



Issue 37

December 2016



## Welcome to our Christmas cracker!

*DEAR Parents/Carers/Students,  
In this news-packed festive issue I'm sure you will enjoy reading about the official opening of our Sixth Form Centre, record breaking Open Day and Evening, proud achievements by*

*students and staff, continued sporting success by teams and individuals, plus much, much more!*

*We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*PHIL KELLY, Headteacher*

# LIVE THE DREAM!

THE official opening of Higham Lane School's Sixth Form took place on Thursday, December 8. The School's post 16 provision has been in place since the start of September.

Internationally-acclaimed human rights lawyer and former Higham Lane student, Karen Todner was the official Guest of Honour for the auspicious occasion, which was held in the

brand-new, purpose-built Sixth Form Centre, where all post 16 learning takes place.

Ms Todner was joined by the Mayor of Nuneaton and Bedworth, Councillor Jill Sheppard. Ms Todner spoke to an audience of Year 12 students and visitors about her experience

**PLEASE TURN TO P3**



• **GRAND OPENING!** Karen Todner declares Higham Lane School's Sixth Form Centre open, watched by Headteacher, Phil Kelly; Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form, Hanif Ladha; Mayor of Nuneaton & Bedworth, Cllr Jill Sheppard and consort, along with Sixth Form students Matthew and Charlotte.



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Awards 2016  
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● **WELCOME!** Ria and Jack greet visitors at the Sixth Form Centre.



● **DELICIOUS!** Sixth Form students served cakes and refreshments to visitors.



● **DRIVING FORCE!** Head of Sixth Form, Mr Ladha, addresses visitors and students.



● **TUNEFUL WELCOME!** A musical greeting from Amy and Jessica.



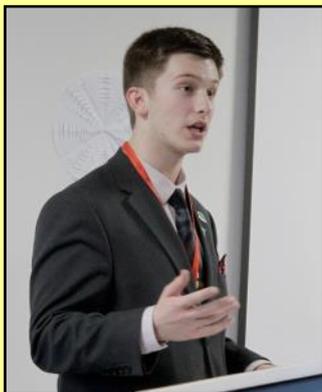
● **EXPECTANT!** A level students await the start of proceedings.



● **MOTIVATIONAL!** Guest speaker Ms Todner.



● **WARM APPLAUSE!** The speeches were well received by the appreciative students.



● **ELOQUENT SPEAKER!** Sixth Form Student Union president, Jack.



● **UNVEILED!** Ms Todner unveils the plaque and declares Higham Lane School's Sixth Form officially open, to the delight of Headteacher, Mr Kelly.



● **PLEASED TO MEET YOU!** School Governor, Al Gurr, welcomes Ms Todner to the Sixth Form Centre.



● **HISTORY IS MADE!** Above and below: A proud moment for Mr Ladha and Mr Kelly as the Sixth Form Centre is declared officially open.

# Grand opening

## FROM P1

as a student and advised them of the importance of hard work and finding a job that you enjoy and with which you feel you are making a difference to society. Ms Todner said: "You have made it to A level, so now live the dream! Have a goal to work towards to help you with the motivation and the energy needed to fulfil it."

She talked about what she had learnt from her involvement in a range of high profile legal cases, such as that of Gary Mackinnon, the so-called 'Pentagon Hacker'.

This followed speeches from Headteacher, Phil Kelly, thanking everyone who had worked on the project and Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher, Hanif Ladha, who highlighted the progress the new Sixth Form has made in its first term.

After unveiling a plaque marking the opening of the new Sixth Form, Ms Todner and guests embarked on a tour of Sixth Form lessons. She also spoke to A level Law students about career options in the legal profession and answered their questions.

Anyone interested in securing a place at the Higham Lane Sixth Form should contact the School at [SixthForm@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:SixthForm@highamlaneschool.co.uk) or phone 02476388123 and ask to speak to Mr Hanif Ladha, Head of Sixth Form.

Higham Lane is in the top 100 state-funded, non-selective schools in England and the second-highest performing non-selective state secondary school in Warwickshire. It is ranked as first out of 55 similar schools in England for its 2016 results in the Government Performance Tables.

**MR KELLY, Headteacher**



● **THANK YOU!** Sixth Form students Jack and Charlotte chat with Ms Todner following her inspiring speech.



● **QUESTION TIME!** Barrister Ms Todner is asked about a career in law by student, Hope.



● **GIRL GUIDES!** Students prepare to escort the Mayor, Cllr Jill Sheppard, and her consort on a tour of the Sixth Form Centre.



# Marathon effort to raise money!



IN SEPTEMBER, I returned 'home' to compete in this year's Great North Run in Newcastle (see photographs).

I've wanted to complete this race since I was a 'bairn' (a child in Geordie dialect!), watching my dad run it in the 1980s and '90s.

I've run alternative half marathons but they didn't compare to running over the Tyne Bridge!

I finished in 1:28.32 — a personal best and 24 minutes behind Olympian Mo Farah. I even resisted the celebratory Alan Shearer-esque arm in the air as I crossed the line!

I ran the GNR for 'Tommy's', a children's charity who work to prevent one in four pregnancies ending in loss. 55,000 babies are born prematurely in the UK every year — incomprehensible statistics in 2016 given advances in modern medicine.

In total, I raised £316 for an amazing charity which contributes to fund medical research into causes and prevention of miscarriage, premature birth and stillbirth.

I've enrolled on a 40-mile ultra marathon race around Coventry in April (because, why not?). This is part of my preparation for a 69-mile ultra marathon mixed terrain race I'm competing in to run from Carlisle Castle to Newcastle Quayside in June.

A challenge intended to push me to an extreme and raise money for a worthwhile charity — Children With Cancer.

If you're feeling generous, inspired, or the season of goodwill has taken you by storm and would like to donate, please follow the link [www.virginmoneygiving.com/gavinbailey3](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/gavinbailey3)

MR BAILEY, Science Department



# Great honour for Heather as she joins the Trafalgar Day Parade!



• **LOOKING SMART!** Heather (second from right) and fellow members of Hinckley Sea Cadets.

MY NAME is Heather and I am a member of Hinckley Sea Cadets. In October, I was asked to attend a selection weekend at Leicester to try out for a chance to represent the area at the national Trafalgar Day, in London, as part of the Guard of Honour.

After a weekend of drill and uniform inspection, four other cadets and me from my unit were selected to go.

On October 20, we travelled down to Whale Island, Portsmouth, to the naval base HMS Excellence, where we stayed on board HMS Bristol for three days.

During those three days we did more drill training and uniform and prepared for the following weekend's parade.

On Sunday, October 23, we left for London around 8 o'clock. When we got there we had a police escort from the outskirts to the centre of London where we assembled on Horse Guard Parade.

The Guard marched separately from the rest of the Parade up to Trafalgar Square with our own band.

