



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 10TH JANUARY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

We have had an amazing first week back at Higham Lane School, and I am pleased to report that behaviour has been excellent. It is wonderful to see our students returning with such a positive attitude and readiness to learn.

Winter Weather Reminder

As the weather has been very cold this week, please ensure that your child has a suitable winter black coat and we strongly recommend gloves to keep them warm. It is important that students are dressed appropriately for the weather to ensure they remain comfortable and healthy.

Extended Tutor Time

On Monday, we had an Extended Tutor Time to reset standards and expectations, reflect on the previous term, set goals for this half term and reconnect with friends. During this time, we discussed our school values of "be the best that you can be," which are underpinned by three core principles: work hard, be kind and take responsibility. These values are essential in guiding our students to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to the school community. Please do refer to these values when speaking with your child as these values are not just for school, but they are also for life. If you work hard in everything you do and give things your best shot, if you are kind to others and able to form good relationships and you take responsibility for your actions, learning from your mistakes and try to be the best the best that you can be, it is more likely that you will be successful in all walks of life!



Higham Lane Learner Values

WORK HARD

I take pride in my work and always complete work to the best of my ability.

I pursue my passions and aspirations with unwavering commitment.

I am not afraid to take risks and am resilient when presented with challenges.

I persevere when presented with challenging tasks and homework, responding positively to feedback.

I demonstrate the dedication, determination and diligence to fulfil my potential.

BE KIND

I always show courtesy and gratitude towards all staff members.

I support our positive and inclusive environment by greeting others in a polite manner.

I always show tolerance and listen to the views of others.

I always support other students and will be an upstander against bullying or discrimination.

I will always demonstrate empathy, compassion and respect to others.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

I respect the school rules to ensure that teachers can teach and students can learn.

I am punctual to lessons and manage my time to meet deadlines.

I am organised, I bring the correct equipment and wear the school uniform with pride.

I follow the school routines to create a safe and positive learning environment for everyone.

I engage with the restorative process to resolve conflict and build positive relationships with staff and students.



Assemblies on Basic Standards

We delivered assemblies to each year group focusing on getting the basics right. It is crucial that students adhere to our school policies to maintain a respectful and conducive learning environment.

- **Jewellery:** Only a watch, school badges and one small, plain ear stud per ear are allowed. Other piercings, such as nose studs, nose rings, tongue piercings and spacers and lobes are not permitted and must be removed.
- **Hairstyles:** Unacceptable styles include obvious colouring different from the student's natural hair colour (e.g., pink, blue, green, red), tramlines, shaved areas that leave hair at different lengths and hair shaped into patterns.

Consequences for Non-Compliance:

- We do not want to issue sanctions and therefore, it is vital that all parents and carers support the school by ensuring that your child arrives to school, dressed correctly and in line with our policies. Please note that when your child joined the school, you agreed to support the school with all policies, expectations and accept consequences if students do not adhere to our rules.
- Please note the following: Non-permitted jewellery will be confiscated, and students will receive an S1 warning for the first issue. Repeated offences will result in confiscation and an S2 same-day detention. Persistent or serious offences, such as non-permitted hair colour or cuts/nose piercings, may result in isolation until the issue is resolved.

Attendance Target and Rewards

Our school attendance target is 97%+ (maximum of 6 days absence). We have several rewards for students who meet or exceed this target:

- Termly raffle for students at or above 97% attendance.
- Termly Gold (100%), Silver (99-98%) and Bronze (97%) certificates.
- Weekly Tutor Attendance Trophy.

Regular attendance is vital for academic success and personal development. We encourage all students to strive for excellent attendance and take advantage of the rewards on offer.

Half-Term Review - Student Organisers

Students have reflected on the last half-term on page 80 of their organisers and considered how they can improve this half term. Please discuss this with your child to help them set realistic and achievable goals. This reflection process is an important part of their personal growth and development.

Form Group Student Leadership

Each form group needs the following leaders:

- **Form Captains:** 2 students per half term to support the form tutor with delivering the Pastoral Programme, such as presenting the Weekly Review.
- **Standards Monitors:** 2 students per half term to check students' equipment/uniform and inform the form tutor to award weekly House Points.
- **Sports Captains:** 2 students per half term to liaise between forms and houses to form teams for Inter House/Tutor group competitions. Please encourage your child to apply and develop their leadership skills.

