



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a wonderful week here at Higham Lane School. As we approach the final weeks of the academic year, our calendar is packed with milestones, celebrations, and fantastic achievements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of me and the school.

Earlier this week, I had the privilege of visiting a local primary school to deliver assemblies about jobs and employment, speaking to the pupils about what it is like to be a headteacher. It served as a powerful reminder of what a privilege it is to lead such an exceptional school community.

Considering the current heat-health alert and the forecast of high temperatures, we are adjusting our uniform policy to ensure our students remain comfortable and focused. On Monday 22nd June and Tuesday 23rd June, students will be permitted to choose one of the following options:

- Option 1: Come into school wearing their official HLS school PE kit.
- Option 2: Wear their standard school trousers or skirt, paired with a school shirt. Under this option, the shirt may be left untucked, and students do not need to wear a blazer or a tie.

We expect that most students will opt for the PE kit option. Please Note: Football shirts, non-HLS leggings, and alternative sportswear are strictly not acceptable. Staff will also be permitted to wear more relaxed clothing during these two days. We will review the situation towards the end of the day on Tuesday, taking into account the latest weather forecast, and will determine whether these temporary adjustments need to remain in place.

World Cup Breakfast Success

The World Cup Breakfast Club has been a massive hit this week! A huge thank you to Mr. Williams and the Progress Leaders (PLs) for running the club in Coombe Hall all week.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed coming together to watch the football highlights from the previous night. It has provided a lovely, inclusive, and positive start to the school day.



Year 11 Leavers Day

On Monday, we said a formal farewell to our Year 11 students. A big thank you to Mrs Lynch and everyone involved in making the Year 11 leavers' assembly and field celebrations such a wonderful success. The students thoroughly enjoyed the ice cream van and shared plenty of laughter as they compared their Year 7 photos with how they look today! Their behaviour throughout the exam period has been exemplary, and we fully expect another set of fantastic results this summer. Well done Y11!



Year 13 Leavers Day & Prom

On Wednesday, our Year 13 students celebrated their final official day. Despite some typical British weather, the pizza van, inflatables, and ice cream went down a treat with both students and staff alike. Thank you to Mr. Hughes, Mr. Sears, and the entire Sixth Form team for organizing such a lovely event. Y13 have also been amazing, and we wish them the best of luck with their examination results in the summer.

Furthermore, thank you to all the staff giving up their time this evening to support the Year 13 Prom. We hope our Year 13 students have a wonderful, well-deserved time celebrating tonight!



A Tremendous Summer Music Concert

On Wednesday evening, our musicians took to the stage for our Summer Music Concert. It was absolutely tremendous, and our students did the school incredibly proud. A massive thank you to Mrs. Watson, Team Music, and all of our performer families. (It also helped that when I got home, I watched England win 4-2 to cap off a really perfect evening!)

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Success

This week, I attended a meeting with Mr. Ind and a representative from the Duke of Edinburgh Award to assess our current provision and renew our license. The assessor described the DofE work we do here at HLS as "model practice" and highly praised the incredible volume of opportunities we offer to so many students. Thank you to Mr. Ind and everyone who contributes to making DofE a shining success—including our fantastic staff who give up their weekends and evenings for free to facilitate these trips.



House Flag Design Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our House Flag competition! Thank you to everyone who entered and to the staff involved in running it. We now have three wonderful, official designs for our three schoolhouses to fly during future school competitions including the forthcoming Sports Day!

'Mary Poppins' Rehearsals

Thank you to Mrs. Styring, Mrs. Watson, and everyone else who has helped with the intensive, all-day rehearsals today for our upcoming production of Mary Poppins. The school show is looking fantastic, and we cannot wait to see the final production! I am sure it will be supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Upcoming Key Dates & Events:

Year 10 French Speaking Trial Exams: These commenced on Tuesday 16th June and will continue until Monday 29th June.

Year 11 Prom: A reminder that the Year 11 Prom takes place next Friday, 26th June.

Year 8 Student Progress Evening (Change of Format): Scheduled for Thursday 2nd July. Please note that this evening was originally due to be held online, but it will now take place face-to-face in school, at the request of parents and carers.

CEAT Music Day (Friday 26th June): Next Friday will feature a variety of vibrant musical activities across the school: Registration: Year 7 House Song Competition (Coombe Hall). Lesson Changeovers: Live piano performances outside Coombe Hall and Chine Hall. Break & Lunch: Drum kits and pianos available on the playground and Coombe Quad. Lunchtime: Battle of the Bands (Coombe Hall). Please do encourage your child to attend and support.

New Lesson Bell Trial

To support punctuality and ensure students are settled quickly, we are trialling a new system. A second bell will ring 4 minutes after the start of the lesson to clearly signal to students if they are late.

Social media & Mobile phone policy

"You may have come across recent news about the government's proposed ban on social media for children." While amendments and final details are ironed out nationally, I want to reiterate Higham Lane School's firm stance on technology. Our current policy dictates that mobile phones are strictly prohibited from being used in school; they must be switched off and always kept in bags. We ask for your vital support as parents and carers in reinforcing this message. Please never call your child or accept a call from them during the school day. If there is an emergency, contact our main school reception. We will ensure messages are passed on to the students and or contact you directly. There is no reason for a student to be using a mobile phone during school hours.

Safety & Knife Crime Awareness

You may have seen reports in the press recently regarding a 14-year-old girl charged with three counts of attempted murder following a knife attack at a school in Manchester. We must never be complacent about school safety; the security and well-being of our students and staff will always remain our top priority. To proactively educate our young people, we held specialized 'Knife Crime Workshops' on 16th June, focusing on the dangers of carrying weapons and how to stay safe within the local community. Legal Screening & Search Powers: We would like to remind parents and carers that under powers granted by the Department for Education (DfE), schools have the legal authority to screen and search students if they suspect a weapon or prohibited item is on site. Schools do not require parental permission, nor will we contact parents in advance of a search or screening (which can take place at any time, including at the school gates).

Appointments, Visitor Policy, and Code of Conduct

If you need to collect your child for an appointment, please contact the school with as much notice as possible. Planned Absences: Requests must be submitted well in advance. Same day/Emergency Appointments: Please notify us immediately. If parents arrive at reception without prior notice, we cannot guarantee staff will be immediately available to locate your child, which disrupts lessons.

Meeting with Staff:

If you arrive at reception wishing to speak to a teacher or leader without an appointment, please be aware they will likely be unavailable due to teaching commitments or meetings. Unless there is an immediate safeguarding concern, staff cannot meet unannounced but will happily arrange a mutually convenient time. Finally, a firm reminder that we do not tolerate aggressive behaviour towards our staff under any circumstances. Our team work incredibly hard to support your children, and mutual respect is expected in all communications.

Water Safety & Weekend Wishes

We wish all our parents, carers, and students a wonderful weekend in the glorious sunshine. Please stay safe, stay hydrated, and wear sunscreen. Most importantly, please encourage your child to be exceptionally careful around water, particularly natural bodies of water (such as rivers, lakes, and quarries). Tragically, there were multiple accidental drownings across the country during the hot spell a few weeks ago. We have already delivered dedicated safety sessions on this topic during PSHE lessons, but we urge you to reiterate these vital dangers to your children at home.

Have a wonderful, safe weekend.

Best wishes,



Mr. Gannon

Headteacher



116,742



114,217



109,767