



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful week at Higham Lane School, with students engaged in some fantastic learning across the curriculum. I had the privilege of meeting a number of students today to celebrate their excellent classwork, and it was a real pleasure to see the pride they take in their achievements.

I am pleased to report that some of our systems are now starting to return. This week, staff are once again able to print and our telephones are working. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our IT team for their tireless efforts during this challenging period. However, many systems are still not fully operational. If you have contacted the school, please be patient and assured that we will respond as soon as we are able.

Please also be aware that staff are currently working with limited access to their usual teaching resources, and some colleagues do not yet have a device. A significant amount of staff time and resources is being devoted to restoring systems, which means we have less capacity to deal with telephone calls and emails than usual. We truly appreciate your understanding and patience during this time.

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of students travelling to school by bicycle fitted with retrospectively fitted e-bike attachments. If you have purchased one of these for your child, please ensure it complies with UK law. Bikes that are capable of travelling at unsafe speeds can be extremely dangerous. Additionally, some cheaper imported models are known to present a fire risk, and we would not allow these to be parked on our school site. Please also ensure your child has a helmet if they travel to school by bicycle. Thank you for your support.

Our trial examinations have gone very well, and I would like to congratulate our Year 11 students on their efforts. For all students sitting exams this year, please ensure they have a quiet space at home to revise, away from distractions such as mobile phones, televisions and tablets.

As the weather has turned colder, please ensure your child has a suitable winter coat to keep them warm and dry on their journey to and from school.

We have continued to provide free toast and hot chocolate for students in the mornings. One of my highlights this week was reminding a student at the gate about the free hot chocolate and then watching them run as fast as they could to get there, so excited for a warm drink on a cold morning. Moments like these truly brighten the day.

I continue to attend regular meetings with cyber experts from the Department for Education, with my most recent meeting taking place on Wednesday. Once again, they praised the school for the way we have responded, particularly given the magnitude and severity of the cyber-attack we faced. We are working closely with examination boards to seek their support for any students who may have lost work, to ensure they are not disadvantaged in their final grades. Once this process has been confirmed, we will update you accordingly.

Year 9 students have been enjoying their options assemblies this week, where they are learning about the different GCSE choices available to them. We look forward to welcoming Year 9 parents and carers to the Options Evening on Thursday 12th February, from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

You may have seen recent press coverage about industrial action at another multi-academy trust that has unfortunately encountered financial difficulties. Schools are operating under increasingly tight budgets due to the national funding formula, and I find myself spending more time than I would like balancing finances rather than focusing on other areas of school life. However, I am pleased to share that following my most recent meeting with our Chief Financial Officer this week, Higham Lane School remains in a strong financial position and is on track to achieve a balanced budget again this year. This is thanks to a great deal of hard work behind the scenes.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you and your families a lovely and well-deserved weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026

OPPORTUNITY THURSDAY

the talent for care

NHS Apprenticeship Careers Information and Interactive Session

Thursday 12th February 15.45 - 17.00

Acorn House, CV34 4RT

Open to all students aged 14 - 18

Discover how apprenticeships can kickstart your journey exciting career pathways in the NHS

Interactive Q&A with Current and Past Apprentices

Experience our 'immersive' technology room to get a feel of NHS working environments

Register now on Eventbrite

SCAN ME!

Contact the team for more information

Talentforcare@swft.nhs.uk

Dates for your diary

Thursday 5th February 2026 - Year 9 Student Progress Evening - SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT 2.15PM

Thursday 12th February 2026 - Year 9 Options Evening & Information Evening (5-7pm)

Monday 16th February 2026 - Friday 20th February 2026 - February halfterm Holiday



62,975



61,862



59,188