



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a truly wonderful last week of the half term it has been here at Higham Lane School! As we head into the break, I want to take a moment to celebrate the exceptional dedication and talent displayed across our entire school community, alongside providing crucial updates on our strategic focus.

Celebrating Phenomenal Student Success

I've had the immense privilege of meeting some phenomenal students this week whose accomplishments highlight the diverse talents nurtured at Higham Lane School.

I had the great pleasure of celebrating with Evie, who recently achieved an incredible success in a major regional dance competition, where she was crowned the Supreme winner! It was lovely to hear all about her rigorous rehearsal schedule, commitment to the world of dance, and the sheer joy of achieving such a prestigious title. Her dedication serves as a fantastic inspiration to her peers.



I was also lucky enough to meet Freya, Orla, and Elsie, who performed brilliantly in a professional theatre performance of 'Six' at the Abbey Theatre. Securing roles in a major production like this against strong competition is a testament to their talent, stage presence, and hard work. They managed their commitment to this external production alongside their studies, representing Higham Lane with such distinction.



In other news, I am pleased to report that our canteen service is the quickest it has ever been. The newly-implemented use of our facial recognition system has dramatically streamlined the payment process, cutting down queue times and giving students more time to enjoy their lunch and socialise—a significant improvement to the student experience. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who gave consent to allow this new system to work so well.

Investing in Staff Expertise and Student Welfare

A core focus this week was on ensuring we continue to offer the best possible pastoral and academic support to all our students.

- **Mental Health Training:** On Wednesday, we hosted specialist staff from the Warwickshire Mental Health team. They delivered crucial, in-depth training to all staff members on how to spot the signs of mental health issues in young people. This proactive session focused on early intervention strategies and ensuring we can confidently and effectively best support our students who need that bit of extra care and guidance.
- **Autism Spectrum Training:** Friday, October 24th, was a Teacher Training Day. All of our staff participated in comprehensive training focused on autism and practical strategies for supporting students on the autistic spectrum. This training will help us to further adapt our teaching styles, classroom environments and our interactions to be fully inclusive and supportive of every learner.

Strategic Updates and Planning for Excellence

I was lucky enough to attend Ofsted training on Thursday, where I learned about the new Ofsted inspection framework due to come in on November 10th. Having also spoken to schools that volunteered for the Ofsted trial of the new inspection framework, I think it's fair to say the new framework, where a comprehensive report card will be issued, will provide a lot of detailed, granular information for parents. However, it is also apparent that this new framework will be even tougher and more rigorous than ever before. While we aren't due to be inspected for around another three or four years, following our recent Ofsted Outstanding inspection in May 2025, the strategic work to align with the new criteria and ensure another fantastic outcome will begin now across all areas of school life.

All this week, I also attended the North Warwickshire Transitions Project meeting. Headteachers from across Nuneaton and Bedworth collaborated to see how we can further refine and streamline the transition process for our incoming Year 6 students. Our goal is to make their move to secondary school as seamless and stress-free as possible, allowing them to settle into the academic rigour of secondary life even quicker. We are delighted with how our new Year 7 students have settled in and have excelled since joining us in September.

Celebrating Year 13 Success and Support

A massive thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended the Year 13 Subject Parents' Evening (SPE) on Thursday. It was a great success, with fantastic engagement between home and school. Thank you, too, to all the staff who worked late into the evening to provide essential guidance and feedback to our Year 13 students, ensuring they know exactly what they need to do to reach for the stars in their A-level examinations next summer. We were delighted with our fantastic A-Level results last summer—the best results of any school in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and some of the best in the whole of Warwickshire! The current Year 13 cohort are showing tremendous promise and are on track to do even better in summer 2026!

Half Term Information and Return Dates

Half Term Closure and Site Maintenance

Please remember that next week, beginning October 27th, is Half Term. Students and teaching staff will not be in school.

However, the school will remain a hive of activity. Our wonderful Estates team will be on the school site during the week undertaking vital maintenance work, such as painting and deep cleaning. This essential work keeps our historic building, which dates back to 1939, in excellent condition and helps us maintain the best possible learning and working environment for all our students and staff.

School Reopening

School will reopen for students after half-term on Monday, November 3rd, for all students.

The plan for the first day back is an extended tutor time in the morning. This session is crucial for settling students back into the academic mindset and routines of school life, reiterating key expectations for behaviour and uniform, and providing them with all the necessary information and motivation they need for the start of what promises to be another successful half term.

Key Dates for the Next Half Term

When we return, we have some critically important events on the horizon for our older students:

- Year 11 Trial Examination Results: I would like to wish Year 11 the very best as they receive their first set of trial examination results. This will be a wonderful, low-stakes opportunity for the students to see precisely how much progress they have made and, more importantly, clearly identify the specific areas they need to focus on next before the second set of trial examinations later this year, in preparation for their final GCSEs in the summer!
- Year 11 Practice Interviews: We are also excited for the Year 11 practice interviews that are due to take place shortly after the break. This highly valuable experience will be an invaluable opportunity for our students to hone their communication and presentation skills, receiving professional feedback in preparation for future interviews for jobs, apprenticeships, and university applications.
- Sixth Form Open Evening: We look forward to welcoming prospective Year 12 students to our school on Thursday, November 6th, for our Sixth Form Open Evening from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm. This is a chance for Year 11 students and their families to explore the A-level options and the outstanding facilities our Sixth Form offers in our purpose built Sixth Form Centre.

I wish you all a restful, safe, and enjoyable half-term break. Thank you for your continued support.



Best wishes,
Michael Gannon
Headteacher – Higham Lane School

Lost Property
If your son/daughter has misplaced any items in school, please ask them to check Student Services at social times to see if they can find their items.
Thank you.



33,488



32,010



29,949