Once at Trafalgar Square we were the centre of the Parade and later inspected by the Captain of the Corps and a Rear Admiral who came and talked to all of us.

After the main ceremony the Guard followed the band down The Mall towards Buckingham Palace before finishing the Parade by marching into the Queen's guard barracks where we were dismissed and treated to lunch.

Even though it was a long and tiring four days, the end result was worth it. The Parade was a once in a lifetime opportunity and our Guard looked very smart when marching down The Mall all in time with the band, with thousands of people watching us and cheering us on.

It was the best feeling!

HEATHER (11L1)



• **ATTENTION!** Inspection by the Captain of the Corps and a Rear Admiral.



• **BEST FEELING!** Following the band down The Mall.



• **SHIP SHAPE AND BRISTOL FASHION!** Sea Cadets on parade during the Trafalgar Day commemorations.

# Former Head Boy is Guest of Honour



FORMER Higham Lane School Head Boy, Matthew Buswell, was the School's Guest of Honour at our 50th Annual Prize Giving at the Bedworth Civic Hall on November 16.

Matthew (pictured left) is an accomplished Classical Singer, whose performance career has taken him to many destinations including The Musée D'orsay (Paris), Corfu (Greece) and Budapest (Hungary). Most recently he has performed as a soloist with Garsington Opera in Oxfordshire, Devon Opera and the Brandenburg Choral Festival at St.Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

Matthew made an outstanding speech addressing the question: "Success. What does it actually mean? How do we achieve it? And, more importantly, how do we know when we have?"

Matthew spoke fondly of his time at the School and was honoured to receive a framed work of art from Year 12 student, Izzy, as a token of the School's thanks for his contribution to the important event.

As well as the traditional presentation of awards and GCSE exam certificates, speeches from Headteacher, Phil Kelly and the previous Head Girl, Sharifa, and Head Boy, Oliver, the audience was entertained by several interlude events including a performance by Year 12 students Shaan, Jessica, Amy and Abigail of 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' by Paul Dukas, a song from last year's school musical, 'Bugsy', performed by George (10H2) and hilarious impersonations of school staff by Year 11 students, led by Head Girl, Lauren and Head Boy, Sam and ably supported by Yagnesh (11L1), Holly (11S1), Mollie (11S1), Florence (11L1) and Bay-Madeira (11L2). An enjoyable evening was had by all!

MR KELLY, Headteacher



**Ben  
joins the  
elite 500  
club!**

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of the first recipient, Ben (10H3) has become the second Higham Lane student to be awarded the coveted Governors' Badge.

The distinctive black and silver badge is presented when a

student clocks-up 500 merits, and Ben received his award from the School's Chair of Governors, Mark Whitelegg.

The first student to receive the award was Scott (10H2), who achieved the distinction in double-quick time last year.



## News from the English Department



• **AMAZING DETAIL!** Examples of the top quality work produced by Year 7 students as part of their English Independent Learning Units.

# Recreating the life of Shakespeare



FOLLOWING-ON from their reading of 'Romeo and Juliet' in this term's English lessons, Year 7 students were set the creative task of celebrating the life of William Shakespeare.

As part of their Independent Learning Units, each student was asked to design and make something which could be associated with The Bard.

They achieved this via a wide array of ideas, including delightful drawings, fantastic friezes and magnificent models of the Globe

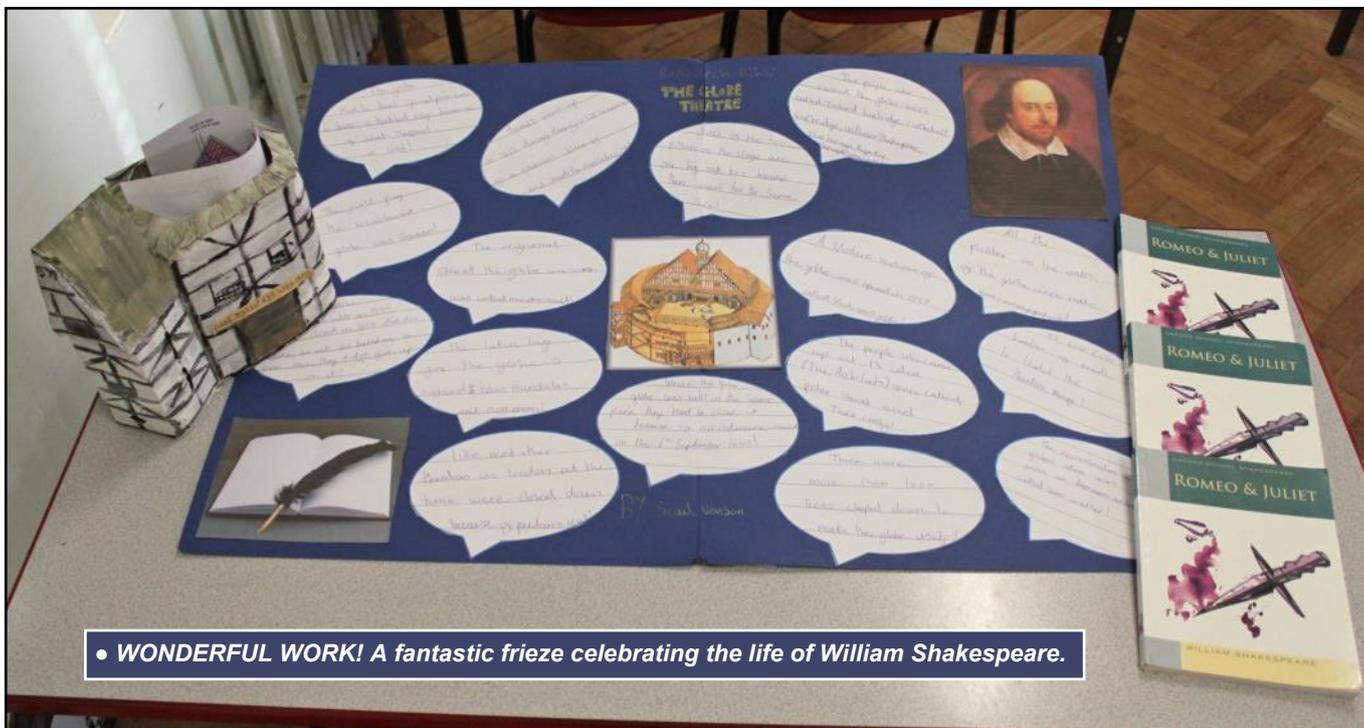
Theatre made out of cardboard and felt.

Two students even went to the trouble of baking cakes in the shape of the famous London theatre!

**MRS SOMEL**

**Subject Leader for English**

• **TASTY WAY OF DOING THINGS!** *Kamyar (7L3) shows off his cake which has been made in the shape of the Globe Theatre.*



• **WONDERFUL WORK!** A fantastic frieze celebrating the life of William Shakespeare.



