



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another fantastic week here at Higham Lane School, with so much going on across the school community.

As I write this newsletter, I have just come in from watching Sports Day field events; students have been enjoying the discus and long-jump in the glorious sunshine, and it has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm, determination and encouragement on display. Later today, we will all be making our way over to Ambleside for the track events, where students will have the opportunity to cheer on their friends in the various races whilst enjoying an ice cream in the sunshine! It promises to be another memorable afternoon full of fun, teamwork and celebration!

National TeenTech Champions!!! A huge congratulations to Libby, Anoopjot, Ogo and Elsie, who represented Higham Lane School at the national TeenTech Finals with their Dragons' Den-style business idea. Having already won the award for the best pitch and product at the regional competition held at MIRA, reaching the national finals in London was an outstanding achievement. To then go on and win the entire national competition is simply incredible! We are immensely proud of all four students and the outstanding way in which they represented our school!



International Football Success - On Monday, I had the privilege of meeting Lilly, who has earned a place at the prestigious Gothia World Cup, an international youth football tournament taking place in July 2027. Following successful trials during the May half-term break, this is a tremendous achievement and recognition of Lilly's talent and dedication. We wish her every success and look forward to hearing all about the tournament next summer!

World Cup Breakfast Club - Our World Cup Breakfasts which took place in Chine Hall this week, running alongside preparations for our school production in Coombe Hall, have once again proved incredibly popular. Students have enjoyed complimentary toast while catching up on the previous evenings and early morning World Cup fixtures before lessons begin. It has been wonderful to see students coming together to celebrate such a fantastic sporting event.

Year 10 French Speaking Examinations – Congratulations to all our Year 10 students who have completed their trial GCSE French Speaking examinations. Students approached the assessments with maturity and determination, demonstrating our school values by taking responsibility for their learning, working hard and striving to be the very best they can be. Well done to everyone involved.

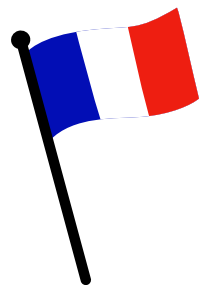
University Mathematics Experience – On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome a Senior Lecturer from Loughborough University, who delivered a university-style mathematics lecture to our Year 12 A Level Further Maths students; this provided an excellent insight into university study and was a valuable experience for our students. We continue to be incredibly proud of our outstanding A Level outcomes and the large number of students who progress each year to some of the country's leading universities.

CEAT Sports Day – Tuesday also saw the annual CEAT Sports Day, which was another tremendous success. It was wonderful to see students from across the trust coming together to compete, support one another and enjoy such a positive occasion. We are so lucky to have some special schools as part of our trust and it was touching to see our students be so kind and support students with a range of disabilities to achieve their best! #Be Kind

Parliament Workshop – Students in Years 7-9 benefited from an excellent Parliament Workshop on Thursday, delivered by Claire Mullin, a UK Parliament Ambassador. The sessions gave students a fascinating insight into how Parliament operates and helped develop their understanding of democracy and the UK's political system.

Attendance and Reading – This week, a report originally commissioned by the Department for Education highlighted that white working-class pupils remain the largest demographic group nationally to underperform educationally. Among its key findings were the importance of excellent school attendance and strong reading fluency. We are extremely proud that Higham Lane School's attendance remains well-above the national average, and we would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day. The report also reinforces something we regularly promote—the importance of reading for pleasure. We would encourage all parents and carers to continue supporting reading at home and, where possible, model this by allowing your children to see you reading yourself. Small habits make a significant difference over time.

France Trip – December 2026 – A reminder that we are proposing a joint French, Art and Photography trip to Lille in northern France for students currently in Years 10, 11 and 12. Students interested in this exciting opportunity should speak to Mrs Finley or Miss Ivens for further information.



Mary Poppins - This week I have had the privilege of watching our wonderful production of Mary Poppins, and what an outstanding performance it has been! During the week we also welcomed pupils from several of our local feeder primary schools, including Milby Primary School, St Nicholas Primary School and Lower Farm Primary School, to attend dress rehearsals. We have received some lovely messages from the schools praising both the quality of the production and the warm welcome they received. Congratulations to every member of the cast, orchestra, backstage crew, technical team and staff who have made this production such a tremendous success.



Reward Days - To celebrate students' hard work, commitment and positive attitudes throughout the year, we are delighted to announce our Reward Days during the final week of term. These will take place on Wednesday 15th July and Thursday 16th July and will include a range of exciting activities across the school site, including:

- Large inflatable assault course
- Bouncy castles
- Inflatable games
- Cinema experience in Coombe Hall
- A variety of additional fun activities

These experiences will take place alongside normal lessons and will be available for all students. To help support the cost of these activities, we are requesting a voluntary contribution of £5, payable via ParentPay by 6th July. Thank you in advance for your support.



