



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a truly fantastic week here at Higham Lane School, filled with energy, learning and celebration. Across all departments, our students have been producing some truly amazing work, demonstrating focus and creativity and being the best that they can be!

School Environment and Improvements

As you may know, our school building dates back to 1939 and holds many wonderful period features. However, we are constantly working to ensure that all areas of the school are as appealing and comfortable as possible for our staff and students.

Over the weekend of 27th and 28th September, we employed an external company to undertake a deep clean of the school building with a focus on the communal, high-footfall areas, including our corridors and toilets. This effort will hopefully make the school site a nicer place for everyone. We will now move on to focusing on individual classrooms next, as we strive to create the most pleasant environment possible in which to work and study.

Sporting Success and Excellent Conduct

A huge congratulations to the Red Roses, the women's England rugby team, for winning the Women's Rugby World Cup last Sunday! Their success inspires us all. Closer to home, our own girls' sports teams continue to shine yet again this year and have already won a number of matches across a variety of different sports. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and teamwork.

Speaking of pride, we received exceptional feedback regarding the Year 8 students who took part in the business trip to Fosse Park as part of last week's enrichment day. Their coach driver specifically mentioned they were the best-behaved students he has ever had on his coach! Well done to Year 8; this kind of conduct reflects so well on our school community and certainly embodies our core values of being kind and taking responsibility.

Safety and Practical Reminders

With the weather turning, please ensure that your child has a coat during this period of inclement weather. You may also consider providing them with an umbrella when the forecast is particularly wet.

A crucial reminder regarding cycling safety: If your child cycles to school, please ensure you have completed a bicycle agreement and that your child is wearing a helmet to and from school. Statistically, a helmet makes you more than three times more likely to survive a bicycle accident in a road traffic incident. Forming this helmet habit now is a key life skill that will serve them well later in life.

Open Evening Success and Language Excellence

This week, we have hosted assemblies focused on the European Day of Languages. Did you know that French is an official language in 29 different countries, spoken by approximately 350 million people? Furthermore, France is the UK's biggest trading partner and the fifth most spoken language globally making it an extremely useful skill for our students to master, even just a little.

This year, we will be running the annual French trip again in July. During our recent Ofsted inspection, the lead inspector was incredibly impressed with our ambitious curriculum offer, which ensures almost all students study a language to equip them for later on in life and means almost all of our students leave school with the EBacc qualification. The practical language skills we teach, how to get by in a café, a hotel or an airport are real-life skills our students will undoubtedly use, especially given that France is statistically the most visited country in the world, and most British people visit multiple times in their lifetime.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening on Thursday night was a huge success. Thank you to all the students who volunteered their time to be guides or help in departments. Our wonderful students are our best ambassadors, and they made an amazing account of themselves.

A special thank you to our Head Students, Jacqueline and Layla, from our Junior Leadership Team (JLT). They both spoke as part of the Headteacher's speech with such confidence and professionalism. To speak to an audience of over 300 people at 15 or 16 years of age and deliver it so well is an incredible achievement, we are truly proud of you both!

The demand was so high that we had to put on an additional Headteacher's speech after the first two became full and we could not fit any more visitors in! We are so privileged that HLS remains the school of choice and is so in demand. I would also like to thank all of our staff for their hard work in putting together the stunning displays and activities, which included live Maths lessons for the Year 6 students, experiments in Science, and the French café in Languages, amongst other things.

We were also delighted to see so many visitors at our Sixth Form stand to learn about post-16 studies here at the highest-performing Sixth Form in Nuneaton, thank you to our amazing Sixth Form team.



Year 6 Admissions Reminder

For any parents with a child in Year 6, please remember that you must complete the Warwickshire Admissions Form for their secondary school place. This process is straightforward but extremely important.

- The application window opened on 1st September 2025.
- It closes on 31st October 2025.
- National Offer Day is 2nd March 2026.

Please remember that you can apply for up to six schools, listing them in your order of preference. We expect, as happens every year, that many parents will select Higham Lane School as their first choice. In my speech I informed visitors that we are incredibly proud that we're the only Ofsted Outstanding school in Nuneaton and Bedworth and that we have the best GCSE and A-level results in our locality and some of the highest in Warwickshire so we hope that many of the parents and carers will continue to want to send their children here. We are also extremely proud of our history and our proven track record of success. Since our inauguration in 1939, for almost 90 years, generation after generation of families from the local area have placed their trust in Higham Lane School to help their children flourish and reach their full potential. This rich history of success year after year is something that makes our school so special and is something that takes many years to become established. You can complete the application here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-secondary-school-place>
Upcoming Events

Finally, we wish good luck to our Year 10 and Year 11 students who are involved in the Drama trip to the theatre in Aylesbury on Wednesday 8th October.

We also look forward to welcoming Year 7 parents and carers to the **Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening - Thursday 9th October. 3.45pm - 6.30pm**. Please see details on how to book appointments in letter emailed home on Wednesday 24th September. Booking opens: Wednesday 1st October 6pm. Booking closes: Tuesday 7th October 12pm.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, and thank you for your ongoing support.



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School