



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful half-term break. It has been wonderful to see our students return with a brilliant attitude towards learning, their enthusiasm and commitment are credit to you as parents and carers for instilling the right values and moral compass to allow them to come to HLS and excel by working hard, being kind and taking responsibility.

Meet and Greet

The senior leadership team had the pleasure of greeting all students on Monday morning. It was a lovely, positive start to the day, setting the tone for a productive and engaging term ahead.

Keeping Our Students and Staff Safe

On Monday, we conducted random screenings of students as they entered the school site to check for prohibited items such as weapons or vapes. We are delighted to report that no prohibited items were found. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment for everyone at Higham Lane School.

Well Done to Year 10

Congratulations to our amazing Year 10 students who have started their trial exams this week. Behaviour has been excellent overall, though there have been isolated incidents of students turning around, making silly noises or trying to communicate with others in the exam hall. In a real GCSE, this could lead to disqualification with serious ramifications. Please discuss exam behaviour expectations with your child to ensure they follow the regulations set by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). The school does not set these rules, but we must enforce them to maintain the integrity of the examination process.

Year 11 'Refresh Your Revision'

Monday 3rd March sees the launch of Year 11 Loyalty Card Scheme. Students have been informed of this in assembly and are aware that if they attend a total of ten revision sessions over the next few weeks, they will receive either £5 off the cost of their prom ticket or leavers book, or a £5 voucher for Amazon or Love 2 Shop.












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- Students need to attend at least 10 revision sessions to earn either £5 off your Prom ticket/Leavers' book OR earn a £5 voucher.
- Within the 10 revision sessions, they must attend one of session for each of Religion and Worldviews, French, History or Geography. They must also attend two science revision sessions.
- Students must get a sticker from their class teacher to prove their attendance and must also get their card signed.

Please see below for the array of revision sessions on offer and if they are in Year 11, please talk to your son/daughter about which ten they are going to attend over the next few weeks.

When can I revise....?

Art 	Biology 	Chemistry 	Comp Science 	Drama 	English 
Tuesday Lunch Wednesday Lunch	Thursday (A)	Monday (A) Thursday Lunch (B) Friday	Tuesday	Monday Coursework Rehearsals Wednesday and Thursday	Monday lunch Tuesday Thursday
Engineering 	French 	Food 	Geography 	History 	Maths 
Tuesday Thursday	Monday Lunch(A) Tuesday Lunch (B) Also see Google Classroom for other days.	Monday Lunch(A)	Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	Tuesday Lunch Wednesday	Monday Tuesday
Music 	PE 	Physics 	Photography 	Religion 	Sociology 
Monday Tuesday Thursday Lunch Thursday A/School	Tuesday Lunch	Thursday Friday Lunch (A)	Monday Friday	Monday Friday	Wednesday

Uniform Reminder

A reminder that fake eyelashes and all facial piercings are prohibited. Please ensure your child adheres to this policy, maintaining a uniform standard helps promote a sense of equality and focus among students.

Communication Policy

We aim to respond to communications within three working days where possible. Part-time staff may take longer to reply. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we strive to address all queries and concerns promptly.

GCSE Practical Examinations

Well done to our students taking part in their GCSE Food Tech and Design & Technology/Engineering practical examinations, the staff enjoyed tasting the amazing food creations! These practical exams are a crucial part of the students' assessment, and we are proud of their hard work and creativity.

Sixth Form Applications

We had a brilliant evening interviewing external students who wish to join Higham Lane Sixth Form. The standard of applicants was incredible, and we expect even higher numbers this year. We are delighted to announce that our validated value-added data for the sixth form has been released. Our students achieved the highest ever A*/A figure of 28.3% and A*-B figure of 58.5%. Our value-added score of +0.24 indicates that our students are achieving almost a quarter of a grade higher than expected in every subject. This is a testament to the dedication of both our students and staff.

Year 13 Student Progress Evening

Thank you to all parents and students who attended the Year 13 Student Progress Evening. We appreciate the staff's time in working with students and parents to discuss progress and improvement strategies. These evenings are invaluable in ensuring that students receive the support they need to achieve their full potential.

Upcoming Events

Good luck to Year 12 students who are on their field trip to Norfolk next week. This trip will provide them with valuable hands-on experience and enhance their understanding of the subject matter.

Good luck to Year 10 students taking trial exams. These exams are an important part of their preparation for the final GCSEs.