Mobile Phones in School - As many of you will be aware, new legislation regarding mobile phone use in schools came into effect on 29th June 2026. Higham Lane School is already fully compliant, as our behaviour policy prohibits the use of mobile phones during the school day. We are currently exploring whether to strengthen our procedures further, including preventing phone use in areas such as toilets, by reviewing best practice from other schools. May I also remind parents and carers not to contact your child directly on their mobile phone during the school day, or respond to messages from them, as this inadvertently encourages students to break school rules. If there is ever an emergency, please contact Reception and we will ensure messages are passed on promptly.

After-School Appointments - A further reminder that appointments should not be arranged between 3.15 pm and 3.45 pm. Where students are issued with an after-school detention, they will almost always be expected to attend regardless of appointments elsewhere. Rearranging detentions creates significant administrative challenges and places additional demands on staff. More importantly, allowing a student to miss or rearrange a detention can undermine the member of staff supervising it, particularly if other students see that the detention has not been completed as expected. This can weaken the consistent application of our behaviour policy and reduce its effectiveness. Your continued support in avoiding appointments during this time is greatly appreciated.

Cycling Safety - Despite previous communications, a small number of students continue to cycle to school without wearing a helmet. If this continues, we will have no option but to take further action, which may include preventing students from leaving with their bicycles until appropriate safety equipment is available. Sadly, one of our students was knocked from their bicycle on the journey to school today. Fortunately, they escaped with only minor grazes, but the incident serves as an important reminder of how vital helmets and safe cycling practices are. I would also like to remind families that retrospectively converted electric bicycles are not permitted on site. Many aftermarket battery systems fail to meet UK safety standards, present a potential fire risk and may also be illegal. Students arriving on such bicycles will not be permitted to ride them home. Factory-manufactured e-bikes purchased through recognised retailers remain permitted at present, although we will continue to review this policy should safety concerns arise.

Hot Weather Arrangements - Current forecasts suggest temperatures next week will range between 24°C and 30°C. To make students as comfortable as possible, we will once again introduce our relaxed uniform arrangements.

Students may choose to:

- Wear their PE kit every day next week; or
- Wear normal school uniform with shirts untucked and without blazers or ties.

This will remain in place all week next week and we will review next Friday in preparation for the last week of the year.





Monday Morning Arrangements - As many families will know, England play Mexico in the FIFA World Cup knockout stages at 1.00 am on Monday morning. We recognise that football is our national sport, and many students will wish to watch what promises to be an exciting match, which is unlikely to finish until around 3.00 am and could finish even later if extra time or penalties are required. As an exceptional one-off arrangement, we will adapt the day on Monday 6th July:

- School will open as normal from 8.15 am for students who wish to attend. The Library will be supervised throughout the morning, providing a quiet, safe space where students can read, revise, complete independent study or and use school computers.
- There will be no lessons taught during Periods 1 and 2 for Years 7-10 and Y12
- Students will be formally registered at 11.10 am, followed by tutor time with their tutor and Progress Leader before normal lessons begin at 11.30 am with Period 3. The remainder of the school day will run as normal.
- Any scheduled meetings, including Y7 transition meetings can continue at the scheduled time.

We hope this balanced approach allows students who choose to watch the match to do so while ensuring they are sufficiently rested to learn effectively, whilst also providing a safe and productive environment for those who attend school earlier in the morning.

Please also see the accompanying letter from the Chief Executive Officer of Central England Academy Trust, who fully supports this approach across Trust schools.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Higham Lane School.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Best wishes,

Mr Gannon
Headteacher



122,861



119,329



115,506



Friday 3rd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will likely be aware, England are due to play Mexico at 1.00am on Monday morning in what is a significant occasion for our country and football supporters across the nation.

Events such as this are rare, and opportunities to see England compete on the world stage come around only once every four years and can create lasting memories for children and families who choose to watch together. As a Trust, we recognise the value of these shared experiences and the sense of community, national pride and togetherness that they can foster.

For this reason, Central England Academy Trust has agreed that **all Trust schools may offer a later registration and start time for pupils on Monday morning where families wish to stay up to watch the match together.**

- Attendance expectations remain unchanged; the adjustment simply provides flexibility for those who choose to participate in the event and will have stayed up late into the night.
- It is important that pupils arrive at school either at the usual time or at the designated later arrival time. Pupils should not be arriving at school at other times in between or after.

Please note: for any children who receive Warwickshire special transport to their school, timings cannot be changed. Parents/carers will either need to notify transport and bring their own child to school later, or ensure their child is ready for their transport at the usual time.

We understand that circumstances will differ from family to family. Therefore:

- Schools will remain open at their normal times for any pupils attending as usual.
- Families who do not intend to watch the match, or who require their child to attend at the normal start time due to childcare or work commitments, should continue to do so.
- Schools will communicate any specific arrangements regarding late registration directly with their communities.
- Pupils attending later in the morning will not be disadvantaged and appropriate arrangements will be made to support their start to the day.

While education remains our priority, we also believe schools play an important role in recognising moments that bring communities together. Watching a major international sporting event can provide opportunities for family connection, discussion about teamwork, resilience and national identity, and participation in a shared cultural moment that many children will remember long after the result is forgotten.

By showing flexibility on this occasion, we hope to support families in enjoying what may be a memorable national event together.

Thank you as always for your continued support of our schools.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Dickinson
CEO

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