



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to share some of the highlights from another busy and successful week here at Higham Lane School.

Remembering D-Day

Over the weekend, we commemorated the 82nd anniversary of the D-Day landings. As the number of surviving veterans continues to diminish, it becomes ever more important that our younger generations understand the sacrifices made by those who secured the freedoms we enjoy today. On Monday this week, HLS students took part in a tutor-time activity reflecting on the significance of D-Day and the courage, resilience and selflessness shown by those involved. It is vital that our young people continue to learn that so many gave their tomorrow for our today.

Rainy Days and Remarkable Resilience

The weather has certainly been challenging this week. However, it has been wonderful to see so many students making use of our Breakfast Club, providing them with a warm, dry and welcoming start to the school day.

The poor weather also makes the achievements of our students completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition even more impressive. Despite difficult conditions, they demonstrated tremendous resilience, determination and teamwork throughout the week. They truly embodied our school values of working hard, taking responsibility and being the best, they can be. My thanks also go to the dedicated staff who supported them throughout this challenging expedition.

GCSE and A-Level Examinations

A huge well done to all our Year 11 and Year 13 students who continue to demonstrate exceptional commitment during the GCSE and A-Level examination period. Their hard work and dedication throughout the year have paid off, and we have been delighted with how smoothly examinations have been progressing.

One story perfectly captured the spirit of Higham Lane School. Earlier this week, a Year 11 student failed to arrive at the usual time before an examination. Following our established exam procedures, staff quickly investigated and discovered that the chain on his bicycle had snapped during his journey to school. Rather than giving up, he ran while pushing his bike to get here. Higham Lane Staff met him and ensured he made it into the examination room just in time. His determination, resilience and sense of responsibility in overcoming adversity to do what needed to be done perfectly exemplify our Higham Lane School values.

Social Media and Supporting Young People

This week, Australian politician Annika Wells, who led the introduction of a social media ban for under-16s in Australia, spoke on BBC Radio 4 about the impact social media can have on young people. She discussed concerns around how social media platforms can shape young people's views and behaviours before they have had the opportunity to develop their own sense of identity. Closer to home, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer recently indicated that further regulation may be considered if technology companies do not adequately enforce existing protections for young people online.

As a school, we continue to ask for your support in helping students develop healthy digital habits. Please continue to discuss social media use with your child and reinforce our expectations that mobile phones remain switched off and in bags throughout the school day. This enables students to take a healthy break from screens and helps to reduce the potential negative impacts of mobile phone use in schools. We would also encourage parents and carers to regularly monitor their child's online activity, check devices appropriately and support sensible limits on screen time at home. Encouraging participation in sport, hobbies, reading and family activities provides valuable opportunities for young people to develop socially, emotionally and intellectually.

The Importance of Reading

Research published this week by the National Literacy Trust highlighted that reading levels among school-aged children remain below pre-2016 levels, with the pandemic considered a significant contributing factor. Encouragingly, there has been a small increase in reading engagement nationally over the past year. One of the strongest factors linked to improved reading outcomes is adults reading with children and modelling positive reading habits. Parents and carers play a vital role in fostering a love of reading, and we encourage families to make time for reading at home. Children benefit greatly from both reading for pleasure and seeing the adults around them enjoy reading too.

Safeline Workshops

Earlier this week, our Year 9 students participated in workshops delivered by Safeline, a specialist organisation dedicated to preventing sexual abuse and supporting victims. The sessions focused on sexual consent, healthy relationships, online safety and recognising inappropriate or abusive behaviours. National data indicates increasing concerns around what police often refer to as "peer-on-peer" sexual harassment and abuse among young people. Providing students with the knowledge and understanding to stay safe both online and offline is therefore incredibly important. These workshops form part of our wider commitment to safeguarding and educating students through our outstanding Personal Development curriculum so that they are equipped to make safe, informed decisions.

