



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It's been a truly fantastic week at Higham Lane School, filled with positivity, achievement, and a strong sense of community. I continue to be impressed by the outstanding behaviour and attitudes to learning demonstrated by our students. Their commitment to excellence, both inside and outside the classroom, is a credit to your support and to the values we uphold as a school of 'be the best that you can be', underpinned by the 3 core principles of 'work hard, be kind and take responsibility'.

Celebrating Our Student Superstars

One of the greatest privileges of my role is recognising the incredible achievements of our students. This week, I had the pleasure of meeting numerous incredible young people whose accomplishments deserve special celebration:

Darcie in Year 11 has made history at Higham Lane by becoming the National Champion in Jazz Dance at the Grand National Championships 2025. She also placed 2nd nationally in Commercial Dance, 3rd in Contemporary, and received the prestigious Most Professional Performance Award. Darcie was presented with a Headteacher's Certificate, reward shop points, a tasty treat, and the coveted Headteacher's Pen—a symbol of excellence at our school. She will be added to our Higham Lane Superstars Wall, located outside my office near Coombe Hall, which celebrates students who excel in fields such as sports, dance, martial arts, charity work, and environmental conservation amongst others.

Zaynah in Year 7 has also been awarded a Headteacher's Certificate for her outstanding commitment to the Sea Cadets, where she earned the Commodore's Broad Pennant Award—the highest achievement badge for a junior Sea Cadet. Her dedication, leadership, and resilience are truly inspiring. Amazing work Zaynah!



Bobbin in Year 10 and Cookie and in Year 9 have both competed at the Wadokai National Championships in Tokyo. Bobbin performed brilliantly in Kata and Kumite, narrowly missing a quarter-final spot in Kata and reaching the quarter-finals in Kumite against China. She placed joint fourth in the world—an extraordinary achievement! Wow! She will now compete in the European Championships this October. Bobbin already proudly has her photo on the HLS superstars board and we are very proud of you! Cookie also competed in Tokyo and delivered an excellent performance. Both students received Headteacher's Awards and will represent us again at the European level. We are immensely proud of them and wish them the very best at the Euros in Venice at the weekend!



Year 10 Information Evening – Supporting GCSE Success

On Wednesday evening, we welcomed Year 10 parents and carers to our Information Evening in Coombe Hall. It was a pleasure to see so many of you engaging with the strategies that can help your child succeed in their GCSEs. We discussed the importance of starting revision early—GCSEs are a marathon, not a sprint. We also discussed the role of diet and nutrition in supporting concentration and energy where research shows that a balanced diet improves attention span and cognitive performance and the impact of a good night's sleep on mood, memory, and learning. Studies consistently show that students who sleep well perform better academically and feel happier at school. Parental involvement is one of the most significant predictors of GCSE success. Your encouragement, structure, and support at home make a real difference. Thank you to Ms Green as PL, Mr Fox in Maths, Mrs Huxley in Science and Mrs Finley in MFL for their excellent presentations about how to excel at GCSE.

Year 11 Exam Preparation – Let's Get Organised

If your child is in Year 11, please take time to sit down with them and review their exam timetable. Help them prepare by ensuring they pack their bag the night before with all necessary equipment, including subject-specific items like a calculator and roller for science. Organisation and preparation are key to reducing stress and boosting confidence.

Additional Open Day for Year 6 Families

Due to overwhelming interest, we've added an extra Open Day slot for Year 6 prospective students and their families on Tuesday 21st October at 9:45am. We look forward to showcasing our vibrant learning environment and welcoming new members to our school community.

Fire Alarm – Safety First

On Thursday, we experienced a false fire alarm, which was accidentally triggered. CCTV footage confirmed it was an accident, and we are taking steps to prevent similar incidents in the future. We appreciate your understanding and remain committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all.

Student Safety – Screening and Searches

As part of our safeguarding measures, we will be conducting random screenings at the school gate to check for prohibited items, including weapons. While this may seem worrying, it is a necessary precaution in today's society. Schools have the legal authority to screen and search students with or without consent, including without parental notification, if there is reason to believe a student may be in possession of a prohibited item. You can read more about this in this BBC article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c77d06vde4po>. Our priority is always the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

Detentions and After-School Commitments

Please avoid scheduling activities immediately after school. If a student receives a detention, they are required to attend from 3:15pm to 4:00pm. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that students can fulfil their responsibilities.

Uniform Reminder

A reminder that lycra flare leggings are not part of our school uniform. Students should wear school trousers or a skirt in line with our uniform policy. Uniform helps promote a sense of belonging and pride in our school.



Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts

I attended the Warwickshire Headteachers' Conference this week, where we reviewed county-wide attendance data. The message was clear: Excellent attendance is strongly linked to academic success and happiness at school, term-time holidays will not be authorised, and families may be fined. Last year, over 1,700 parents were fined and 36 prosecuted in Warwickshire. Please ensure your child attends school every day unless absolutely necessary. Every lesson matters.

CEAT Trust News – Watling Meadows Primary

On Thursday, I was honoured to participate in the interview panel for the new Headteacher of Watling Meadows, a brand-new primary school being launched by our trust, CEAT. This is an exciting development, and I'll keep you updated as the project progresses.

Learning Beyond Our Walls

On Friday, I visited another school in Warwickshire. While their GCSE results are not yet where they want them to be, I observed them implementing teaching strategies we've used here for years. It was encouraging to see the positive impact these methods are having on student learning. It reminded me of how far we've come and how proud I am of our staff's dedication to continuous improvement and for our students working so hard to achieve amazing results year after year. The latest data set indicate that last year's Year 11 on average achieved 0.8 of a grade than expected in EVERY subject! That is amazing!

Sleep and Diet – The Learning Link

Research continues to show that sleep and diet play a vital role in academic performance: Sleep improves attention, emotional regulation, and memory consolidation. Students who sleep well are more focused, resilient, and ready to learn. A nutritious diet supports energy levels, concentration, and overall wellbeing. Breakfast, in particular, is essential for starting the day with focus and vitality. Please encourage healthy habits at home—they make a real difference in the classroom.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Your partnership with the school is invaluable, and together we are helping our young people grow into confident, capable, and compassionate individuals. I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing weekend.

Warm regards,



Mr Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School

Dates for your diary

Thursday 23rd October – Last day of half-term for students

Friday 24th October – INSET Day – Staff will be undertaking training on safeguarding and supporting vulnerable students. This is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring every child feels safe, supported, and valued.

Monday 3rd November – Students and staff return

Thursday 6th November – Higham Lane Sixth Form Open Evening 5.30–7.30pm



27,786



26,880



25,697