## Readers

Sam  
Jack  
David  
Lauren  
Kacey



## School Choir and Orchestra

Lottie  
Grace  
Ebony  
Kitty  
Simon  
Sophie  
Millie  
Ella  
Rebecca  
Aaron  
Danielle  
Louis  
Mia  
Any  
Lisa  
Kaci Ann  
Isabella  
Elissa  
Jessica  
Scarlett  
Jessica  
Amy  
Megan  
Ellie-Rose  
Bethany  
Timothy  
Madeline  
Caroline  
Ellis  
Florence  
Ruby  
Aine  
Eleni  
Fay  
Isabella  
Megan  
Lily  
Heather  
Amy  
Jess  
Catherine

# Carol service is a cracker!

A FEAST of festive sounds resonated around St Nicolas Parish Church when Higham Lane School's Carol Service got the festive period off to a sensational start for students and their families and staff.

Students from all year groups entertained the large congregation packed into the Nuneaton church with stirring Christmas carols and thought-provoking readings.

Following a warm welcome by the Reverend Kelly Betteridge, the service opened with soloist, Kaci Ann, singing 'Once in Royal David's City'.

This was followed with the communal carol 'Ding Dong Merrily on High', prior to the scintillating sound of the School Choir reverberating around the church as they performed 'Lost Boy' by Ruth B.

The congregation was in fine voice for two other communal carols — 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'While Shepherds Watched', both kept in time by the School Orchestra, whose descents rang out until the very last note dissipated, much to the delight of Mrs Watson and myself.

Musical items were interspersed with seven readings from staff and students — 'Dear World' by Mr Kelly, Headteacher; a reading from the Gospel according to St Luke (Sam, Head Boy); 'Breaking Point' (Jack, HLS Sixth Form Student Union President); Luke 2: vs 8-15 (David, 7L3); 'The Innkeeper' (Mr Banks, Deputy Headteacher); 'Mary's Musing' (Lauren, Head Girl); and Luke 2: vs 25-32 (Kacey, 7L1).

The service concluded with another solo — 'Silent Night' by Millie — followed by further verses from the School Choir,



before everyone joined in with the final rousing verse of 'O Come All Ye Faithful'.

Afterwards, the congregation was able to sample delicious mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine, kindly served-up by Miss Mackey and Mr Parker. Once again, can I say that it was a beautiful, moving evening which ignited the Christmas spirit in everyone's hearts.

I would like to thank all involved, but particularly the students for their commitment to the Music Department, not

only on the night, but also in attending the practice sessions during the year to provide such wonderful occasions.

A special mention also to Remy, of Year 7, who won this year's competition to design the Carol Service programme cover (above).

**MRS DAVENPORT**  
Subject Leader for Music

• Photos from the Christmas Concert, the Community Concert and Reg Hadden Court Concert will appear on the HLS website and in the next edition of HLS Express!



## News from the Music Department



• **MAGNIFICENT!** Mrs Davenport and Mrs Watson with the superb students who ensured Christmas got off to a cracking start at Higham Lane School's Carol Concert, held at Nuneaton's St Nicolas Parish Church.

## Song bird Maicie in fine voice!

**TALENTED** singer Maicie (9S1) is now on her way to a coveted Gold Award in the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life training scheme.

The talented singer, who is a full member of the St Nicolas Parish Church Choir in Nuneaton, recently completed the Light Blue level. She is now working towards her Dark Blue medal which, when achieved, will earn her the Bronze award.

Each level has graded targets which the choir trainer assesses. Once a singer has completed the necessary training for that level, reached the targets and finished their workbook, they will be awarded their RSCM Voice



for Life medal and the appropriately coloured ribbon.

## Music exam successes

THE following Higham Lane School Music students have passed their Associated Board Examinations during the summer and autumn terms of 2016. Congratulations!

<b>Grade 7</b>		
Shaan (Formerly 11L1)	Flute	Merit
<b>Grade 5</b>		
Amy (9L2)	Clarinet	Merit
<b>Grade 3</b>		
Megan (7L3)	Flute	Merit
Bethany (7S2)	Flute	Pass
<b>Grade 2</b>		
Megan (7H1)	Flute	Distinction
Owen (9H3)	Drums	Merit
Rhian (7L2)	Flute	Merit
Abigail (7H1)	Flute	Merit
Daisy (8S3)	Flute	Pass
Libby (8H1)	Flute	Pass



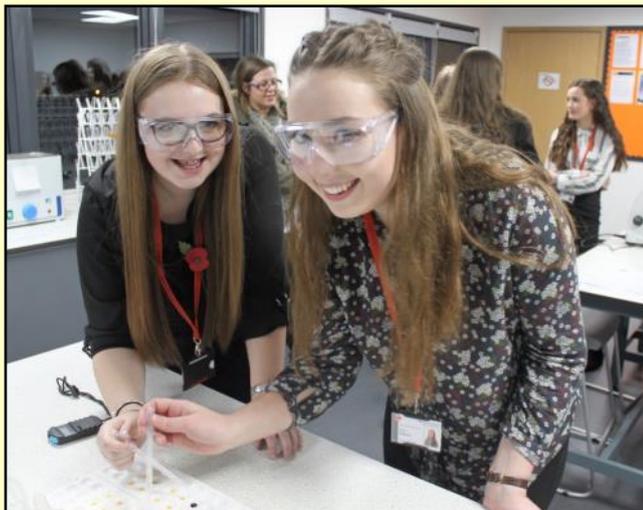
# Open house at Sixth Form!

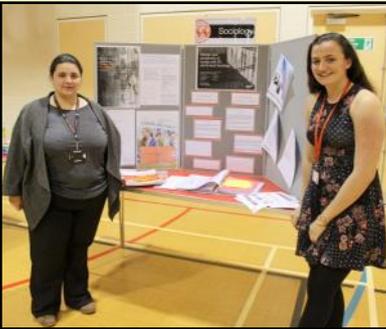
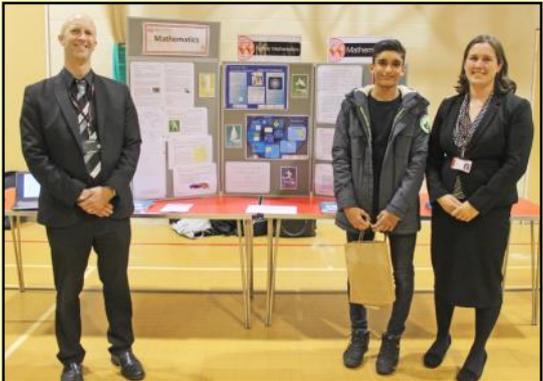
HIGHAM Lane School was very pleased to welcome so many people to hear about our newly-opened Sixth Form at the Open Evening, held on November 10.

The Sixth Form presentations provided lots of information, advice and guidance, while several universities were also in attendance, including Oxford and Cambridge.

