

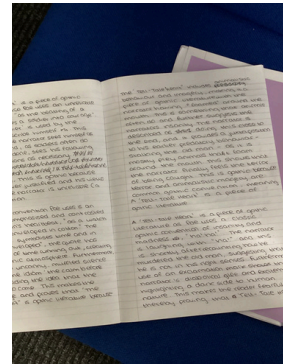
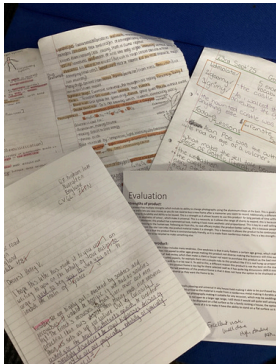


WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another wonderful week here at Higham Lane School. We have seen excellent behaviour from our students, coupled with some incredible work being produced across all year groups. It's a real pleasure to lead such a vibrant and dedicated school community. Today during period 2, Miss Bissett, Deputy Headteacher and I had the privilege of meeting a large number of amazing HLS students who have produced incredible work this week and were selected by their teachers for being superstars! The standard of work produced was phenomenal!



Sunshine, Sport, and Settling In

In spite of it being October, the weather has been very kind in Nuneaton this week, and our students have made the most of it! They've very much enjoyed playing out on the fields in the sunshine and using the tennis courts for ball games at break and lunchtime. The new table tennis and table football tables have been a big hit, and it puts a smile on my face to see students literally running onto the school site at 8:15 am as the gates open to start their tournaments with friends, as I do my morning gate duty each morning!

We are also delighted to see students using the newly resurfaced area by the Orchard at the back of the playground, where the new benches are providing improved places for them to spend time with their friends. It was so lovely to welcome the Year 6 students from Milby Primary School this week for a taste of secondary school, where they got to be involved in a range of different PE lessons. We hope they enjoyed their visit and we look forward to welcoming many Milby students into our Y7 next year!



Curriculum Success and Canteen Technology

The Year 10 and Year 11 Drama trip to the theatre in Aylesbury on Wednesday was a huge success. Thank you to the drama staff for organising what we hope will be an inspirational opportunity for the students to develop their understanding of the drama skills required to gain the very top grades at GCSE. Drama is regularly a top performing subject with students at HLS often gaining a GCSE grade around a whole grade above their target!



Also on Wednesday, we made significant steps forward with our new canteen technology. Thank you to all of the students who were so mature and well-behaved whilst we took scans of faces as part of the facial recognition software. This new system will make the canteen process so much quicker for students at lunchtime, meaning they will spend less time queuing. Thank you, parents and carers, for your support with this. For the small number of parents who did not authorise facial recognition, their children will still of course be able to use the keypad as an alternative and nobody is forced to use the facial recognition software if they choose not to, including students who have already consented. However, as we have seen from other schools in Warwickshire who use this, it is so much faster meaning students spend less time in a queue.

We are also excited for the new food menus to come into place, which will start when we return after the October half-term break. Those of you who attended the Year 6 into Year 7 Open Evening last week were treated to a showcase of some of the fantastic new menu food that was on display in the canteen that is coming to HLS!

Formula 1, Future Engineers, meeting our local MP and Community Spirit

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the automobile sports team Alpine Formula 1 team into school today to deliver a fantastic and inspiring presentation to our future engineers. They also arrived in school with an Alpine sports car and a real Formula One car! The students got to hear all about the world of Formula One, the importance of engineering, and even got to see a real Formula One car right here in our HLS playground. This will hopefully be an inspiring opportunity for our future engineers! We are very proud to say that our careers guidance is exceptional here at Higham Lane, and we are delighted that so many of our students gain employment or apprenticeships with some of the top companies around the world, which last year included BMW and other world-class companies such as Google.



The Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' event on Thursday evening was a big success and was very well received by parents and students. Thank you to all of the staff who were involved in making this evening so positive. Thank you also to all of the wonderful students who volunteered to help with the event; we are so lucky to have such incredible students who are willing to give their time back to the school.



