



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today has been a beautiful sunny day and it has been wonderful to see students enjoying the sunshine, whether out on the field or taking shelter under the shaded areas of the playground such as the recently built covered area. With temperatures forecast to reach 25°C today, students were permitted to remove their blazers and ties and have their shirts out, in order to make things a little more comfortable during the hot weather.

On that note, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) issued a Yellow Heat Health Alert this morning for our area from 9:00am on Friday 22 May until 5:00pm on Wednesday 27 May. Please do take care of yourselves and your families during this period of warm weather by staying hydrated, avoiding prolonged exposure to direct sunlight during the hottest parts of the day, and ensuring children have access to sun protection where appropriate.

The exam season is well underway and has gone brilliantly and I wanted to say thank you to our incredible staff who have been delivering additional revision sessions, often in their own time, to our GCSE and A Level students to give them that last boost before they sit their exams. Good luck to our Y11 and Y13 students who have more exams when we return after half-term.

On Sunday 17 May, Bobbin in Y10 and Cookie in Y9 competed at the English Karate Federation National Open Championships. Bobbin won silver medals in both Cadets Kata and Black Belt Kata and Cookie won bronze in U14 Kata, gold in Team Kumite, and gold in U14 Kumite, making him this year's English National Champion! Wow! In addition, on Saturday 16 May, both Bobbin and Cookie attended selections for the Federation of European Wadokai Karate Championships taking place in September. We are delighted that both were successful and will now represent England.



On Monday afternoon, I had the privilege of meeting a fantastic young man in Year 9 who has won an award from Derbyshire Local Authority for his kindness and benevolent actions. He is a very private individual and does not wish for his name to be publicly announced, but I did not want his achievement to go unnoticed. We are incredibly proud of him for receiving such a prestigious award.

A huge well done to the Year 9 boys who showed incredible determination and resilience during the HLS lunchtime tug of war competition. Congratulations to Spiritus House on their well-earned victory!

Congratulations also to Ethan in Year 8, who has recently been selected for the Warwickshire County Cricket Pathway. A fantastic accomplishment and thoroughly deserved.

Well done to Orla in Year 9, who recently performed at the CBS Arena and did a brilliant job. She is certainly one to watch in the world of music and we wish her every success with her future performances.

Higham Lane School is a fantastic school with incredible students, but we cannot be complacent about knife crime or naïve enough to think that weapons are not being carried within our local community of Nuneaton. The school will continue to do everything possible to keep students and staff safe. Under Department for Education powers, the school reserves the right to screen all students as they enter the school site to check for weapons and to search students if we believe they may be in possession of a weapon. Schools do not require parental permission to conduct screening or searches, and parents/carers will not be contacted in advance of these actions; this is to keep all students and staff safe. Please use the link below to donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bleed-kits-for-nuneaton?utm>



On 8 June 2024, former Higham Lane School student Tom Ellis tragically lost his life in Nuneaton town centre following a knife attack. On Monday morning, Tom's younger sister Ella, who attends Higham Lane, alongside Tom's parents, spoke with remarkable bravery to our Year 9 students about their devastating loss and the impact knife crime has had on their family. Following this, all Year 9 students took part in workshops led by Warwickshire Police and St John Ambulance to help them better understand the laws surrounding knife crime, what to do if they suspect somebody is carrying a knife, and how to administer potentially life-saving first aid. Each year, the school now presents the Tom Ellis Award to a student who demonstrates exceptional dedication and commitment to sport, reflecting Tom's own passion for sport during his time at Higham Lane and beyond. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Ellis family. We are also pleased to share that £200 raised from the Christmas Fair will be donated to support the purchase of bleed kits for areas across Nuneaton and the local community in partnership with the local Neighbourhood Watch.

All Year 7 students took part in police-led workshops on Wednesday and Thursday focusing on the safety and laws surrounding e-bikes and e-scooters.

As a school, we strongly advise against purchasing an e-scooter for your child. It is illegal to ride a privately owned e-scooter on public roads or pavements. As a result, they are strictly prohibited travelling to and from school and cannot be stored on the school site. We are currently reviewing our stance regarding e-bikes. For the time being, students are permitted to travel to school using an e-bike only if it has an originally fitted manufacturer-installed battery. Retrofitted batteries or conversion kits are strictly prohibited, as the school cannot verify whether they are legal or safe. There have also been recent national news reports involving serious incidents caused by e-scooters. They can travel at

significant speeds and can be extremely dangerous. We therefore strongly encourage parents and carers to think very carefully before purchasing either an e-bike or e-scooter for their child.

On Thursday 21 May, we celebrated our HLS Culture Day. Students and staff were encouraged to wear cultural dress, colours of their national flag, or local and national sports kits. Funds raised during the day supported the Mayor's Appeal for the Nuneaton Heritage Centre; money raised will help repair and restore the stonework of the historic Chilvers Coton Heritage and Community Centre. It was wonderful to see such a wide array of cultural clothing reflecting the diversity and heritage within our school community. Outfits included England football shirts (including my personal favourite – the iconic Italia '90 shirt!), Scottish kilts, Welsh flags worn as shawls, Irish Gaelic football shirts, Indian cricket shirts, Australian rugby shirts, African dresses, and much, much more. The atmosphere throughout the school was incredibly positive and celebratory and I could not be prouder of our amazing students.



Our students have also been enjoying our newly relocated HLS Rewards Shop, which has now moved onto the playground and has its very own rewards hut! Ms Lish, supported by her fantastic Year 9 helpers, distributed rewards today to students in recognition of the house points they have earned through their hard work and positive conduct. The most popular items included bags of sweets, stationery, and sports equipment.

A reminder that next week, beginning Monday 25 May, is the half-term holiday and school will be closed to all students for the duration of the week. School will reopen to all students on Monday 1 June.

Please also note the following important dates:

Wednesday 3 June – Year 9 vaccinations

Thursday 4 June – Year 10 Student Progress Evening (online) from 3:00pm–7:00pm. Please note that on Thursday 4 June, school will close early at 2:15pm to allow staff time to pop to the loo, eat something, grab a drink and prepare for the evening before meeting parents and carers from 3pm.

It has been a fantastic half-term and I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support. Most importantly, thank you to our incredible students, who continue to work hard, be kind, take responsibility, and strive to be the very best they can be every single day.

Have a wonderful half-term break and enjoy the sunshine – but please do stay safe in this mini heatwave.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Gannon'.

Michael Gannon
Headteacher



105,628



103,673



98,874