All subject stands were busy, allowing students to gain lots of important information about selecting the right courses that would allow them to meet their aspirations.

Prospective students can visit the Higham Lane School website to obtain further information or please contact Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form, Mr Ladha, at [SixthForm@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:SixthForm@highamlaneschool.co.uk) if you have any questions.







# It really is rocket science!

AT THE end of the summer term, a group of Year 7 and Year 8 space biologists took part in an outer space investigation supported by The Royal Horticultural Society and UK Space Agency.

In September 2015, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Centre aboard Soyuz 44S. The seeds were held in microgravity for six months with British ESA astronaut, Tim Peake, taking charge of them while on the ISS for his well-publicised four-month Principia mission.

The seeds returned to Earth in April 2016, and Higham Lane School received 100. Fifteen space biologists planted the seeds alongside others which had not been into space to see if there were any differences in growth.

No-one at Higham Lane knew which seeds had been into space and which had remained on Earth.

We uploaded our results to the national database and we have now found that seeds that have been in space grow

almost as well as those that have stayed on Earth.

The national results found that, on average, 4% more Earth seeds germinated ten days after they were planted. Just over 70% of the plants grown from Earth seeds were alive after 17 days - just slightly more than the plants grown from space seeds - just over 66%.

These results indicated that the space seeds grew less well than seeds that had remained on Earth, but only slightly. In conclusion there has been a slight biological effect on the seeds.

Dr Hayley Jones, of the RHS, concludes that rocket seeds - and probably other kinds of seeds that can be grown to provide food for astronauts during long duration missions are resilient to the traumas of spaceflight.

Ryan (9H3), who took part in the national experiment, commented: "I decided to be part of the HLS space biologist team because the topic of space has always been one of my

favourite sections in science. To be able to work with items that have been to space fascinated me and I chose to join.

"This activity was an amazing experience and even showed us that it is possible to grow plants that have been to space, which we could use in the future if we were to move to another planet. If another activity similar to this was available in the future, I would definitely sign up to be part of it."

More than 320,000 individual measurements were collected - making the experiment scientifically robust and one of the most detailed of its kind ever carried out. The results will be useful to scientists trying to find ways of growing food in space.

Thank you to all the space biologists for your time carrying out the investigation and collecting results. Also a big thank you to Mrs Sullivan and Dr Smith, the science lab technicians, who put an enormous amount of their own time into this national investigation.

**MRS ROWLAND, Science Department**

## Create your own eggshell crystals

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Clean eggshells
- Water
- A variety of soluble solids: table salt, rock salt, sugar, baking powder, Epsom salts, sea salt, or cream of tartar
- Small heat proof containers (coffee cups work well)
- Spoons
- Food colouring
- Egg cartons

### WHAT TO DO:

1. Crack the eggs for this project as close to the narrow end as possible. This preserves more egg to use as a container for the solution.
2. Clean the eggshells using hot water.
3. Use an egg carton lined with greaseproof paper to hold the eggs upright.
4. Use a saucepan to heat the water to boiling.
5. Pour half a cup to a cup of water into your heatproof container. If you poured half a cup of water into the container, add about a ¼ cup of solid to the water. Stir it until it dissolves. You wanted to add about half again the volume of the water as a solid to the mixture. When



the initial amount of solid is dissolved, continue adding small amounts of the solid until the water is saturated. Saturated simply means the water has absorbed all it is able to absorb and any solid you add will not dissolve.

6. Add food colouring.
7. Carefully pour your solution into the eggshell, filling it as full as possible without over-flowing it or causing it to tip.

Find a safe place to put your shells

while the water evaporates. Crystals will form inside the eggshells as the water evaporates over several days.

If you complete this experiment take a photo and show your science teacher to receive a merit. We can't wait to see your crystals.

More home experiments can be found at [www.sciencebob.com](http://www.sciencebob.com)

**MRS ROWLAND  
Science Department**



## News from the Science Department

TEN current Year 10 pupils applied and, after a selection interview, have been chosen to be part of the HLS Iceland Expedition in partnership with BPE from July 22-31, 2017.

The expedition area, in the north-west of Iceland, is characterised by sweeping mountains and long valleys, big cliffs and lots of wild rivers.

The team will trek to the summit of Brennisteinsalada, which is one of

## Iceland here we come!

Iceland's most colourful volcanoes. The aim of the expedition is to develop characteristics of team work, independence and leadership. The team will also be carrying out scientific

field work projects in the areas. In preparation, the expedition team have already attended two training camps in the Derbyshire peaks.

During these camps, the team acquired and practiced skills that will be vital during their expedition, such as using cooking, map reading and first aid. There is one more session to finalise the preparations for their expedition.

**MR DRAYCOTT, Science Department**

## Staff leavers and arrivals

**JOHN Simpson**, Subject Leader for ICT and Computing is leaving us. We thank him for his work in this department and on whole-school e-safety.

Next term, we welcome **Janet Whooley**, who will be taking over Mr Simpson's classes. We are grateful to Sarah Hiatt-Jones for taking over the leadership of the ICT and Computing Department and whole school e-safety on an acting basis.

**Claire Webb**, Subject Leader for Geography, will commence her maternity leave.

Next term, we welcome **Danny Cummings**, who will be taking over some of Mrs Webb's classes. We are grateful to Craig Eddon and Jon Blankley for taking over the leadership of the Geography Department on a joint, acting basis.

**MR KELLY, Headteacher**



• **DANCING QUEEN!**  
Cameo proudly shows off the trophy she received for finishing first at the Footworks dance festival.

## Cameo sparkles on the dance floor!

**TWINKLE-TOED** Cameo would definitely receive a '10 from Len' if she appeared on 'Strictly Come Dancing'!

The talented dancer has secured two top placings in the 'Duet' sections of recent Midlands competitions.

In the Footworks festival at

Stratford-upon-Avon, the 8L2 form member waltzed to first place despite stiff opposition from other dancers across Warwickshire.

This was followed by another 'gold' at the Sparkles Stage Dance Festival in Birmingham when Cameo again showed a clean pair of heels to the other dancers.





## News from the Modern Foreign Languages Department



• **WILLKOMMEN!** The higher ability MFL students who visited Warwick University for a language taster day.



• **TRÈS BON!** Students were able to develop their language skills.

## Language taster day

TWENTY-FOUR higher ability Year 10 and Year 11 Modern Foreign Language students took part in a language taster day at Warwick University at the beginning of December.

Not only did the students have the opportunity to develop their language skills in French, German or Spanish in preparation for their GCSE exams, they also learnt a little bit of Russian and Arabic.

Also on hand were a number of under-graduate language students who kindly answered questions about their university studies.

**MRS FINLEY, Subject Leader for Modern Foreign Languages**

## Mon ami!

**YEAR 9** students are taking part in a penpal letter exchange programme with French secondary school Pierre Mendès France in Lillebonne, Normandy.