On that note, can we also please thank all of the students who again were willing to give up their time to support the school with Open Evening last week that went so well. We were delighted to have to put on an additional third speech, such was the demand for potential parents and carers who want to send their child to HLS. All of the students that helped were invited to an event today at break time, where we thanked them and issued them all with a treat to say a big thank you for all their hard work and time.

3 HLS students and 3 HLS Sixth Form students had the opportunity to attend Nuneaton's Youth Parliament at Nuneaton Town Hall with Miss Rowlands and Mrs Mitchell. The students met with students from other local schools and had the opportunity to speak with MP Josie Gosling to discuss young people's views on Nuneaton. We are really proud of our students for getting involved and sharing their views in a sophisticated and mature manner.



I was also privileged to attend the Secondary Mastery Specialist Program this week. We are so lucky at Higham Lane School to have such gifted mathematics teachers. Our results in Mathematics are exceptional for GCSE, but we are not complacent, and staff are being up-skilled in the Mastery Specialist Program to further develop teaching and learning to support our young people to be the very best mathematicians that they can be.

Now that our new Year 7 students have completed their first month at HLS, we conducted a student voice poll of all Year 7 students. The results were extremely pleasing, with almost all of Year 7 students stating that they have settled in well, are really enjoying school, and would recommend the school. This is great feedback that our students have settled in so well. We are delighted to have our new Year 7 students and their families part of our Higham Lane family.

School Uniform and Safety

- Piercings: Can we please ask parents and carers to ensure that they do not allow their child to have a facial piercing and that no child comes to our school wearing one? The only piercings that are allowed are one small stud in either ear. Thank you for your support.
- Footwear: Can we also please ask parents and carers to ensure that their child comes to school in their school shoes and not wearing trainers?
- Cycling/Scooters: If your child cycles or uses a scooter to school, please ensure they have completed the bicycle agreements and that they are wearing a helmet to and from school to keep them safe. Thank you again for your support.

Important Dates

- Year 9 Safeline Workshops: All Year 9 students will be taking part in Safe Line workshops led by a team of professionals from the Safe Line charity. The charity provides education around the prevention of all forms of child sexual abuse. These will take place on Monday 13th October and Tuesday 14th October.
- Year 10 Information Evening and Work Experience Launch: This will take place in the evening on Wednesday 15th October, for parents and carers of Year 10 students; a letter has been sent with all of the details to Y10 parents and carers. This is a vital evening to learn how you can best support your child as they start GCSEs and to inform you about work experience.
- Macmillan Cakes: We will be holding our Macmillan cake sale on Friday 17th October in Coombe Hall. Thank you in advance to everybody who provides cakes that can be sold or purchases them to raise money for this worthwhile charity.

Good Luck

- Good luck to our Year 13 students who will be in their Year 13 Assessment Week next week!
- Good luck also to our Year 11 students who will be undertaking their Trial Examinations next week! This will be a crucial time for them to understand where their strengths and their areas for development lie to inform their revision plans between now and the summer before they take their real GCSE examinations.

Year 6 Applications Reminder

For anyone with children in Year 6 and wanting to apply for a school place, this is a reminder that the deadline for applications is 31st October. Applications can only be made through the Warwickshire Parent Portal.

As you will know, Higham Lane School is an oversubscribed school, and we are very proud to be the only Ofsted Outstanding school in Nuneaton. We are also very proud to have both the best GCSE results and the best A-level results of any school in our locality.

If you wish for your child to come to our school, we strongly advise that you select schools for all six options on the form and that you choose Higham Lane School as your first choice. A reminder that if you are unsuccessful with a school, it does not disadvantage you in any way with any lower down options; you simply move down to your second choice, and so on. As a result, parents often choose Higham Lane School as their first choice in the hope of gaining a place, and we would strongly encourage you to do the same again this year. Please also remember that if you have an older child, then under the sibling rule, you stand an excellent chance of gaining a place at our school.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and thank you for your ever-present support of Higham Lane School.

Best wishes,
Michael Gannon
Headteacher