revision timetables with their form tutors over the last week. Thank you for your continued support and for working together with Mr Davies, Mrs Robinson and Year 11 teachers - we really appreciate this!

In sports news, our Year 7 netballers beat Bilton School 9-7. Unfortunately our Year 9 netballers narrowly lost 22-16 to Bilton in a high scoring game. The Year 10 netballers beat Twycross 16-8. Well done to everyone who took part.

Finally, welcome to three new staff who have joined us since the start of term. Miss Howe has joined our English department, Miss Vowles has joined us as our new Inclusion and Behaviour Intervention Officer and Mrs Connop has joined us as Pastoral Manager to Year 7 in place of Mr Morris who is taking on another pastoral role in the School. We wish both colleagues well in their new positions.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Acting Headteacher

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:

- Fascinating **on-line lectures** on 22 different subjects including Maths, Philosophy, Music, Law, Medicine, Business, Astronomy and many more. Ideal for Memorable Moments Passport students.
- Anyone interested in a **career in Law** has the opportunity to speak to Paula Inglis, an experienced solicitor who has kindly said she will come in to do a Q&A session with interested students. Contact through GC to express interest.
- French & Spanish Fiction competition: a chance to win £100 for writing a short story in either French or Spanish.
- The **winner of the whole school Art & Photography Advent competition** is Eve B in Year 9. Many congratulations to Eve for her incredibly creative work which can be seen on Google Classroom.
- Whitestone Badminton club are looking for new players. Their sessions are from 7.15pm-9.15pm in the Higham Lane Sports Hall. Sessions are FREE until March. Details on the Able & Ambitious Google Classroom pages.
- Boxing Club will re-start again on Wednesday 18th January. Sessions take place in the Sports Hall from 8.00-8.30am so students can arrive in their PE kit at 7.55am but must change back into their uniform after the session. EVERYONE welcome, no matter how experienced you are. There is no sparring, just a focus on fun, fitness and well-being.

Years 7-9:

- Girls' Football Leadership: the FA have organised some FREE initiatives for any **girls interested in football** and wanting to have a go at coaching or refereeing.

Years 11-13:

- Philosophy Plus Physics, Maths and Computer Science: live on-line event to look at the impact and relationship of Philosophy with various other disciplines.
- Poetry competition: the chance to **win a staggering £5000** for writing a poem linked to the title 'The Planets'.

Year 12:

- Residential Summer School: Oxford University are looking for motivated students to attend their summer schools and are particularly interested in increasing diversity at this event.
- In-person subject taster days: Oxford University are holding face to face **subject taster days in Maths & Computer Science, History, Chemistry, French & Spanish.**



Class Charts App – Please download!

ClassCharts

It's really encouraging to see so many of our parents/carers have now downloaded the Class Charts app and are now accessing important information about their son/daughter. If you haven't already downloaded the app via Apple or Android, please do so as soon as possible. It's a vital means for you to keep abreast of key school information relating to your son/daughter. Information such as rewards and consequences pulls through to your app's activity feed in real time.

Guidance on how to set up Class Charts can be found on the school's website under the parents and students tab. Please check your inbox too – we recently emailed your Class Charts code. The code is necessary to gain access to Class Charts. Any questions please contact the school. We're happy to help.

Bulletin board

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

NHS Cadets:

NHS Cadets is a joint project between St John Ambulance and the NHS whereby we want youth from marginalized communities to join the programme, learn valuable skills, gain work experience and consider a career in the NHS.

We currently have two programmes running in Nuneaton which are working with George Eliot Hospital.

The programme consists of two pathways: Foundation (for 14-16-year-olds) and Advanced (for 16-18-year-olds).

The cadets will learn about a range of exciting healthcare topics, develop their leadership and communication skills, and gain insight into volunteering within the NHS.

It is a free programme consisting of 2-hour weekly sessions over 11 months. They'll be supported throughout their volunteering journey by our NHS Cadets Team.

[NHS Cadets Foundation \(14-16\), Nuneaton \(TBC\).](#) | [SJA NHS Cadets](#)

[NHS Cadets Advanced \(16-18\), Nuneaton \(Monday\).](#) | [SJA NHS Cadets](#)

Warwickshire Police Cadets:

Warwickshire Police Cadets is a volunteer scheme for young people who wish to be part of a year programme that offers an opportunity to gain a practical understanding of policing and develop their spirit of adventure and good citizenship.

Recruitment is open from 1st January to 28th February 2023, the application form can be downloaded from Warwickshire Police website from the 1st Jan 2023.

YEAR 11

'Summer of Discovery 2023' - Coventry University's Outreach Team:

Students will have the opportunity to explore the endless possibilities of higher education by engaging in a range of exciting & interactive activities during August 2023:

Transport & Innovative Technologies - 2 consecutive days: 8th & 9th August

Minecraft - 2 consecutive days: 10th & 11th August

Arts & Creative Industries - 2 consecutive days: 15th & 16th August

LGBTQIA+ Day: 18th August

Dates for your diary

23rd January 2023

Flu Vaccinations (Year 7-9)

2nd February 2023

Year 8 Job Taster Day

9th February 2023

Year 8 Student Progress Evening

16th February 2023

Year 8 Options Evening

20th - 24th February 2023

Half term week



Don't forget - all of our **Careers and Apprenticeship** information can be found on our website!
[Click here](#) to view more information on a variety of exciting opportunities!