



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a brilliant week here at Higham Lane School, with students demonstrating their commitment to our school vision: Be the Best That You Can Be. In line with this, they have been working hard, being kind and taking responsibility. In the words of the mountaineer, explorer and philanthropist, Sir Edmund Hillary, "It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves." Thank you for your omni-present support as our parents and carers so our young people can be the best versions of themselves and conquer amazing things.

International Karate Success

We are thrilled to share that Bobbin has been selected to represent England at the Wadokai International Cup Tokyo 2025. This prestigious competition is the world championships for Wadokai karate, held at the iconic Nippon Budokan Stadium in Tokyo. Congratulations to Bobbin, we are all rooting for you!



Year 10 Boys' National Cup Journey

A huge well done to our Year 10 boys' football team, who reached the last 16 schools in the country in the National Cup. Although they narrowly lost 1-0 to an excellent Thomas Telford School, their determination and teamwork was outstanding. They should be incredibly proud of this achievement.

Holocaust Workshop

This week, we were deeply honoured to be selected to take part in a Holocaust workshop, where students had the incredible opportunity to listen to the testimony of a Holocaust survivor. This took place on Wednesday and proved to be a moving and insightful experience for both students and staff, fostering greater understanding and empathy.

Warwickshire Area Analysis Partnership

This week, I attended a meeting with 80 other headteachers from across North Warwickshire as part of the Northern Warwickshire Area Analysis Partnership. We focused on three key areas: attendance, SEND provision and the transition from Year 6 to secondary school. Discussions included strategies to improve attendance (which remains lower than pre-COVID levels), better support for SEND students amidst funding challenges, and enhancing the transition experience for new Year 7s.

Self-Regulation Techniques

In tutor time this week, students have been learning self-regulation techniques to help them manage emotions, improve focus and enhance their overall well-being.

New Extra-Curricular Timetable

At Higham Lane School, we believe in educating the whole child, and we are delighted to launch our new extra-curricular timetable for the Spring Term. With a variety of exciting and free opportunities available, there is something for everyone.

You can view the booklet here: [Extra-Curricular Activities Booklet](#)

10-Day 100% Attendance Challenge

Next week, we will be running a 10-Day 100% Attendance Challenge (27th January – 7th February). Students with 100% attendance will have the chance to win a 'Golden Ticket,' which can be redeemed for a special reward from our shop.

Top Tips for 100% Attendance:

- Avoid scheduling appointments during school hours.
- Establish a good routine to ensure plenty of sleep and organization.
- Arrive on time – students arriving after 9:30 am must be marked absent for the morning session.
- Stay healthy with of water.

Upcoming Competitions

- Year 7 Girls' Indoor Athletics – Wednesday 29th January
- Year 8 Boys'/Girls' Indoor Athletics – Tuesday 4th February
- Year 7/8 Girls' and Boys' 3x3 Basketball – Thursday 13th February

Word of the Week: Furtive

Encourage your child to incorporate this word into their vocabulary!

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|-------------------|--|
| Word Class | <i>Adjective</i> |
| Meaning | Attempting to avoid notice or attention, typically because of guilt or a belief that discovery would lead to trouble; secretive. |
| Examples | He stole a furtive glance at her. The records show furtive criminal activity. |
| Synonyms | Secretive, surreptitious, sly, sneaky, wily, underhand, clandestine. |
| Challenge | Use furtive in a conversation this week. Use it in your written work and receive a house point. |

Uniform and piercings

Please ensure that your child comes to school dressed correctly for school. Please do not send your child into school with leggings; these are not permitted and students should be wearing a school skirt or school trousers. Please also do not allow your child to get a facial piercing, students are not allowed to have any facial piercings, including their tongue, their nose, their chin or any other area of their face. The only piercings that are allowed is one stud earring in either ear. Students are checked every morning in line-up and any students coming into school who are not dressed correctly for school are spoken to by their tutor and/or Progress Leader and this is not a good start to the day for any students to have a negative interaction. We thank you for your support.

Mobile phones

There are many advantages to mobile phones, but there are also many drawbacks, especially for young people today that nowadays appear to be emotionally attached and dependent on them. Students are not allowed to use mobile phones under any circumstances during the school day whilst on our school site. This is to prevent misuse such as distraction in lessons, taking photos and videos of staff or students without permission, online bullying etc. If a mobile phone is seen or heard, then it will be confiscated and a sanction issued. Can we please kindly request that you speak to your child to remind them of this rule? We thank you for your support in this matter.

Can we also please remind any parents/carers that when visiting the site for any reason including a meeting with a member of staff or to attend a school event, parents, carers and visitors do not have permission to take photos, videos or record conversations. This is to safeguard our students and staff. Thank you for your support.

Student Equipment

We are so proud of how committed students are to their studies at Higham Lane School. A key message we have been reiterating this week to our students is how important it is to come to school equipped with the tools needed to support their studies. This is particularly important for Years 10 and 11 who will have trial exams this term. Please can you support us by having a discussion with your child to check they have all of their equipment. The full list of equipment needed can be found in the first page of the student organiser. Key items that we have noticed some students have not had this half term are a purple pen, a glue stick and a scientific calculator. If students struggle to get equipment, we do have a stationery shop in school where they can purchase some.

Year 13 and Year 11 Exams

Well done to our Year 13 students, who completed their trial exams this week, and to our Year 11 students undertaking their French speaking trials. Good luck to Year 11 as they start their full trial exams next Monday 27th January.

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful and restful weekend. Thank you for your continued support of Higham Lane School.

Best wishes



Mr Gannon
Headteacher



66,615



63,883



62,749

Virtual Event: Data Futures: Introducing Data Careers in the NHS - Apprenticeship opportunities
 As part of National Apprenticeship Week, we invite you to share this special event with your students and their parents!

Event Details:

When: Tuesday, 11th February 2025, at 6.30pm

Where: Virtual session on MS Teams

- Why Attend?
- This 60-minute live online recruitment briefing will provide insight into NHS data apprenticeships across the country. Attendees will learn about the incredible contributions data apprentices are making, including: Enhancing patient care, Driving healthcare innovation, and Transforming NHS operations.

The session will inspire school and college leavers to explore the data apprenticeship opportunities available and the meaningful careers they can build within the NHS. [Register to attend!](#)

Year 9 Student Progress Evening -

Thursday 6th February. 3pm - 7pm. These will be online video appointments. Please see details on how to book appointments in letter emailed home on Wednesday 22nd January. Booking opens: Wednesday 29th January 6pm.

School will close at 2.15pm on Thursday 6th February due to Year 9 Student Progress Evening.

Dates for your diary

Monday 27th January Year 11 Trial Exams start

Wednesday 29th January Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Thursday 6th February Year 9 Student Progress Evening

Thursday 13th February Year 9 Options Evening

Friday 14th February Last Day of Term

Monday 24th February Back to school after half Term Holiday