



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 18TH JULY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an absolutely fantastic final week of the academic year we've had at Higham Lane School! It truly caps off an amazing year for our students and staff!

Sports Day Success!

Sports Day on Monday was a huge success, and I personally thoroughly enjoyed watching the incredible tug-of-war battles with our amazing Year 12 Sixth Form students and the egg and spoon race with the Year 9s in the morning was, without a doubt, the most competitive egg and spoon race I have ever seen! In the afternoon, we moved over to Ambleside for athletics, which was also fantastic. It was lovely to see students cheering on their peers and wholeheartedly supporting their Higham Lane Houses.

On that note, a massive well done to everyone who took part, but especially to those in Luctamen, who managed to come out as the overall House champions!

Here are the final House Standings:

1st Place: Luctamen (1310 points)

2nd Place: Honestas (1264 points)

3rd Place: Spiritus (1167 points)



Higham Lane School dates back to the 1930s and has a very proud tradition of sporting success. We hold files of records of previous sporting achievements, including from Sports Days, and we were truly blown away by the standard of athletics at Ambleside. It was incredible to watch 14 new school records being set, including some records that have stood for many years!



Rewards Days

The rewards days, or "Big Days In," took place on Wednesday and Thursday. Students enjoyed giant inflatable obstacle courses, a cinema show in the Sixth Form Centre, and other games including football. Some students particularly enjoyed the "throw the wet sponge at a member of staff" activity, which certainly brought a lot of laughs and wet staff! Despite the weather not being quite so good on Thursday morning, which required some improvisation with different activities, everyone still had a fantastic time.



France Trip

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the annual France trip took place. Our students had a wonderful time with the opportunity to taste lots of different French foods, practise their French language skills, and enjoy some time at the beach!



Praise and Reward Shop

It was lovely to see students trading in their hard-earned House Points for real rewards at the school's reward shop as we came towards the end of the academic year. Some of the most popular rewards chosen included big bags of Haribo sweets, Amazon vouchers and footballs. The students have demonstrated working hard, being kind or taking responsibility to have gained the House Points so they deserve their rewards!

Academic Achievements and Site Improvements

It has been an incredible last 12 months for Higham Lane. Last summer, our Year 11 students achieved the best GCSE results the school has ever seen, and our Year 13 students scored the best A-level results the school has ever achieved. We also had a visit from Ofsted, where we are very proud to have successfully maintained our "Ofsted Outstanding" rating. Our internal data from trial exams indicates that our current Year 11 and current Year 13 are on track for another set of amazing results, and we wish them the best of luck!

A reminder that A-level examination results day will be on Thursday 14th August and GCSE examination results day is on Thursday 21st August 2025. We look forward to celebrating with the students when they open up their envelopes and see their results!

We have also made significant improvements across the school site, including providing new table tennis tables, which have been a massive hit with the students. Next year, we are looking to create more covered areas for students to relax during unstructured time and provide a better social environment for our amazing students. The school site is very old with lots of traditional and beautiful features mixed with amazing new parts such as the £5m Sixth Form Centre but we will continue to make improvements where we can. Over the summer, there is planned work to replace all the windows around the quads and the doors and windows in Chine Hall and Coombe Hall, which will hopefully make the school site warmer in the cold weather, make the school site more environmentally friendly by making more heat efficient and nicer for both students and staff.

Staff Departures

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who have given their service to Higham Lane School and are leaving at the end of the year. We wish them all well and hope they stay in touch. We will say our goodbyes to staff in a staff meeting on Friday but I wanted to acknowledge their service. Some of the staff have been here for a very long time and have contributed so much during their time here. Mrs Davenport has given 18 years service at HLS and Mr Morris has given 20 years service, Wow! I am sure you will all join me in thanking them for all of their work over the years.

Important Reminders for September

As we look ahead to the new academic year, please take note of these important reminders:

Jewellery: A reminder that students are only allowed to have one piercing in each ear, with one stud earring in each ear. No facial piercings are allowed, including nose studs. Please do not allow your child to have their nose pierced over the summer break, and please do not send your child into school in September with a pierced nose. Any student who has a nose piercing/stud will be required to remove it. Please see the link below for further details:

<https://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=144>

Cycling to School: Any child who cycles to our school is required to complete a HLS bike permit and to also wear a helmet. From September, any student who is riding to school without a helmet will be sanctioned. Please support the school and ensure your child has a helmet if they cycle. I have personally worked in a school where a child was very seriously injured following a road traffic accident on a bicycle where the child was not wearing a helmet and I am determined to do all I can to keep our students safe.