Higham Lane students wrote their first letter this term to introduce themselves to their new penpals and received a letter in return from the French students.

We are hoping to develop these initial links further.

**MRS FINLEY**  
Subject Leader for  
Modern Foreign  
Languages



• **MAKING FRIENDS!** Year 9 students show off the letters from their new French penpals.

## E-Safety workshops for Year 8

YEAR 8 students have taken part in E-Safety workshops with the Safer Communities team. Topics discussed included sexting, keeping safe online and our own digital footprints. Students were also alerted to the fact that their futures could be impacted by their actions now. Stay safe Year 8!

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED

- **KEEPING SAFE:** Members of the Safer Communities team with four of the Year 8 students who attended the E-Safety workshops.



- **BEWARE!** Loudmouth Theatre Company actors deliver their alcohol and drugs workshop to Year 10 students.

## Alcohol and drug dangers highlighted

YEAR 10 students have just completed a workshop delivered by the Loudmouth Theatre Company.

The production is called One 2 Many and highlights the dangers of alcohol and drugs on young people.

This production ties in nicely with the work Year 10 have just completed on alcohol and its effects on the body, relationships and work in CPSHE.

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED

## Keeping students 'Safe and Sound'!

YEAR 9s learned about 'Domestic Violence' and 'Teenage Partner Abuse' via a theatre production and workshops.

Delivered by the Loudmouth Theatre Company, 'Safe and Sound' was a powerful piece of drama which linked well to the work Year 9s have been doing on 'Positive and Safe Relationships' in CPSHE lessons. If any issues dealt with affected them in any way, students were encouraged to visit the Respect Yourself website, via FROG.

**MRS MITCHELL**, Subject Leader for CPSHEED

- **POWERFUL!** Year 9 students learn about domestic violence and teenager partner abuse.





# Record breaking Open Day and Evening

IN EARLY October, Higham Lane opened its doors for the annual Open Day & Evening, giving prospective students, their parents and carers, an ideal opportunity to look behind the scenes at the School.

The 2016 event, which attracted record crowds, allowed visitors to witness first-hand the excellent education and teaching available at the School.

During the morning, student tour guides were on-hand to escort visitors around the site. However, the School really came to life in the evening when each Department hosted its own special activities to show prospective students that learning can be so enjoyable at Higham Lane.

For the first time, visitors were able to see the newly-opened Sixth Form Centre to witness the facilities available for students opting for Post-16 education.

However, it was the School's superb students who stole the show once again, the volunteer helpers and tour guides showing enthusiasm and commitment throughout a long day.

The photographic collage, contained on these two pages, shows a selection of the activities students were involved in during the event.

• Please turn over the page for more photographs and visitors' reaction to the event.







# Congratulations on an excellent Open Evening

DEAR Mr Kelly,

I'd just like to send a quick note to congratulate you and your team on an excellent Open Evening.

We could see from our experience that the planning that had gone into the event was extremely detailed and the activities designed to interact with the prospective new students were engaging, interesting and brilliant!

Each department, and in particular the Science and PE teams, were excellent in the way they introduced and delivered their individual subjects and I could see from the reaction of my son that he was 'wowed' by the whole experience!

What was also particularly noticeable was the culture and behaviour of the students giving their time to support the event which was great to see and clearly demonstrated that 'ethos' that you were so passionate in talking about during your presentation. It's those behaviours and culture that my wife and I fully support.

Whilst I'll admit to limited experience of attending these types of events, I couldn't have been more impressed and the evening served perfectly to reinforce my belief that Higham Lane would be the perfect environment for my son's secondary education and for him to become the 'best he can be' during his time at your school if we are fortunate enough to secure a place for September 2017.

Many thanks again to you and your team for putting on such an excellent evening. Kind regards. Yours sincerely,

RICK LUKE

# Tour guide Tia was magnificent!

GOOD morning. We attended your open evening and are writing to say what an absolute brilliant evening it was, you portrayed your school in a great manner. It was both very informative and a practical experience.

You highlighted your achievements, and your students' work was well portrayed throughout the School. My son, who I hope will attend next year, thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I couldn't believe what I was hearing at the end of the night : "Dad I want to go school here and can't wait".

However, the main reason I write today was the student who took us around the School, I didn't catch the surname but her first name was Tia. What a credit this girl is to your school. At times I felt like I was talking to an adult, her execution of the tour was magnificent and we were still talking about her when we got home last night.

I would be grateful if you could pass on my thanks to her and make the headteacher aware of how great she was I would much appreciate it. She is a great asset to your school and am sure she will do you proud in the future. Kind regards,

FAIZAL and JAMIL SOMA



• **GRUB-UP!** Members of the Junior Leadership Team serve ensure the homeless people of Nuneaton received a hearty meal during their visit the Food Kitchen in Edward Street.

# Food for thought!

IN OCTOBER, the Junior Leadership Team (JLT) paid a visit to the Food Kitchen on Edward Street, Nuneaton.

The Muslim Community of Edward Street provide food for the homeless here every first and third Tuesday of each month.

The community buy the food, prepare and serve it to the homeless people of Nuneaton. They generally serve between 30 and 40 meals each time.

They are hoping to provide this service weekly from January 2017.

The homeless people are welcomed with a warm drink and then served a choice of curry with bread. Any leftover food is put into takeaway containers for them to take away.

JLT helped to serve food, drinks and chatted with the homeless people.

JLT are raising funds through selling refreshments at evening events in order to make a donation to support this community event.

This experience has also been shared with students via assemblies to encourage students to volunteer their time and help raise funds to support these vital local community projects.

**MISS FERN**  
Assistant Headteacher



• **DELICIOUS!** Volunteers at the Food Kitchen dish-up a tasty meal to Miss Fern and JLT members.

# Stars in their eyes!



• **THE WAITING IS OVER!** Above: High-achieving students arrive at the School to collect their GCSE results. Below: The grades are digested.



IN KEEPING with recent times, Higham Lane School chalked up an excellent set of GCSE examination results this year. When the 2016 results were announced on August 25, it was revealed that 82% of Year 11 students had achieved five or more A\*-C grades, including English and Mathematics.

This gains Higham Lane the accolade of being the second highest achieving non-selective school in Warwickshire and puts us amongst the top 100 performing non-selective schools in England.

In English, a stunning 93% of students gained A\*-C, with an excellent 85% obtaining this in Maths. An impressive 28% of the year group secured five or more grades A\*/A grades.

Among the School's top performers was Head Girl, Sharifa Sheikh, who achieved an A\* in all 12 subjects which she studied!

