



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 6TH JUNE 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back for the new half-term. Their behaviour has been excellent and their attitude to learning has been exemplary, even if the weather has been somewhat hit or miss! It has been lovely to see the students playing football on the field, table tennis on the playground or ball games on the tennis courts when the weather has allowed it.

Examinations Update

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are making excellent progress with their GCSE and A-level examinations. We extend our very best wishes to all of them during this crucial time. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff who have gone above and beyond, offering additional support and running extra revision sessions, often in their own time, to give our students that final push. Good luck also to our Year 7, 8 and 9 students who are undertaking their internal examinations. We are confident that all of their hard work will pay off.

Safety and School Policies

Cycle Safety: For students who cycle to school, please ensure they wear a helmet. The evidence is clear that helmets save lives and prevent serious injury. Studies have shown that wearing a cycle helmet can reduce the risk of a serious head injury by almost 70% and a fatal head injury by 65%. It is a simple measure that can make a profound difference; thank you for your support.

School Uniform: A reminder that students should wear black, leather-type school shoes. Trainers are not permitted. In the very rare case of a medical exemption supported by a doctor's note, please ensure the chosen footwear is appropriate for school. Converse-style trainers offer no more support than standard school shoes, and brightly coloured trainers are not acceptable. Again, thank you for your support.

Disposable Vapes: Please be aware that disposable vapes are now banned by the government; these items are therefore potentially illegal for students to possess. Like many schools, to ensure that they are not used in school, we have vape detectors installed in the toilets and will apply serious sanctions to any student found in possession of a vape. Please do speak to your child about the dangers of vaping, that it is illegal to purchase disposable vapes and that a very strong sanction would be given to any student found with a vape.

Toilet Usage During Lessons

Following feedback from students and staff, we recently trialled opening all student toilets during lesson times in addition to the normal times when they are all always open before school, at break, lunch and after school. Please note that there are always toilets open in school at all times of the school day by Student Services for emergencies and for students with medical reasons. The expectation remains that students should use the facilities outside of lessons eg at break and lunchtimes, wherever possible, unless there is a medical reason. Our approach during this trial with all toilets open at all times has been 'use it, don't abuse it or you will lose it' and we made this clear to all students during line-up in the mornings. Unfortunately, we have seen a significant increase in students requesting to leave lessons, causing disruption to their own learning and that of others. We have also had to manage instances of students congregating in the toilets and using the opportunity to be out of their lessons for extended periods. We kindly request your support in speaking with your child to reiterate that toilets should be used before school, during breaks, at lunchtime, during lesson changeovers, or after school wherever possible so students can maximise their learning and not disrupt their own learning or the learning of others. Your support is greatly appreciated. Sadly, if students continue to abuse it, we will end the trial.

Enrichment and Wider Opportunities

Duke of Edinburgh: A huge thank you to the students and staff involved in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition. A special thanks to the staff, especially Mr Ind (DofE Coordinator), who generously gave up their free time to make this experience possible.

Oxford University Visit: We wish our Sixth Form students the very best for their upcoming visit to the University of Oxford next week.

Charity Skydive: Good luck to our incredible Year 12 students who are participating in a charity skydive this weekend, raising money for excellent causes including the Alzheimer's Society.

UCAS References: My thanks go to all staff who are currently working diligently to write UCAS references for our Sixth Form students in preparation for UCAS applications next year.

Collaboration and Development

This week, I had the privilege of meeting with fellow headteachers from our Multi-Academy Trust, the Central England Academy Trust (CEAT). We had a productive session discussing ways to enhance collaboration and support across the MAT.

This is a particularly exciting time as we prepare for the opening of Higham Lane North Academy (HLNA) in September 2025. Some of our staff have been instrumental in the set-up of the new school, and we are thrilled about the future opportunities for sharing staffing, resources and expertise with HLNA. The new school will boast fantastic facilities, including an amphitheatre and new sporting venues, which our students will also be able to access. We are aligning our school development plans and staff training to maximise these collaborative opportunities.

We are also extremely fortunate to be benefiting from the expertise of Jenny Roberts from CEAT. With her background as a headteacher in a special school, she is providing invaluable support to further enhance our SEND provision for some of our most vulnerable students.

I am also looking forward to attending a training session with the Nuneaton Education Alliance next week, focusing on best practices in supporting our SEND students. Additionally, I will be representing headteachers from across North Warwickshire at the Warwickshire Education Partnership Board meeting, where we will be discussing closer collaboration.

Amazing students

I had the privilege of meeting a large number of our incredible students this afternoon as they received a variety of awards, tasty treats and the much sought after 'Headteacher's pen'!



Summer Term Dates

Just a reminder that school is due to close for the summer holiday on Friday 18th July 2025 at lunchtime. School will reopen to staff on 1st September where we will hold staff training days (no students required in school) on Monday 1st September and Tuesday 2nd September. School will reopen to students for next year's Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 on Wednesday 3rd September and will be open for all students on Thursday 4th September. Please see this link for further details about the school term dates for next year:

<https://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=182>

Wishing you all a wonderful and hopefully sunny weekend! Thank you for your omni-present support; it is lovely to work hand-in-hand with you, our parents and carers so we can forge a strong home-school relationship to benefit our young people.

Best wishes,

Michael Gannon
Headteacher



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119,242



118,888