These roles provide valuable opportunities for students to develop leadership skills and take on responsibilities within their form groups. Please encourage your child to step up and get involved in school life; the more you put into school life, the more you get out of it!

House Competitions

Well done to all students who competed in the 5-a-side competition last term. A massive thank you to Mr Douglass for organising the House Competition. At the end of this half-term, there will be a netball tournament. House competitions are a great way for students to engage in friendly competition and build team spirit.

Exercise Books

Your child's exercise book reflects their attitude to learning. It will be their main source of revision for assessments and retrieval practice. Please look through your child's exercise books and ensure they are always proud of their work. Encouraging your child to take pride in their work will help them develop a positive attitude towards their studies.



Extra-Curricular Champion Challenge

All students who attend three Extra-curricular Activities (ECA) clubs (three different or the same club three times) in January will be entered into a raffle. One student from each year group will win a 'Golden Ticket,' allowing them to pick any one item from the Reward Shop, including Amazon vouchers, footballs/netballs, table tennis sets, chess sets, etc.

We take personal development and extra-curricular activities very seriously at HLS. There is a vast array of activities to choose from, so your child can develop new skills. Please discuss these opportunities with your child and encourage them to get involved! Numerous studies have shown that students who get involved in extra-curricular activities enjoy school more, feel they belong and get better outcomes. Please ask your child which clubs they attend and if the answer is none or not very many, then please encourage your child to attend more clubs! Thank you.

Extra-Curricular Champion Reward Card			
Activity E.g. Lego Club			
Date	/ 1 / 25	/ 1 / 25	/ 1 / 25
Teacher Signature			

How this works
Students must attend 3 Extra-Curricular clubs in January and record them on this card. Once the Reward Card is completed, hand it to your form tutor by the end of January. You will receive 5 House Points for completing your Reward Card and be entered into the Reward Shop Raffle.

Word of the Week: Diffident

- Word Class: Adjective
- Meaning: Hesitant in acting or speaking due to lacking self-confidence; shy and not confident in your abilities.

Examples:

1. His manner is far too diffident for a politician.
 2. You may feel very diffident or even scared at the prospect of attending a job interview.
- Synonyms: Shy, bashful, modest, self-effacing, reserved, unconfident.
 - Challenge: Use "diffident" in a conversation this week. Use it in your written work and receive a house point.

Please try to use this word with your child to develop sophisticated vocabulary. As we know, "the word rich become rich," as literacy is a key determining factor in improving life chances.

Bereavement Support Group

Mrs Worth, our School Counsellor, is running a Bereavement Support Group which is open to all students who have suffered the bereavement of a close family member. The next session is Tuesday 14th January 5-6 pm. Please email contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk and mark your email FAO Mrs Worth if you would like your child to attend. Mrs Worth has emailed all parents/carers where we have been made aware of any family bereavements.

Upcoming Events

- Y7 Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) trip on Monday 13th January – for the Y7s on the trip, have a wonderful time!
- Y11 trial exams start on 27th January – good luck to our Y11 students with their revision and forthcoming exams. Please support your child with their revision.
- Good luck to everyone to all of our Y11 students who have their trial French speaking exam next week! Bonne chance! For those of you who don't know, I am a Modern Foreign Language specialist and have taught languages for more years than I care to mention so I am very passionate about languages and I know first-hand how being able to speak a language can open doors and provide amazing life opportunities.
- We are excited about the term ahead and look forward to seeing our students continue to thrive.

Have a wonderful and relaxing weekend. Thank you for your omnipresent support as parents and carers.

Kind regards,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School

Year 8 Student Progress Evening – Thursday 23rd January. 3pm – 7pm. These will be online video appointments. Please see details on how to book appointments in letter emailed home on Wednesday 8th January. Booking opens: Wednesday 15th January 6pm.

School will close at 2.15pm on Thursday 23rd January due to Year 8 Student Progress Evening.



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