



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We have now completed our second week back at school, and I am delighted to share that it's been another brilliant week here at Higham Lane. Behaviour across the school has been excellent, and I would like to congratulate all our wonderful students for settling back in so smoothly after the summer break.

Well Done to Our New Year 7s

A special well done goes to our fantastic new Year 7 students, who have had an excellent second week. The feedback from staff has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly regarding their behaviour, attitude, learning and progress. It is wonderful to see them embracing life at Higham Lane School with such enthusiasm and working hard in their lessons, being kind to all and taking responsibility for their learning

Enjoying Break and Lunchtime Activities

The weather has been a bit mixed this week, but when it has allowed, students have enjoyed playing football and rugby on the front field on a rota basis. Our playgrounds have also been buzzing with activity, with students enjoying table tennis and basketball hoops behind the science block. We have also added more benches around the school site, providing students with extra space to sit and relax with friends during break and lunch times. There was glorious sunshine on Friday and the students have very much enjoyed being in the sunshine with their friends.

Year 11 Curriculum Evening Success

I would like to thank all the parents, students and staff who attended the Year 11 Curriculum Evening on Tuesday 10th September, it was a very successful and informative event. We hope that parents and students found the evening helpful in terms of understanding the requirements for GCSE success and that the sessions on revision techniques will prove valuable as students start preparing for their exams. Working together, we can ensure Year 11 have a productive and successful year. Our GCSE results last year were incredible and the highest the school has ever achieved, however, our current Year 11 have the potential to do even better and we look forward to working hand in hand with parents and carers to give our young people the best possible chance of reaching their full potential in the summer!

Visit from Our New CEO

On Thursday 12th September, we were honoured to have our new CEO, Andrew Dickinson, join us for a learning walk around the school. He observed several lessons and was incredibly impressed with the excellent teaching and the positive attitudes of our students. It was a pleasure to showcase the wonderful work happening in our classrooms and he commented on how polite and courteous our amazing HLS students are.

Celebrating Success: Deena in Year 13

Also on Thursday, I had the privilege of meeting Deena in Year 13, who achieved an amazing accomplishment. Along with her A-level English Literature classmates, Deena entered a national poetry competition run by Aston University – she didn't just win a prize for Higham Lane, she won the overall prize across the entire country! A huge congratulations to Deena for this remarkable achievement. We are all incredibly proud of her and we wish her the very best with her university applications to study English next year.



PE and Hygiene

We would like to remind all students of the importance of changing after PE lessons, both for hygiene reasons and to ensure students are in the correct attire around the school. Please support your child in bringing the necessary kit and please do speak to them to remind them that they must change after each PE session. Sitting in sweaty PE kit is not pleasant and is not a good life habit.

Cycling and Scooter Safety

For those students who wish to cycle to school, a Higham Lane School bicycle permit is required. This permit is part of a contract where students agree to wear helmets to and from school. We have conducted spot checks this week and, unfortunately, noticed a small number of students not wearing helmets. We have contacted the parents of these students to remind them of this requirement. Should students continue to cycle without a helmet, they will be prohibited from cycling to school in the future in order to ensure their safety.

Wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of serious injury by up to 70%, and cycling is an environmentally friendly and healthy way to travel. For students who wish to apply for a bicycle permit, please contact Student Services for a permit form. The same rules will apply to scooters starting from Monday 23rd September, giving parents time to complete and return the bike and scooter permits and purchase helmets. Please also note that students are prohibited from riding e-scooters to and from school, it is illegal to ride them on public roads or pavements. As such, e-scooters will not be allowed on the school site.

The Importance of Attendance

Attendance has been brilliant so far this term, but we need to maintain this momentum. For every day missed, students lose a minimum of five hours of learning, which is incredibly difficult to catch up on. I would like to remind parents that we are unable to authorise holiday requests during term time, and any suspected holidays will be recorded as unauthorised. New guidance from the Department for Education has tightened up the process around attendance and parents of students with low attendance or unauthorised absences may face fines from the local authority.

Wishing You a Wonderful Weekend

As we wrap up another successful week, I would like to wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend with family and friends. We look forward to seeing all of our wonderful students back at Higham Lane next week, ready for another fantastic week of learning.

Warm regards,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher, Higham Lane School



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National Manufacturing Day 2024 - Thursday 26th September 2024

Manufacturers throughout the UK will once again be opening their doors. Members of the public will be invited into factories and sites for a behind-the-scenes look at how Manufacturers' facilities work, as part of this UK-wide Open House.

Local communities will have the chance to see the potential careers and jobs on offer within the wonderfully diverse manufacturing sector, as employers engage with all age groups - from school leavers, graduates, people looking to reskill and the local residents.

For Make UK and Manufacturers, this is an opportunity to showcase the diversity of a truly fascinating sector, the range of highly skilled jobs on offer and the amazing opportunities for reskilling and career development within manufacturing in the UK.

For more information please visit the below link.

<https://www.nationalmanufacturingday.org/find-an-event>

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 17 - Friday 20 September Scholastic Book Fair

Wednesday 18 September Year 12 Information Evening

Thursday 19 September Year 9 + 10 Curriculum & Support Evening

Wednesday 25 September Year 11 Personal Development morning

Thursday 26 September Year 7 + 8 - Curriculum & Support Event / Year 7 Meet the Tutor

Monday 7 - Tuesday 8 October Year 9 Safeline

Thursday 10 October School Open Day (Daytime Tours and Open Evening)

Monday 14 October Governors day

Monday 14 - Friday 18 October Year 11 Careers Practice Interviews

Wednesday 16 October HLNA Open Evening Event (based at HLS)

Thursday 24 October Sixth Form Open Evening

Friday 25 October INSET DAY

Monday 28 October Half term holiday begins

Friday 1 November Half term holiday ends

Monday 4 November Autumn term begins