



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful first week back it has been! After the half-term break, we began Monday morning with an extended registration and assemblies to reset expectations and revisit our school values. Having been out of routine for nine days, the students responded brilliantly – showing great maturity, positivity, and enthusiasm for the term ahead.

You may recall that Friday 24th October, the final day before half-term, was a staff training day. During the day, colleagues completed their appraisal documentation, setting professional targets for the year ahead. In addition, all staff took part in an excellent training session delivered by a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) expert from the local authority, focusing on autism. This session helped staff deepen their understanding of autism, how autism can affect behaviour and how we can best support our autistic students. Further improving our SEND provision remains a key priority for us this year, and further training will follow to ensure we continue to develop our expertise in supporting some of our most vulnerable children who often need that bit of extra support.

This week's Personal Development activity in our pastoral programme focused on "Be Kind – Gratitude." Gratitude is such an underrated yet vital quality. Even with excellent GCSE and A Level results, young people who struggle to show kindness or build positive relationships may find life more difficult than it needs to be. It's essential that home and school work together to reinforce this value. As you know, our school vision is "Be the Best That You Can Be," underpinned by our core principles: Work Hard, Be Kind, and Take Responsibility. Being kind truly is at the heart of a happy and successful life. Thank you for your support.

Attendance continues to be absolutely vital. Research is clear – as attendance falls, so does the likelihood of achieving strong GCSE results. Our target remains 97% for all students. Of course, there will be times when a child cannot attend school, but we are so grateful for your support in helping so many of our students reach that 97% mark or higher. We were delighted to receive confirmation from the Fisher Family Trust (FFT) that our attendance figures last year placed us in the top 25% of schools nationally! However, we won't rest on our laurels. Every day matters – just one day of absence equals five hours of lost learning. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and punctually.

Our Year 11 students took an important step toward their futures this week during our Practice Interview Week. Alumni, parents, carers, and local employers kindly volunteered their time to conduct mock interviews, helping students build confidence, communication skills, and professionalism. The feedback was wonderful – interviewers were hugely impressed with our students' maturity and preparation. A huge thank you to all of the parents, carers, and former students who supported this invaluable event.

Two years ago, we installed canopies to provide dry, sheltered spaces for students to queue for lunch in wet weather. I'm delighted to share that we have added another canopy over half-term, giving students even more cover during break and lunchtime. The roof will be completed this weekend, ready for use on Monday, and will comfortably hold several hundred students. As Headteacher, I'm committed to continually improving our school environment to make life more comfortable for our young people. We have more exciting site development plans ahead – these take time, but we will get there!

A big thank you also goes to our Estates and IT Teams, who worked tirelessly over half term on projects including Wi-Fi upgrades and painting across the site. Their hard work is making a real difference to our facilities for our students and staff.

As a reminder, detentions run from 3:15pm to 4:00pm. We kindly ask that parents and carers avoid booking appointments for students during this time. However, safety will always be a top priority and so with the darker, wetter evenings upon us, we've decided to temporarily shorten detentions to 30 minutes (3:15–3:45pm) to allow students to get home as safely as possible.



Our Sixth Form Open Evening last Thursday was a huge success – in fact, it was the busiest we have ever held! We are very proud to be the only Ofsted Outstanding school and sixth form in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and to have the best A Level results in the area. This may explain why so many students are keen to join us! A reminder to our HLS Year 11 students: as long as you meet the entry requirements, you are guaranteed a place in our Sixth Form, regardless of how many apply from other schools.



On a more light-hearted note, I found myself joining in with a Dance lesson this week in Coombe Hall, dancing to a Britney Spears track using Just Dance! I'm not sure I'll be winning any awards, but it was great fun, and the students were fantastic!

I was also blown away by the creativity shown in the Year 7 "Romeo and Juliet" 3D projects – the quality was outstanding and made judging the winners extremely difficult. Well done to all students who took part – we will be announcing the winners shortly.

A special thank you must go to the very kind Year 7 student (who wishes to remain anonymous) who crocheted a beautiful poppy for me to wear – I've worn it with great pride.

Looking ahead, a few key reminders:

Anti-Bullying Week begins on Monday 10th November – please wear odd socks to show support.

Children in Need Day will take place on Friday 14th November. This will be a non-uniform day, and a £1 donation can be made via ParentPay.

Please see the attached information about the HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) programme, which offers enriching activities and healthy meals over school holidays for eligible young people.

There will be water works and a road closure on Brookdale Road from 10th–12th November. Please allow extra time for your journey and avoid driving close to the school site if possible; I think this will cause significant traffic issues in the local area.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support – it makes such a difference to what we can achieve together. The weekend forecast is looking mild and dry here in Nuneaton, so I hope you enjoy some quality family time outdoors and a well-deserved rest.



Best wishes,
Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School



Dates for your diary

Monday 10th November – Odd Sock Day for Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 14th November – Children In Need – Non-Uniform Day

Friday 28th November – Inset Day

Friday 19th December – Last Day of Autumn Term



33,488



32,010



29,949



Higham Lane School

Work Hard | Be Kind | Take Responsibility

Headteacher: Mr Michael Gannon, BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd, NPQH

November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Positive Noticing Day

We are delighted to be participating in Positive Noticing Day this year on Wednesday 12th November 2025.

We will be spending some time during the day thinking about the power of positive noticing. It is simple, practical, and highly effective. Being positively noticed by others builds self-esteem, supports behaviour and promotes good mental health.

We will be encouraging students (and staff!) to positively notice one another.

We encourage families to join in at home too. You can write positive notes for family members on luggage labels, post it notes or pieces of paper. We know that children who are positively noticed by their parents/carers are happier, healthier and more resilient and secure.

You may wish to use Positive Noticing Day as an opportunity to start daily positive noticing in your home. You can create and share positive labels as a family and save them - stick them on the fridge, the back of the door or put them in an old picture frame.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- 'I noticed that you put your plate by the sink, that's really helped me this morning, you are very thoughtful, thank you'
- 'Doing your homework without me asking shows real independence. I love the determination you are showing'
- 'You are so good at sharing with your sister/brother. You are such a kind person.'
- 'I noticed that you were really kind to X at school today. That made me really proud of you'
- 'Thank you for putting your clothes in the washing basket. I notice that you are following the routine and remembering it perfectly. You are really trying and I appreciate it.'

We hope you enjoy the day, and we want to say that 'we notice you' and the effort you make to support your children, engage them in learning and enrich our school community! Thank you.

You can find out more about positive noticing and Positive Noticing Day at

<https://www.positivenoticingday.com/homeadults>.

Yours faithfully

Higham Lane School