E-Scooters

E-scooters are illegal to use in public. As summer approaches and the weather improves, we know many young people are looking forward to spending more time outdoors. However, we want to remind all families that privately owned e-scooters are illegal to use in any public place in the UK – this includes roads, pavements, parks and cycle paths. E-scooters might seem like a fun and easy way to get around, but as well as being illegal to use in public, they come with serious risks. Emergency teams at UK hospitals are seeing an increasing number of serious collisions involving children and e-scooters, some suffering life-changing injuries. Crucially, it is against the law to ride a privately owned e-scooter in public. Not only are e-scooters illegal, but they can also be dangerous, especially for young or inexperienced riders. Using them illegally can result in fines, points on a driving licence, and even seizure of the scooter. HLS does not allow students to ride an e-scooter to and from school, and students are not allowed to park or store them on the school site, as this would be condoning illegal behaviour. They can also sometimes be a fire risk. How can you help? We're asking all parents and carers to avoid buying e-scooters for themselves, children, or teens to talk to your child about the risks and legal consequences, and to share this message with friends and family. Thank you for your support. Please see the following link for further details: <https://www.gov.uk/electric-scooter-rules>

Summer Safety

As the summer holidays begin, please emphasise the importance of safety, particularly water safety. The RNLI provides excellent advice on how to stay safe around water during the summer months. You can find more information and tips on their website. Please see the following link for further details: <https://rnli.org/safety>

Return to School Dates

Finally, a reminder that Monday 1st September and Tuesday 2nd September are staff training days, and students are not required in school on these days. School will reopen for Years 7, 11, 12, and 13 on Wednesday 3rd September. School will be open to all students from Thursday 4th September.

Thank you for your ever-present support throughout this academic year. We wish you and your families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Best wishes,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School

Dates for your diary

Friday 18th July 2025 – End of Term – School Finishes at 12.30pm

Monday 21st July 2025 – Inset Day

Monday/Tuesday 1st/2nd September 2025 – Inset Day

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 – Years 7, 11, 12 & 13 only

Thursday 4th September 2025 – All years return

Friday 24th October 2025 – Inset Day

Monday 27th October 2025 – Half Term



145,832



140,218



138,921

Community Safety Update



Dear Parents and Students,

As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety and community wellbeing, we have an important message from Warwickshire Police. With the school holidays approaching, it is vital to be aware of the risks and consequences associated with illegal and antisocial motorbike use.

Operation Undertook

Warwickshire Police have launched a dedicated policing initiative called Operation Undertook. This operation specifically targets individuals using motorbikes illegally and antisocially during the school holidays. Increased patrols and enforcement actions will be in place to ensure community safety.

What Counts as Antisocial Motorbike Use?

- Riding off-road bikes in parks, fields, or public land without permission
- Causing noise, alarm, or distress to residents
- Riding without a licence, insurance, or safety gear
- Gathering in groups and riding recklessly in neighbourhoods

Legal Consequences

- **Section 59 Notices:** Police can issue warnings or seize bikes being used antisocially
- **Fines and Penalty Points:** Riders can face fines, points on their licence, or disqualification
- **Criminal Records:** Persistent offenders may face court action and a criminal record
- **Driving Licence Impact:** You can be banned from driving before you're even old enough to hold a licence

Long-Term Financial Impact

- Future insurance premiums for motorbikes, cars, or even home insurance can become extremely expensive or difficult to obtain
- Insurers view riders with a history of illegal or reckless behaviour as high-risk, which can lead to refusals or surcharges

Impact on Housing Tenancy

Parents, please be aware: antisocial behaviour linked to your household can put your housing tenancy at risk. Local councils and housing associations work closely with police to:

- Issue tenancy warnings
- Enforce Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- In serious cases, initiate eviction proceedings

What Parents Can Do

- Know where your child is and what they're doing
- Talk to them about the dangers and consequences of illegal riding
- Report concerns to Warwickshire Police or your local council

Report It

If you witness illegal or antisocial motorbike use:

- 'Dob Em In' ([safeinwarwickshire.com](https://www.safeinwarwickshire.com))
- Call 101 or report online at warwickshire.police.uk
- In an emergency, always dial 999

Let's Keep Warwickshire Safe

Together, we can protect our communities, prevent accidents, and ensure young people stay on the right path. Let's stop illegal riding before it stops someone's future.

Higham Lane's Golden Sports Stars!



We are delighted to announce that Higham Lane School have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2024/25 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Some of our sporting achievements this year include: Year 8 Girls District Rounders Champions Year 9 Girls District Rounders Champions Year 11 Girls District Netball Champions Year 10 Girls District Netball Champions Year 9 Girls District Netball Champions/Runner's Up Warwickshire Schools Year 8 Girls District Netball Champions/Runner's Up Warwickshire Schools Year 7 Girls District Netball Champions Year 8 Girls Football Year 11 Boys Football District Cup winner Year 10 Boys Football District Cup and league winners Year 10 Boys Football reached the quarter finals, the last 8 in the National Schools Cup Year 9 Boys Football District cup and league winners Year 8 Boys Football District cup winners Key Stage 3 & 4 Girls District Badminton Winners Key Stage 4 Girls District Badminton Winners

With a total of over 200 young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. We are also really impressed with the amount of students taking part in our Inter-House sports events. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. A special thanks goes to all of the staff at Higham Lane School who have contributed to





HIGHAM LANE SCHOOL

**has achieved the Gold School Games Mark
award for their commitment, engagement
in the School Games for 2024/25.**