Other outstanding performances were achieved by: Johnathan Cooper (10 A\*s, 2 As); Joshua Evans (10 A\*s, 2 As); Lauren Baraclough (8 A\*s, 3 As); James McCafferty (8 A\*s, 3 As); Ajit Nagra (7 A\* s, 5As); Charlotte Gurr (7 A\*s, 4 As); Shaan Bhachu (6 A\*s, 5 As); Serena Patel (6 A\*s, 6 As); Rohan Madahar (5 A\*s, 7 As); Jessica Banks (5 A\*s, 6 As); Matthew Reubens (5 A\*s, 6 As, 1 C); Joshua Davies (5A\*s, 5 As, 2 Bs) and Isaac Francis (5 A\*s, 5 As, 1 B).

Delighted Headteacher, Phil Kelly, commented: "There are so many excellent individual performances to celebrate. Most noticeable is that students of all abilities made highly impressive progress from their respective starting points.

"This is the highest rate of progress students have ever achieved at the School and reinforces the fact that at Higham Lane, every student is valued and we always challenge them to aspire to achieve their personal best.

"Governors and I would particularly like to thank and congratulate Year 11 Progress Leader, Iain Morris, and all of our teaching and support staff, who have worked so hard and so effectively to enable the students to achieve these fantastic results.

"We are also most grateful to our parents and carers for all their constant support and encouragement. But the biggest congratulations has to go to the students themselves!"



• **PERFECTION!** Sharifa is congratulated by her proud parents who were overjoyed with her 12 A\*s.



• **STAR-STRUCK!** Sharifa shows off her 12 A\*s while other students also celebrate their GCSE results.



• **HIGH ACHIEVERS!** Headteacher, Mr Kelly, joins the best-performing students in celebrating another fantastic set of GCSE results for Higham Lane School.

# Lest we forget!



• **DRUMMER BOYS**  
*Morgan and Euan 'beat the warning'*

AS A result of an Inset Day falling on November 11, Higham Lane School this year paid its respects to the fallen a day early.

At the 11th hour, of the 10th day, of the 11th month, the School fell into a hush as students and staff respected two minutes' silence. For the first time, the School added to its usual Remembrance arrangements by involving student musicians.

Drummers, Morgan (11S1) and Euan (11S3) 'beat the warning' on the playground prior to the two minutes' silence, while 'The Last Post', played on the trumpet by Fay (11L2), signalled the end of the commemorations.

Headteacher, Mr Kelly, commented: "I just want to thank students for the excellent way they showed respect during the two minutes' silence. I am really so impressed to see how many of them were wearing poppies.

"I would like to thank Morgan and Euan for their fantastic drumming and Fay for her tremendous trumpeting on the playground. It was a really special moment for our school. Well done everyone!"

The previous weekend, Headteacher Mr Kelly joined Head Boy and Head Girl, Sam and Lauren, and Sixth Form Student Union President, Jack, to represent the School at Nuneaton's Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service.

During the act of Remembrance, the Higham Lane contingent laid a poppy wreath at the War Memorial in Riversley Park as the town paid their respects to the servicemen and women who, through the years, have sacrificed their lives for the country.



• **MOVING MOMENT!**  
*Fay plays 'The Last Post'.*



• **EXCELLENT!** *Students show respect during the two minutes' silence.*



• **SPECIAL MOMENT FOR THE SCHOOL —**  
*The three musicians gave a new dimension to Remembrance at Higham Lane School.*



● **WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!** HLS Head Girl and Head Boy, Lauren and Sam, flank Sixth Form Student Union President, Jack, as they prepare to lay a wreath during the Remembrance Sunday Service in Nuneaton.



● **PAYING RESPECTS!** The Higham Lane contingent leaves Nuneaton's War Memorial after laying a wreath on behalf of the School.



## Term dates and holidays

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**  
Break-up for Christmas and New Year.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2**  
Bank holiday.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 3**  
Inset day.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**  
Spring term commences.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17**  
Break-up for half-term.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27**  
Spring term recommences.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7**  
Break-up for Easter.

A comprehensive list of calendar dates can be found on the School's website — [www.highamlaneschool.co.uk](http://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk)



## Don't miss the next deadline!

THE next electronic edition of HLS Express will be uploaded to the School's website on Wednesday, April 5, 2017. Would you please ensure all your contributions are with Mr Nikols by Friday, March 24, at the very latest. Thank you.



## News from the Catering Department



• **DELICIOUS!** Year 8 students Allea (9S1), Jake (9H3) and Jamie (9L1), and Lauren (9H3) hard at work during the 'Street Food' competition.

# Something fishy going on!



• **EXPERT HANDS!** Head Chef Arran Shaw demonstrates how to de-bone a fish.



• **NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH!** One of the groups get down to the business of de-boning a mackerel.

BACK in the summer term, Year 8 Food students took part in a 'Street Food' competition.

They had been practising by preparing a range of dishes since February, which culminated in this great event, where local Head Chef, Arran Shaw, from Michelin recommended 34 Windsor Street in Burbage, kindly came to judge the delicious entries.

Winners were given a goody bag of street food themed items.

Congratulations to all who took part — you did a fantastic job, and Chef Arran was seriously impressed!

In July, Year 10 Catering students were lucky enough to work with the whole brigade of chefs from the same Leicestershire restaurant, where they spent the day learning how to fillet and de-bone chicken and fish, which is a vital skill in order for them to obtain the highest-possible marks in their practical controlled assessment task.

Students worked exceptionally hard and, hopefully, got a lot out of the day!



• **A CUT ABOVE!** Students showed great dexterity in producing mackerel fillets.

**MISS MACKEY**  
Catering Department



## News from the Catering Department



- **SKILFULLY CUT!** The mackerel have now been successfully filleted and it's almost time for cooking.



- **PREPARING FOR THE COOKING STAGE** — Butter is added and the mackerel fillets are placed under the grill.



- **PERFECT PARTNERSHIP!** Head Chef Arran, fellow chefs from 34 Windsor Street and Catering students reflect on a successful lesson.



● **GETTING SHIRTY!** Tom (11L3) enjoyed selling the latest fashions at Blue Inc, situated in Nuneaton's Ropework Shopping Centre.



● **SSSSHHHHHHHH!** Miah (11H1) booked her Work Experience placement at Nuneaton Library.



● **NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC!** Rachel (11L3) and Cameron (11S2) check out the latest releases at HMV's Nuneaton store.

**Perfect way to prepare for the future!**

ONCE again, our Work Experience week, held this year from July 18-22, was most successful.

Out of a year group of 243 students, 229 went out on Work Experience to 180 different placements, the majority being in the Coventry and Warwickshire area.

Out-of-area placements included Leicestershire, West Midlands, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Cornwall and Worcestershire.

Fourteen students did not go on Work Experience, two of these being involved with sporting activities abroad – one in Spain and the other in Holland.

As well as catching up with work, some of the students remained in school and helped with Enrichment Week events such as Sports Days.

