



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you slightly earlier than usual this week as a result of our schedule. Please remember that school is closed to all students this Friday, 28th November 2025 for a calendared Teacher Training Day. Additionally, tomorrow (Thursday), I will be out of the office accompanying a delegation of visitors to the school who have asked to visit an Ofsted Outstanding school and to look at our fantastic teaching and learning, so I am sending the weekly newsletter today to ensure all important information reaches you promptly.

It has been a genuinely fantastic week at Higham Lane. We have seen excellent behaviour across all year groups, and students have been fully engaged in their learning, showing remarkable resilience and producing some fantastic work in lessons. There are a lot of coughs and colds going around at the moment and the students (and staff) have shown real resilience and determination.

Central England Academy Trust (CEAT)

Last week, we welcomed visitors from our trust CEAT, and their feedback was glowing. They were highly complimentary about the exemplary behaviour they witnessed and, in particular, highlighted the fantastic teaching and learning happening in classrooms. A major highlight for the visitors was the consistent use of Follow On Tasks (FOTs) across all subjects. This well-embedded strategy is vital to our students' progress, as it encourages them to reflect on previous work (often done in purple pen), upgrade their work, correct errors to solidify understanding, or answer deeper questions that push them to enhance their understanding and application of knowledge. This approach is endorsed and recommended as excellent practice by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the EEF research indicates that teachers giving high-quality feedback and students reflecting on their own progress leads to significant academic progress and thus often to excellent outcomes.

Important School News

On Monday, we were privileged to welcome Loudmouth Theatre Company, who delivered a fantastic and highly interactive assembly focusing on anti-bullying. The students engaged brilliantly with the performance, and the important messages about kindness and respect were delivered powerfully. Whilst we are of course very proud of our students' academic achievements, schools are so much more and it is crucial that we also provide excellent pastoral care and we educate our young people about how to behave beyond the classroom so they function highly effectively in society when they are older and lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Celebrating Student Achievement

This week, I had the immense privilege of celebrating two outstanding student achievements:

On Tuesday, I met Fraser in 7S1, who was recently named the Warwickshire Golf Player of the Year for the Boys 9-hole series! This is a remarkable achievement. Fraser is now preparing to head to Ireland soon for an international golf tournament, and we wish him the very best of luck!



I was also honoured to meet Elssy from 7L2. Elssy was representing her local club, Burbage Taekwondo Academy, at the Welsh Open 2025 ITF Taekwondo tournament in Cardiff. She demonstrated exceptional courage, resilience, physical ability and mental strength competing against some of the best athletes in the UK. Elssy proudly secured a Bronze medal in the Patterns category (10-13 Female Blue Belt), narrowly losing by a split decision in the semi-final, and a Silver medal in Sparring (Under 14 Female Blue Belt, under 155cm category). We are incredibly proud of Elssy's dedication and progress on her Taekwondo journey, and we know her achievements will be celebrated across our school community.

Both students received a well-deserved Headteacher's Award to take home, House Points to spend at the Rewards Shop, a tasty treat and best of all, a Headteacher's pen! Could it get any better than that?!

Governance and School Strategy

Yesterday evening (Tuesday), our Governing Body held a full governing body meeting after school. A key discussion point was our vulnerable student strategy, which has a core focus on providing targeted support for some of our most vulnerable students, including those with SEND, students who receive Free School Meals and students who have been known to Children's Services. Following the external expert training that all HLS staff received earlier this term by the Autism Education Trust, further improving our provision for SEND students will remain a top priority for the school moving forward. Mrs German, our very experienced SENCO is doing an amazing job in our Learning Support department supporting our SEND students along with her dedicated team of Higher Level Teaching Assistants and Learning Support Assistants. We are also very excited to welcome our new Deputy SENCO, Ms Cato who starts on Monday. Ms Cato has previously worked as a SENCO and has also worked at a special school so will bring a wealth of experience. Our previous Deputy SENCO was part-time but Ms Cato will be full-time so this will give our school additional capacity to support our SEND students even better moving forwards.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone involved in the flu vaccination program which has run successfully this week, and thank you to all the staff and parents, carers and students who attend the Year 13 information evening which will be an amazing opportunity to reflect on progress so far and formulate their revision plans so they can be in an excellent position for their A Level examinations in the summer.

Winter Weather Reminder: The weather has turned very cold again, and the forecast over the next week or so is for more low temperatures and also some rain. Could we please ask parents and carers to ensure that your child has a suitable winter coat that will keep them warm and dry? We would also advise the inclusion of gloves and a small umbrella in their bag.

Looking Ahead to Next Week

A-Level PE Trip: Good luck also to the Year 12 A-level PE students who are on a trip to Leicester Tigers.

Road Safety: There will be a Year 9 road safety presentation taking place Period 4 on Wednesday 3rd December.

Year 11 SPE: We look forward to speaking with Year 11 parents, carers, and students at the Year 11 Subject Progress Evening (SPE), which is online between 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Thursday 4th December.

Year 11 Speaking Trials: Good luck to the Year 11 students who are involved in the speaking trial exams which start on Friday 5th December. Bonne chance!

Computer Science Trip: We hope students involved in the Year 9 Computer Science trip to MIRA, which has a focus on Artificial Intelligence, have a great time!

I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Mitchell who oversees our personal development programme that includes so many incredible opportunities to enhance learning as you can see above.

Finally, a reminder that school is closed to all students all day on Friday 28th November for a teacher training day.

Thank you for your ever-present support of me and of HLS!

Best wishes,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School



Dates for your diary

Friday 28th November 2025 - Inset Day

Tuesday 9th December 2025 - Christmas Carol Service at St Nicolas Church

Wednesday 17th December 2025 - Christmas Concert

Friday 19th December 2025 - Final day before the Christmas break



48,263



47,501



44,357