



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 13TH JUNE 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it's been at Higham Lane School! We were absolutely delighted to receive our Ofsted report earlier this week, confirming that we have maintained our Ofsted "Outstanding" rating. This achievement is a true testament to the relentless hard work and dedication of our incredible staff and students, and we are, quite rightly, extremely proud of this outcome. Higham Lane School remains the only Ofsted "Outstanding" secondary school in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and we couldn't have done it without your unwavering support as parents and carers. Thank you!

Year 11 Leavers' Celebration

Today has been a truly wonderful celebration for our Year 11 students as they marked their last day before study leave. Their leavers' assembly was a fantastic occasion, filled with singing and laughter. It was lovely to see them enjoy an ice cream from the ice cream van on the field with friends, signing each other's shirts and making lasting memories. We wish them all the very best for their upcoming exams! We are extremely proud of the way that Year 11 have approached their GCSE exams and we look forward to celebrating their GCSE results with them in August.



National Carers Week

This week is National Carers Week, and Higham Lane School would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the carers of children who attend our school. You do an amazing job providing a safe and nurturing environment for some of society's most vulnerable children. Your dedication ensures they feel cared for and can thrive, thank you.

The Importance of Reading for Pleasure

According to recent research from the National Literacy Trust, only one in three young people read for pleasure. This is the lowest number in multiple decades, and it's a statistic we are deeply concerned by. Reading for pleasure not only enriches lives but also significantly enhances literacy skills and academic performance. We encourage all our students to make time for reading and discover the joy it can bring. Please let your child see you reading, read together, discuss books together! Good literacy is so often the key to success; please do everything you can to support your child with reading outside of school. We were delighted that the Ofsted report highlighted our hard work with reading at HLS and it stated "High-quality reading is a top priority. Pupils who struggle to read get very effective targeted support. They make sense of new words and extracts in class more readily. This builds their reading confidence and fluency. Many then choose to read widely and often".

Safety Comes First

In light of recent deeply concerning incidents involving weapons in schools both in the UK and abroad, it's a stark reminder that we live in challenging times. The safety of our students and staff remains our absolute highest priority. This week, we've seen tragic reports of a school shooting in Austria, a teaching assistant being stabbed outside a school in France, and a student being stabbed at a school in Birmingham. These events underscore the vital importance of our safety protocols. We will continue to conduct random searches of students, and we reserve the right to search any student with or without consent if we believe they have a prohibited item, in line with guidance from the Department for Education. We want to assure you that every measure is being taken to maintain a secure environment for everyone at Higham Lane School.

Toilets: An Update

Following our trial of keeping toilets open during the school day last week, we observed an increase in students out of lessons, and our cleaners were unable to access facilities for cleaning. Therefore, we have amended the trial to better manage access and cleanliness: Toilets will be open before school, at break time, at lunchtime and after school. During lessons, toilets will be open during P2 and P5. This allows our cleaning staff dedicated time to clean the facilities after break and lunchtime during P1, P3 and P4, which are the lessons directly after the start of school, break and lunch, respectively. Students should not be leaving lessons unless they have a toilet pass or it is an emergency. It is unlikely that a student would need the bathroom during P1, P3, or P5 as they should have used the facilities before school, at break time or at lunchtime. If a student does have an urgent need during these times, they must go to the Student Services toilets. Students must always ask for teacher permission to use the toilet. To be clear, there is always a toilet available at all times of the day, we are simply trying to manage a situation with 1500 students, minimise disruption to learning, and prevent students from exploiting the situation. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Be Kind

Studies by Harvard University have found that gratefulness significantly enhances mental well-being by promoting positive emotions, reducing stress and anxiety and improving overall mood. We discussed this in tutor time this week, focusing on how "Be Kind," one of our school's three core values, plays such a crucial role in society by encouraging us to help each other. Please refer to the crucial message of "be kind" in your interactions with your child in order to cement this core value that every child will need for the rest of their lives to enable them to form solid relationships at all levels. Please also ensure that being kind extends to online presence. It is potentially an illegal act to post a message that causes distress or anxiety to another person so please do carefully monitor your child's online presence and discuss with them the importance of being kind to others including online. Remember that your child's digital footprint will follow them forever and poor choices now could have very serious consequences in the future.

Year 12 Oxford Visit

Our Year 12 students had a wonderful day in Oxford, visiting Keble and Brasenose Colleges. They gained valuable insights into the university admissions process and participated in an interview skills workshop. Particular highlights included meeting the welfare alpacas and sampling G&D's famous ice cream!

Sporting Success: Rounders Champions!

A huge well done to our Year 8 and Year 9 rounders teams who played on Wednesday night at Higham Lane. They performed exceptionally well, making it through to the semi-finals of the competition against a wide range of different schools. They then went on to win their semi-final and triumph in the final by three rounders! What a fantastic achievement!



Date for the Diary:

For our current Year 11 students, please mark your calendars for the Year 12 Experience Day on Friday 4th July. The day will be split into two halves: the first will be an introduction to our Sixth Form, and the second will provide an opportunity to attend up to four "bridging lessons." These are taster lessons designed to give students a real feel for what studying A-levels would be like.

The school is buzzing with positive energy following the Ofsted Outstanding confirmation, and we look forward to building on this platform of success. Last year, our GCSE results made us the highest-performing state school in the whole of Warwickshire in terms of the percentage achieving Grade 5 or above in English and Maths and we were the top performing school in Nuneaton and Bedworth for our Progress 8 score of +0.59. Furthermore, our Sixth Form was the only Sixth Form in Nuneaton and Bedworth with a positive value-added score, and we had the highest average point score in the whole of North Warwickshire.

The school is in a great place, and we eagerly anticipate continuing to work hand-in-hand with you, our parents and carers, to further improve Higham Lane School.

Have a wonderful weekend,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Thursday 19th June 2025 - Summer Showcase

Wednesday 25th June 2025 - Enrichment Day

Tuesday 1st July - Friday 4th July 2025 - School Production - Matilda

Monday 14th July 2025 - Sports Day

Friday 18th July 2025 - End Of Term

Monday 21st July 2025 - Inset Day



129,267



122,885



122,063