**MRS ALLRED**  
Work Experience  
Co-ordinator



● **AUF WIEDERSEHEN PET!** The staff at Nuneaton's Pets at Home store turn out in force to wish Chloe (11S3) all the best as her Work Experience week draws to an end.



● **TANTALISING TREATMENT!** Lydia (11H2) and Ellie (11S2) pamper a client at Exclusively Yours Hair & Beauty in Nuneaton.



● **GOT IT COVERED!** Avid reader Ellie (11H3) was in seventh heaven at Waterstone's book shop, Nuneaton.



● **GUPPY OR GOURAMI?** Chloe (11S3) brushes-up on her tropical fish identification at Pets at Home.

MANY positive comments were made when we followed up the students on Work Experience. Typical comments were:-

- "Absolutely brilliant/fantastic/excellent/enthusiastic/conscientious/hardworking/superb - can't fault."
- "One of the best students they have had/ one of the nicest students they have had."
- "Will be a great asset to any team/ was an asset whilst with us."
- "Very engaged and has had a successful week."
- "Great work ethic/ good work ethos – will do well in future."
- "A credit to the school/ a credit to his/her parents and the school/ a credit to herself and the school."
- "Always happy to help/willing to help/ undertook any tasks required."
- "Asked great questions/ confident to ask questions if did not understand/ able to research and ask questions rather than giving up/asked relevant and pertinent questions."

Particular comments of note were:-

- "Brilliant to work with. Polite and courteous, punctual and enthusiastic...adapted well . . . showing a keen willingness to learn. She followed instructions and advice perfectly, worked well with the team and took her own initiative where appropriate. We were very impressed with her . . . an absolute star."
- "She impressed the staff by how well she has followed instructions and her maturity in asking for clarification regarding any issues she is unsure of."
- "His approach to his Work Experience was fantastic. He wanted to make the most of his time here. He was willing to learn many new and different skills as well as developing the existing skills he already has."
- "A model Work Experience student – he is punctual, presentable, enthusiastic and polite. He is keen to work and asked for more work when he had completed a task. He has fitted in extremely well with the people who work here."
- "She did incredibly well – on Friday she did a presentation to the directors on a project set for her, something seasoned employees would struggle with."
- "His skills are already way above many of his age and his example work is particularly impressive. He picks up many things very quickly and asks the right questions . . . he understands many fundamental principles that even some graduates do not grasp."
- "A great attitude to work – was curious and excited by the endless opportunities there are in terms of the type of work you can get involved in, in a company such as ours."
- "She will take on any tasks and complete it to the best of her ability – regardless of whether it is mundane or not."
- "He communicates well with all those he has worked with and all have talked about how mature and professional he has been."
- "She has made a very good impression and was popular with all those she met. She has even made her own presentation covering all she has done during the week and what she has learnt."
- "Made a good impression with those he has worked with. He has been attentive, asked for help and really mixed in well."
- "Getting on really well - hardly needs to be told what to do."

Finally a comment from an employer:-

"I believe Work Experience is a perfect way for young people to prepare for their future."



News from the Physical Education Department

# Girls home-in on Magazine Cup



THE Year 10 netball team have made a great start to their campaign in the National Magazine Cup.

In the first round they met a very strong King's High team, who had made the National netball finals last year (top 18 schools in England).

Understandably, the girls were anxious, but we knew we stood a good chance, so we focused on breaking their tactics and this the team did superbly well, winning the game 21 goals to 17.

In the second round we travelled to Edgbaston, where the girls won comfortably 40-14, while the following round saw us travelling to Robert Smyth School in Leicestershire.

Again, the team dug deep and managed to break down the tactics of the opposition, winning 36-17.

Good luck to the team in the next round where they face the National Champions, Berkhamstead.

MRS DAVIES  
PE Department



**Winners  
all the  
way!**

WELL done to the Year 7 girls who have taken to playing competitive netball like ducks to water!

The unflappable team have remained unbeaten all season, and in their latest match trounced the opposition by an incredible 29 goals without reply!

MRS DAVIES, PE Department



## County call for Prapti!

CONGRATULATIONS to talented netballer Prapti (8S3) who has received a call-up to the County Under-14 squad a year young.

MRS DAVIES, PE Department



## News from the Physical Education Department



• **SPEEDY STUDENTS!** Higham Lane School's cross country runners (left to right): Sam (7H1), Eve (8H3), Lily (8H3), Gabriella (8H1), Vikram (8S2), Olivia (7S1), Freya (7L2), Phoebe (7H2), Danica (7H2) and Daniel (8L2).

# Runners go the extra mile!

HIGHAM Lane produced some excellent team and individual results at the Nuneaton and District cross country events this term.

Two races took place at the Pingles, in Nuneaton on Wednesday, September 21, and Wednesday, September 28.

The Year 7A girls finished winners of the team championship and the Year 7B girls finished a very creditable fourth. Freya (7L2) and Olivia (7S1) were the stand-out runners, finishing first and fourth respectively.

The Year 7 boys finished runners-up in the team championship. There were some very promising runners with Sam (7H1) finishing first in his race.

The Year 8 boys' team finished third in the team event, which is an excellent result considering they were running against Year 9 competition. Well done to Daniel (8L2), Stephen (8L2) and Vikram (8S2).

The Year 8 girls' team also finished runners-up in the team event with some excellent individual performances by Eve (8H3), Gabriella (8H1) and Lily (8H3).

Six students were then selected to run for the District in the County Championships on

• **FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT** — Runners Freya and Sam were chosen to represent Warwickshire following outstanding performances for the District in the County Championships.

Saturday, October 15. This is a fantastic achievement and they performed extremely well against the best runners in the entire county. Well done to Year 7 students Freya (7L2), Sam (7H1) and Olivia (7S1), and Lily (8H3), Eve (8H3) and Daniel (8L2) in Year 8.

Following on from the District race, two students — Freya (7L2) and Sam (7H1) — were selected to represent Warwickshire at West Bromwich on November 12. This is a fantastic achievement for both students and we look forward to watching their athletics careers progress as they move through the School.

If any student would like to represent the school in the Warwickshire Schools' Cross Country Championships on Saturday, January 21, please see Mr Wilson for details.

**MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE**



## Successful time on the courts

THE Boys' Centre Parcs Badminton National Tournament has started at District level with Higham Lane again progressing very well.

The Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 teams won their tournaments, held at Nuneaton Academy, again easily winning all their games and now progress to the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals in February.

In the League, the Key Stage 4 boys have convincingly won their first three fixtures, beating St Thomas More 8-0, Hartshill 8-0 and Ash Green 8-0.

Also remaining unbeaten, the Key Stage 3 team have also triumphed in their first three matches, beating St Thomas More 7-1, Hartshill 7-1 and Ash Green 7-1.

The Girls' Centre Parcs Badminton National Tournament has also started at District level, once again Higham Lane showing their on-court skills.