We hope Year 11 students enjoy the sixth form event next week. This event will give them a taste of what to expect in the next stage of their education.

We hope Year 10 students benefit from the road safety talks. These talks are designed to raise awareness and promote safe practices among our students.

Higham Lane North Academy (HLNA)

We are excited to support the setup of HLNA. Despite the national recruitment and retention crisis, we have staffed the new school with high-quality personnel. Both schools will collaborate on various aspects of school life to benefit both institutions. A small number of staff from HLS will be going to work at HLNA to help set things up. Where staff are moving over to HLNA, we have either already made brilliant appointments or are in the process of filling those staffing gaps to ensure that HLS maintains its extremely high learning and teaching standards.

Thank you for your continued support. Your involvement and encouragement are vital to the success of our students and the school community.

Have a wonderful weekend!



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School



IAPWA YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

IAPWA (International Aid for the Protection & Welfare of Animals) was founded in 2009 to provide protection and improve the welfare of animals in need. Today we are an international animal welfare charity, driven to provide a lifeline for animals around the world.

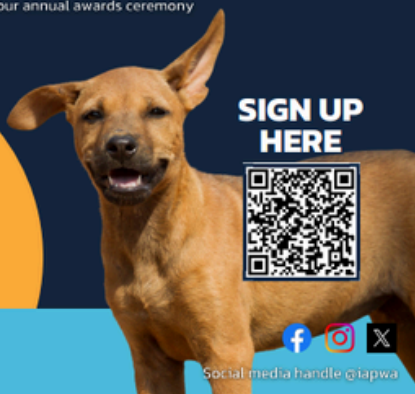
Our Youth Ambassador Programme (YAP) runs from January to September 2025 and is open to all children between the ages of 11-18 who feel passionately about animal welfare and would like to help raise funds and awareness for our wonderful charity.

What's in it for you?

- Gain valuable skills (organisation, public speaking, presenting, research etc.) and mentorship from industry professionals
- Satisfaction and experience of contributing to a worthwhile social cause
- Prestige and recognition of becoming an IAPWA Youth Ambassador and possibly the 2025 IAPWA Youth Champion at our annual awards ceremony

Become an Ambassador

- Meet a fundraising target
- Raise awareness for the charity
- Contribute to a world where all animals are treated with compassion and respect



**SIGN UP
HERE**



ben.fusi@iapwa.org
www.iapwa.org
Charity No. 1137532

Social media handle @iapwa

UK Health
Security
Agency

Stop norovirus spreading

Norovirus, also known as the 'winter vomiting bug', is the most common stomach bug in the UK. It can spread easily through close contact, or by contaminated surfaces, food or water.





The main symptoms of norovirus include a sudden onset of nausea, followed by projectile vomiting and diarrhoea, usually 1 to 2 days after becoming infected. Other common symptoms include a high fever, a headache and aching arms and legs.

Good hand hygiene is important to stop norovirus spreading.

To stop norovirus spreading, you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly using soap and warm water after using the toilet or contact with a sick individual and before preparing and eating food.
- stay off school or work until you have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least two days
- not rely on alcohol gels instead of washing your hands, as these do not kill the virus
- wash any contaminated clothing or bedding using detergent at 60°C using disposable gloves to handle any items
- use bleach-based cleaners to disinfect surfaces

If you catch it, stay home for 48 hours after your symptoms clear

<p>DO ✓</p> <p>Wash clothes and bedding at 60°C</p>  <p>Wash hands with soap, clean surfaces with bleach-based disinfectants</p> 	<p>DON'T ✗</p> <p>Go to work or school, visit care homes or hospitals</p>  <p>Prepare food for others</p> 
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Most people will make a full recovery in 2-3 days without needing any medicine. It is important to keep hydrated – especially children and the elderly.

Try not to visit A&E or GP surgeries if you have symptoms of norovirus unless advised to do so by a healthcare professional, as this may spread the bug to others. Call ahead to a GP or ring NHS 111 if you are worried about your symptoms.

Further information is available at NHS 111 or NHS.uk (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/norovirus/>)

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Dates for your diary

5th March 2025 – Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

27th March 2025 – Year 11 Student Progress Evening

10th April 2025 – Year 10 Student Progress Evening

14th – 25th April – Easter Holidays

28th April 2025 – Inset Day

1st May 2025 – Year 7 Student Progress Evening

5th May 2025 – Bank Holiday – School Closed



83,057



78,259



78,421