



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 4TH JULY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and indeed warm week it's been here at Higham Lane School, I hope that allowing students to wear their PE kit helped them stay a bit more comfortable in the heat. We also purchased additional water butts for the Canteen area, providing more places for students to top up their water bottles and stay hydrated.

Welcoming Our Newest Members and Celebrating Success

Tutors very much enjoyed meeting the parents and carers of our new Year 6/7 students on Monday and the day was such a great success; it was wonderful to see so many parents and carers in order to ensure a smooth start for our new Year 7s in September. We are very much looking forward to officially welcoming them.

Monday, the hottest day of the year in Nuneaton, also saw us celebrate the fantastic achievements of our students with the highest number of house points. These incredible students enjoyed a refreshing "Tip-Top" (or ice pole, ice pop or Mr Freeze, depending on your childhood) on the field, as a well-deserved treat! I was so proud to praise them for truly being a Higham Lane learner – working hard, being kind and taking responsibility. The student with the most house points had an astounding 824, with the others close behind in the 650-800 range, what an accomplishment, well done everyone!

On Tuesday morning, I had the privilege of meeting all of our new Strands, Prefects, Senior Prefects and Head Students. Each student was awarded a badge during a special presentation, and we look forward to working with these future leaders to make our school even better.



Also on Tuesday, I was delighted to meet Brooke in Year 8, who recently received a sports scholarship for her commitment to football.

Congratulations, Brooke, she will now join other incredibly students on our Higham Lane Superstars wall!

We were also pleased to welcome students from Milby and St Nicholas Primary Schools on Tuesday to see our wonderful school show, Matilda.



Smooth Transitions and Outdoor Adventures

Thank you to all the staff who made our Year 6 Transition Day on Wednesday such a successful event. It was a full day for our new Year 7s to experience what secondary school life is like and to learn all about the Higham Lane Way of being the best you can be: by working hard, being kind and taking responsibility.



A big thank you to everyone involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award last weekend – it was a great success. I strongly encourage your child to get involved in as many activities as possible; it truly helps them feel part of the Higham Lane School family.

Looking Ahead and Staying Connected

On Wednesday evening, we held a full Governors' meeting, with the main agenda item being the School Development Plan for next year. A key focus area for the school will be inclusion. We were naturally absolutely delighted with our recent Ofsted report, which confirmed that we have maintained our Outstanding rating and upheld the very high standards we've always had. One point in the report highlighted an area for us to work on: further supporting our SEND students. A significant focus of our school development plan for the next academic year, including staff training, systems and processes, and resource distribution, will be dedicated to enhancing our support for SEND students. This is an area that we have been working on and we know we still have work to do here. We will be arranging more SEND coffee mornings and SEND events whilst also further developing our SEND provision to support our SEND students as best as we can.

Thursday was our highly successful Culture Day, a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diverse backgrounds of our students here at Higham Lane School, truly reflecting our inclusive ethos. I do have one request for all parents and carers for future non-school uniform days, whether due to weather or special events like Culture Day: please ensure your child does not wear a top that shows their midriff (tummy area) or very short shorts like cycling shorts. We thank you for your support with this.

Finally, a massive thank you to everyone who played such a big part in putting together our fantastic school show, Matilda. I will have the privilege of watching it tonight and I cannot wait to see the performance; I have heard great things about the other evenings, and I am sure it will certainly live up to the hype! Thank you to all of the staff who have worked long days and weekends to make this happen!



Sixth Form Success and Online Safety Reminders

Today, Friday, saw a very successful New Year 12 Experience Day, giving our current Year 11 students a taste of A-level lessons in preparation for next year. We are incredibly fortunate at Higham Lane School to have an oversubscribed Sixth Form. Last year, we achieved the highest average point score for A-levels of all schools in North Warwickshire and the third highest in the whole of Warwickshire, and we are the only Sixth Form in the area with a positive value-added score. We look forward to welcoming so many of our current Year 11 students back in the autumn term as they embark on their A-levels here at HLS.

Important Safeguarding Information: Mobile Phone Use

Finally, I want to address an important safeguarding matter. We've seen an increase in safeguarding concerns recently related to students' mobile phone use, often late at night. We strongly recommend that your child does not take their phone to their bedroom when they go to bed at night. We advise keeping it downstairs or even in your room. This allows your child to get a good night's sleep, disrupted sleep can significantly impact concentration and attitude the following day. Please also regularly speak to your child about online safety and check through their phone to ensure they are not accessing inappropriate material or engaging in unkind or potentially illegal activity. Please also consider parental controls to keep your child safe. Please see advice from the NSPCC for further information: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages/> or Barnado's: <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/keeping-your-child-safe-their-smartphone> and the UK safer Internet Centre : <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones>

Have a wonderful weekend, and thank you for your continued support.



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School

Dates for your diary

Monday 14th July 2025 – Sports Day
Wednesday 16th July – Reward Day “Big Day In” – Year 7 and Year 8
Thursday 17th July – Reward Day “Big Day In” – Year 9 and Year 10
Friday 18th July 2025 – End of Term – School Finishes at 12.30pm
Monday 21st July 2025 – Inset Day



139,361



133,087



132,346