The Key Stage 3 team finished in second place, playing some excellent badminton and gaining valuable experience.

The Key Stage 4 team were emphatic victors in the District round of the tournament, winning all their games. They also progress through to February's Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire round.

In the League, the Key Stage 3 girls have only played one fixture, beating Ash Green 5-3, while the Key Stage 4 side have won their first two fixtures, beating Ash Green 8-0 and Hartshill 6-2.

**MR WILSON  
Subject Leader for PE**



News from the Physical Education Department

# Footballers in fine form

THE **Year 9** football squad has continued to make excellent progress this year.

Although they have only played two games, they have been League and County Cup double headers.

The first match saw them playing Polesworth away, coming from behind to win 3-2, while in the quarter-final of the County Cup they beat St Thomas More 4-2.

This means they currently sit on top of the League table and are through to the semi-final of

the Warwickshire Cup. Their league and cup matches continue in February.

The **Year 10** football squad has continued to dominate district football and are looking very strong in the Warwickshire Cup.

League results have been impressive, beating Twycross House 8-2, Polesworth 8-0, Kingsbury 3-0 and Nicholas Chamberlaine 3-0, which means they have won the League for a very impressive fourth year in a row!

In the Warwickshire Cup, they defeated Princethorpe 5-0 in the first round and then Stratford conceded the quarter-final, having clearly heard about the fine form of the Year 10 team! Well done to all players involved and good luck in the semi-final in February.

Five Year 10 students have again been selected to represent Warwickshire at football. This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to congratulate them all. Well

done to Aaron Bailey, Ethan Looker-Brailsford, Jack Hilton, Tom Stokes and Adam Lynam.

The **Year 11** football squad still remain unbeaten this year. In the League, they were victorious against Ash Green 6-2 and Kingsbury 3-0, while drawing with St Thomas More and Hartshill. This means they were crowned District League winners for the third year in a row.

In the Warwickshire Cup, they played extremely well in the first round to beat Southam 6-1, but unfortunately had to concede the quarter-final as they were unable to field a team.

They are entered in the Coventry Schools Cup and play Aylesford in the first round, so hopefully a cup success is still possible.

Four students from Year 11 have again been selected to represent Warwickshire at football. This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to congratulate them all. Well done to Matthew Chadaway, Josh Steele, Max Grassby and Kieran Cooper.



• **LEAGUE CHAMPIONS** — This season's highly-successful Year 10 football squad.

**MR WILSON**  
Subject Leader for PE

## Defeat spurs team to tournament victory

A SQUAD of ten Year 9 students played in the 7-a-side Nuneaton and District Tournament held at Nuneaton Academy on their 3G pitch.

The team did not get off to a very good start and were beaten 2-0 by George Eliot. However, this defeat definitely had the desired effect and the players then went on to win their remaining four games without conceding a goal.

They played some excellent attacking football to beat Queen Elizabeth, Ash Green, Twycross House and Nuneaton Academy and therefore win the tournament for a second year in a row.

Well done to Ciaran Lawton, Lucas Brindley, Alfie Bell, Chris Briscoe, Scott Allen, Eamonn Sturgess, Warwick Hurst, Will Cooper, Ben Gibbs and Jack Bonell.

MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE • **TOURNAMENT WINNERS!** The Year 9 7-a-side football squad.





## News from the Physical Education Department



**GOLD — The Year 7 Girls' swimming team.**



**GOLD — The Year 8 Boys' swimming team.**

# Life in the fast lane!



**BIGGEST SQUAD — The Higham Lane School swimming teams.**

HIGHAM Lane School received the accolade of 'biggest squad in town' at this year's Nuneaton & District Swimming Gala.

Held at the Pingles on November 22, the School entered a total of eight teams — three from Year 7, three from Year 8 teams and two from Year 9.

There were golden celebrations for three of the teams — the Year 7 Girls, Year 8 Girls, and Year 8 Boys, while the Year 9 Girls secured a silver medal despite competing for most of the gala with just two swimmers!

Well done to all the students who competed for Higham Lane School on this occasion. It's great to have continued success in the pool!

**MRS MITCHELL**  
PE Department



**GOLD — The Year 8 Girls' swimming team.**



**SILVER — The Year 9 Girls' swimming team.**

# HLS Express Sport

# INVINCIBLES!

THE current Higham Lane Year 11 netball team have achieved a remarkable record during their time at the School after clinching the Nuneaton & District championship for a fifth consecutive year!

The girls remained unbeaten on their way to this year's town title, beating St Thomas More 13-7, Queen Elizabeth 23-1, Twycross 14-1, Nuneaton Academy 20-0 and Hartshill 9-4.

These outstanding displays saw them progress through to the Warwickshire Tournament, in October, where they triumphed in all five games. None of the opposing teams scored more than half the goals tally notched-up by Higham in each match as they beat Myton

20-0, King's High 9-3, Rugby School 9-3, St Thomas More 9-2 and Princethorpe 23-7.

This means they have won the County title four times in the past five years, only losing



• **UNDEFEATED!** Higham Lane School's Year 11 netball squad who have gone through this season without losing a game.

when in Year 7 by the odd goal to adversaries King's High.

The victory saw Higham progress into the Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire

Triangular, where again the team remained undefeated thanks to emphatic victories over King Henry VIII 16-4, Rugby School 11-2, Bablake

12-4 and Arden 14-4.

The girls now go on to the West Midlands finals at Bromsgrove School on January 29.

Coach, Mrs Davies, commented: "The squad is a delight to coach and a pleasure to be with. I am extremely proud of them.

"I would like to thank them for their outstanding commitment to training throughout their time at Higham Lane."

No less than eight squad members have been recognised by the County this season, with two also receiving Regional recognition:- Georgia, captain (County, Regional, England trials and a member of the Wasps Academy); Christie, captain (County); Amy (County); Lucy (County); Laura (County); Macey (County); Daisy; Rebecca; Faye; Asmita, Year 10; Leah (Year 10, County); Kristen (Year 10, County and Regional).

**MRS DAVIES**  
PE Department

• More netball news on P28.

## Freya is best in County!



• **TOP PLACE** — Freya shows off her certificate for finishing first in the Inter Area Cross Country Championships

THERE seems to be no stopping Year 7 Freya in her cross country achievements so far this year!

Having already won the Nuneaton and District league titles in very impressive style, Freya went to the represent North Warwickshire in the Inter Area Cross Country Championships, where she again beat all other competitors from the County.

This guaranteed her selection for the County schools' team which competed in the David Sutherland Cup on November 12.

Not only has Freya been impressive when competing for Warwickshire Schools, she has also competed in a variety of events for her club, Nuneaton Harriers, in the West Midlands Young Athletes Cross Country League.

We congratulate Freya and wish her all the best luck for the rest of the reason!

**MISS BLUNT**

Assistant Subject Leader for PE

• For more cross country news please see P29.