Character Education and Academic Success

New research analysing more than three million pupils across over 3,000 secondary schools has found that schools with strong character education programmes consistently achieve higher academic outcomes than those without such a focus. The difference equates to more than half a GCSE grade per pupil across subjects. Importantly, the benefits were sustained over time and were particularly evident in schools serving higher numbers of disadvantaged pupils. The research also found that promoting qualities such as integrity, perseverance, responsibility and kindness contributes positively to behaviour, motivation and wellbeing, creating a more positive environment for learning. These findings strongly reinforce the importance of our Personal Development curriculum at Higham Lane School. Our approach focuses on the intentional cultivation of students' moral, civic, intellectual and performance virtues, helping them to flourish not only during their time with us but throughout their lives.

Cycling to School

A reminder that any student travelling to school by bicycle must wear a helmet. Student safety remains our priority, and we appreciate your support in reinforcing this expectation.

CEAT Sports Event

We are very much looking forward to the CEAT Sports Event taking place on Tuesday 30th June 2026. Events such as these provide fantastic opportunities for students across our Trust to come together, compete and celebrate sporting achievements.

Student Leadership Team 2026-27

Following a highly competitive interview process, I am delighted to announce our newly appointed Junior Leadership Team (JLT) for the 2026-27 academic year.

Head Students

- Sienna
- Freddie

Deputy Head Students

- Ellie
- Joshua

Senior Prefects

- Freya
- Annabella
- Orla
- George
- Amelia
- Lola
- Enoch

Every student who participated in the interview process on Friday represented themselves and the school exceptionally well. Congratulations to all those appointed and thank you to everyone who applied.

Year 13 Leavers' Event

We are looking forward to celebrating our Year 13 students at their Leavers' Event on Wednesday 17th June.

Schedule:

- Student Arrival: 11:00am
- Awards Presentation and Speeches (Conference Room): 11:30am-12:00pm
- Inflatables and Activities: 12:00pm-1:30pm
- Event Finishes: Approximately 2:00pm

We look forward to marking this important milestone and celebrating everything our incredible Year 13 students have achieved here at the HLS Sixth Form.

Y13 Prom is at Weston Hall on Friday 19th June and we can't wait to see you there to celebrate your Sixth Form success!

The Importance of Support

With the Football World Cup now underway, many of our students will be cheering on England and/or the country of their heritage. It reminds me of the research highlighting the significant impact that support can have on performance. During the Covid-19 period, when matches were played behind closed doors, average home team points per game decreased significantly without the encouragement of supporters. The same principle applies in education, as parents and carers, your support makes an enormous difference. By ensuring your child attends school regularly, arrives punctually, wears the correct uniform, comes prepared to learn and support our school policies, you help create the conditions for success. Your support also enables staff to maintain the high standards that allow us to provide the very best education possible for all the students. For this, we are extremely grateful. I will, of course, be supporting England throughout the tournament, while also keeping a close eye on developments with Switzerland to see how my Higham Lane School staff sweepstake team progresses!

After a week of wet weather, the forecast suggests much brighter conditions ahead. I hope that all our students, parents and carers enjoy a restful and enjoyable weekend. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Higham Lane School.

Kind regards,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher



112,342



109,947



104,956

The Higham Lane School
Production of

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S

MARY POPPINS JR.

Cast 1



Cast 2

Tuesday 30th June 2026 Wednesday 1st July 2026
Thursday 2nd July 2026 Friday 3rd July 2026

Tickets available on ParentPay and on the door

A Musical based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film
Original Music and Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman

Book by Julian Fellowes

New Songs and Additional Music and Lyrics by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe

Co-Created by Cameron Mackintosh

Adapted by iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI

www.mtishows.co.uk



Nuneaton **Sports & Activities Festival**

**Celebrate sports and activities from
across Nuneaton at this event hosted by
Jodie Gosling MP and The Pingles Stadium!**

Sunday 5th July

2pm - 5pm

**The Pingles Stadium,
Avenue Road,
Nuneaton, CV11 4LX**

Try a New Activity | Free Entry | All Welcome!