



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm delighted to report that we have had a truly brilliant week at Higham Lane School. I have been conducting daily learning walks as I do every week, popping into classrooms to observe the learning taking place, and I have been absolutely blown away by the positive attitudes of our incredible students. They have made a truly fantastic start to the academic year. It has also been lovely to see the students using the new facilities that we have provided for students. We have created a new seating area in front of the orchard at the back of the playground and the new table football tables have been a huge hit with competitions, organised by the students themselves, taking place at break and lunchtime!



Our Praise and Behaviour Policy

Our commitment to celebrating excellent behaviour is stronger than ever. In just the first week and a half, our staff have issued over 14,000 house points! This is a testament not only to our commitment to reward our brilliant students, to the hard work of our students but also to the fact that our incredible students are rising to the challenge. The most common reason for a house point is for 'work hard,' one of our three core values alongside 'be kind' and 'take responsibility.' It is incredible to see that over 6,500 house points have been issued for this one category alone! A special mention goes to a Year 8 student who has earned an amazing total of 39 house points so far. We have also restocked our rewards kiosk which can be found just outside of Coombe Hall where students can exchange their hard-earned house points for real rewards such as footballs, Amazon gift cards and tasty treats!

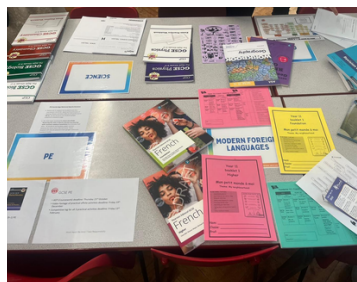
Governors' Meeting Highlights

We held a meeting this week with our Local Governing Body, who were extremely impressed with the incredible GCSE and A-level examination results from the summer. Our A-level results were the best the school has ever achieved, positioning us as the highest-performing sixth form in the whole of Nuneaton and Bedworth. The GCSE results were equally impressive, with an estimated progress figure that looks like it will exceed last year's amazing Progress 8 figure of 0.59—the best of any school in the area. The governing body also praised the school for maintaining our Ofsted Outstanding judgement towards the end of last year, a status we are very proud to be the only school in Nuneaton and Bedworth to hold.

The largest part of our discussion focused on the school development plan, with a specific emphasis on supporting our most vulnerable students, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, those with Special Educational Needs (SEND), and those receiving child protection support. We are determined to strive forward and not rest on our laurels of the Ofsted Outstanding grading, providing even greater support so that all of our students, especially our most vulnerable, can achieve their full potential.

Year 11 Parent Information Evening

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of our Year 11 parents and carers to the information evening this week. The event was designed to share how you can best support your child through their GCSEs. We shared data from a University of Nottingham study, which concluded that the role of parents and carers is the single most important factor in a child's success. For any Year 11 parents who were unable to attend, the PowerPoint presentation will be made available online shortly.



Our Therapy Garden

We were delighted to win some money for our therapy garden through the Tesco Golden Token scheme! This quiet space will be a fantastic resource for some of our most vulnerable students and those with complex SEND needs. A massive thank you goes to Mrs Worth and Miss Green for their tireless work on this project. If you are shopping at Tesco in the local area, please do use your charity coins to vote for our school and help us raise further funds for this worthwhile cause.

Important Safety Reminder: Cycling to School

For the safety of all our students, please be reminded that if your child cycles to school, they must wear a helmet and have a bike permit, which can be obtained from Student Services. Next week, we will be conducting an audit to check every student who arrives by bicycle or scooter to ensure they are compliant. Please be aware that any student arriving without a helmet or a permit will be breaking a school rule and a sanction will likely be issued. I am personally dedicated to this cause to ensure all our students are safe on their journey to and from school, the statistics show that if a young person is involved in a serious collision while cycling, they are three times more likely to survive with a helmet than without one. This is also a key life lesson that we hope they will carry into adulthood.

Upcoming Ofsted Framework

On Tuesday morning on my way into school, I listened to Sir Martyn Oliver, the Chief Inspector for Ofsted, on BBC Radio 4. He announced that the new Ofsted framework will come into effect on the 10th of November. While I normally remain apolitical in my role as a public servant, I must express a little disappointment with the decision to move from a four-point scale to a five-point scale; I worry that this may not do enough to help reduce the immense stress and pressure on staff in schools across the country. Following the tragic death of Ruth Perry during an Ofsted inspection, I along with all of the trade unions were hoping that Ofsted would listen and take this more into account, but unfortunately it would appear that they have may have missed the mark a little here. On a positive note, I do think the new report card style will be beneficial for parents and carers and will give them more information when they are selecting a school for their child so there are definitely strengths of the new framework. Rest assured, we will digest the new framework and approach it with positivity as we always do, and we will update you accordingly.

A Visit from another high-performing Multi-Academy Trust

Following our recent Ofsted Outstanding judgement, we have been contacted by various schools across the country who wish to learn from our experience and from our expertise. Next Wednesday, we will be welcoming a group of headteachers, deputy headteachers and assistant headteachers from a different trust to see the excellent practice here at Higham Lane School. They will be popping into lessons during the morning. There is nothing for your child to be worried about if they see some visitors in school, and it is a lovely testament to our school that so many other schools want to learn from our success.

Canteen Inspection Update

We were delighted to receive a five-star rating from an unannounced inspection by an Environmental Health Officer who inspected our school canteen on Tuesday. While we have a new kitchen provider this year and some students have raised concerns about the initial selection of food, please be reassured that the new catering company is using some of the previous food plans and recipes as a short-term measure to gather data on what is popular. Brand new menus with a much wider and more nutritious and tasty selection will be coming out after the half term. There will also be an opportunity for some parents and students to taste-test the new food in a few weeks' time. We will share more details with you when we have them.

Fire Drill

This morning, we held a scheduled practice fire drill. We chose today because the weather was sunny to try to make it more comfortable for the students when they are standing on the field during the fire practice. We were delighted that the fire drill went to plan, the students exited the building safely and quickly and the behaviour and attitudes of the students were excellent. I would like to thank all of our trained fire marshals for their excellent work in keeping our students and staff safe.

Dates for the Diary

- Wednesday 17th September: **Year 12 Parents' Information Evening, 6pm – 7pm** in Coombe Hall. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our incredible A-level staff to let our parents and carers know how they can best support their child to excel at A-level here at Higham Lane School.
- Thursday 2nd October: **Year 6 Open Evening, 5pm – 7:30pm**. We look forward to welcoming prospective Year 6 parents to our fantastic school. This is an incredible opportunity for us to showcase our amazing school. Our building dates back to 1939 and we have prestigious awards and trophies that go back generations, and we have such proud traditions for the newest members of Higham Lane School to embrace when they join us next year. We are extremely proud of the highly skilled staff that we have here that have the subject knowledge, exam specification knowledge and experience to help our students reach for the stars.

Finally, I want to wish our Year 13 students' good luck with their A-level trial exams next week. Go smash it!

I hope you agree that Higham Lane is a very special school with a proud tradition and a reputation for excellence in our community. We are very proud of our achievements, but we will not rest in our relentless drive to provide the very best for our students, especially our most vulnerable.

Thank you for your continued and ever-present support.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher



4,771



4,493



4,692