



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the conclusion of the autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic period for Higham Lane School. We have seen excellent behaviour and some truly inspiring learning taking place across all year groups, building on the success of the school maintaining the Ofsted Outstanding in the previous school term in the summer.

I would also like to personally thank our dedicated staff for their tireless hard work and commitment to supporting our students throughout this term. Their efforts ensure our school remains a vibrant and successful place to learn and thrive beyond the classroom.

International Connections & Alumni Success

Our Modern Foreign Languages department has been particularly busy lately. Congratulations to our Year 7 students, who were incredibly excited to write their first letters to their French penpals from Evrecy in Normandy. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to develop their writing skills and put the language they have acquired so far into a real-world context. The excitement reached a new level when they received replies from France! Our students have thoroughly enjoyed discovering cultural differences, such as the non-uniform policy in French schools.

In addition, we were delighted to welcome back Hannah Tailor, an ex-HLS student and Sixth Form alumna. Hannah spoke to our Year 11 and Year 12 students about her journey studying French at A Level and her current studies in French and Law at Leicester University. Our students also had the invaluable opportunity to practice their speaking skills with Hannah and receive her expert feedback.



Festive Spirit & Community Heart

We are proud to provide some festive cheer to our local ambulance service this Christmas. Our Year 7 students have been busy writing letters and creating posters to celebrate the vital work our emergency services provide to the local community.



The school has been a hive of activity this week:

- Christmas Fayre: Held at lunchtime on Monday and Tuesday, the event was a huge success. A massive thank you to the staff, Sixth Form students, and student volunteers who managed the stalls. It was so lovely to see our students having so much fun. I was surprised to even some of our Year 11 boys volunteering to have Christmas themed face painting and I particularly enjoyed the talent show at the Christmas Fayre karaoke. I would like to say thank you to Mrs Williams for being so brave to be in the stocks and to be soaked by wet sponges on a very cold day!



- The Panto: Students who attended the pantomime in Bedworth on Tuesday had a fantastic time. It was wonderful to see groups from across our Multi-Academy Trust—the Central England Academy Trust (CEAT) coming together for this event.
- Musical Highlights: Last week's Christmas carol concert was a beautiful collaboration with students from Higham Lane North Academy. We are extremely excited about the increasing alignment and collaboration across the MAT schools.
- Wednesday's Christmas Concert: This was a spectacular occasion! I was immensely proud of our performers, who showcased everything from solo vocals, violin and piano to rock bands on electric guitars. Thank you to all the parents, carers and visitors who attended and supported.
- Year 7-9 Disco: Thank you to all of the students who attended on Wednesday evening—you certainly showed us some impressive moves! It looked like the students had a lot of fun; thank you to the staff who gave up their time to make this happen. We are already looking forward to the next one at Easter.



- Hot drinks and tasty treats - Earlier this week, the Senior Leadership Team delivered hot drinks and tasty treats to staff to thank them for their hard work over the term supporting our wonderful students. We will also serve hot chocolate and toast to our students free of charge again tomorrow morning (Friday) to give our students something warm to eat and drink and a place to sit a chat with friends.





You may have seen the news today regarding government announcements that teachers will be trained to spot early signs of misogyny in boys. At Higham Lane, we welcome any intervention and additional funding for staff training. However, I would like to reassure parents that this is already a core focus of our extensive personal development program. We currently deliver comprehensive lessons on healthy relationships, consent, misogyny and equality and much more. We also invest in external expertise, such as theatre groups such as Loudmouth and the organisation Safeline to deliver expert sessions on domestic abuse and consent amongst other important topics. When the Lead Ofsted Inspector visited us in May, he was extremely impressed, not only by the content of these sessions and the quality of our personal development curriculum, but also by the mature and thoughtful way our students engaged with them. We will continue to ensure our curriculum supports our students to be the best that they can be not just in the classroom in academic subjects, but also be prepared to be outstanding citizens in society.

Important Reminders & Looking Ahead

Bicycle and Scooter Safety: If your child travels to school by bicycle or scooter, please ensure they are wearing a helmet. This is a mandatory requirement of our bicycle and scooter agreement. Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe.

A New Way to Connect: Podcasts Next term, we are going to trial something a bit different! On certain occasions, we will replace the written newsletter with a podcast. We want to see if this format is more accessible and user-friendly for parents and carers. We look forward to hearing your feedback on this trial! I am not particularly a technical person but I wonder if this may make it more engaging and easier to access for our parents and carers so we will give it a go!

End of Term Arrangements

- Last Day: Friday 19th December 2025.
- Dismissal: Students will be dismissed between 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm.



Returning in January

- Reopening: Monday 5th January 2026.
- Arrival: The school gates open at 8:15 am.
- Line-up: Students must be on the playground for line-up by 8:40 am.
- Registration: Starts at 8:45 am.
- Note: There will be an extended tutor period on the first day back to help students reset and prepare for a successful Spring term.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Higham Lane School. I wish you and your families a wonderful, restful Christmas break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in January.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Michael Gannon – Headteacher



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56,439



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