



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a wonderful week it has been at Higham Lane School! It has been an absolute pleasure to see our students thriving, producing some truly amazing work, and consistently demonstrating their wonderful behaviour. As you know, our school motto is "be the best that you can be," underpinned by our three core values: work hard, be kind, and take responsibility. This week, I've had the immense privilege of meeting with and recognising the achievements of so many incredible students. It's always a joy to celebrate with them, awarding house points, certificates, and even a Headteacher's pen (yes, that's right, it does not get any better than a Headteacher's pen! 😊) to those who have truly embodied our values.



A huge congratulations are also in order for Ameerah and Nadiya. They recently competed in the Turkish Open 2025 junior squash tournament, where Ameerah won the Under 19 category and Nadiya secured third place in the Under 15 category, narrowly losing in the semi-final. What an impressive achievement! They followed this up by both winning their respective age categories at the Warwickshire Junior Squash Closed tournament last weekend. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and success!

School Development and Community

This week, we were pleased to welcome our school improvement partner, an external expert who is employed by the school to work with us to try to make Higham Lane School even better. She spent Wednesday meeting with staff and students, conducting a learning walk through lessons, and reviewing books. We specifically asked her to focus on how we support our students with special educational needs (SEND). She was very impressed with the work we are doing to support our most vulnerable students and will continue to provide expert advice on how we can make our SEND provision even better.

Our school site is also undergoing some exciting improvements. We have appointed an external company to perform a deep clean of the entire school over the weekend, ensuring a fresh and bright start for everyone next week.

Following our successful grant from the Tesco's coin charity, we have now drawn up plans to develop the quad outside of Chine Hall and near the library. Our goal is to create a therapy garden, a peaceful and reflective space for some of our most vulnerable students to use when they need a moment to regulate and reflect. Additionally, we've started a comprehensive painting plan that will take place throughout the year to make the school brighter for both students and staff.

I'm also pleased to report that the significant roof leak in Coombe Hall has been fixed by an expert external company. Coombe Hall is now fully open and back in use for lessons and assemblies.

On Wednesday, our 2025/2026 ASPIRE programme kicked off with a brilliant talk from an ex-Higham Lane School student, Amrik Singh. Now a law specialist, he spoke with great passion about his pathway into law, and our students found it incredibly inspiring. Thank you, Amrik, for giving back your time to us!

Enrichment, Languages, and Reading

Thursday was our enrichment day, and a huge thank you goes to Mrs. Mitchell and all the staff who organised the events. While I couldn't visit every activity, I saw the Year 8 group having a wonderful time in their mask workshop, using exaggerated body language and gestures to tell stories. They also clearly enjoyed creating their own masks and experimenting on stage. Other Year 8 students had a blast with the car-wrapping challenge. I also heard from staff and students that the Year 7 team-building day was a huge success, with those who visited Twycross Zoo and Alton Towers having a fantastic time.



Today, Friday, is both National Thank a TA Day and European Day of Languages. We will forever be indebted to our teaching assistants who provide invaluable support to some of our most vulnerable students—those with special educational needs, physical disabilities, and those who simply need a bit of extra help. We provided some tasty treats for them this morning as a small token of our immense appreciation. Do we have any photos? As a linguist who has taught modern foreign languages for over a quarter of a century, I can speak from first-hand experience about the importance of learning a language. It can give young people such a huge advantage, even if they can only speak a little bit. It can open doors to travel, new cultures, and even future career opportunities. For example, knowing another language can help you in the workplace, making you a more attractive candidate to employers, or it could give you a deeper appreciation for film, music, and literature from around the world. Do we have any photos?

To celebrate, all tutor groups on September 22nd participated in an activity celebrating modern foreign languages (MFL). There's still time to enter the MFL poster competition and the Big House Quiz! Entries can be returned to Mrs. Findlay in LA2. Students also took part in a fun MFL quiz this morning, which we hope they enjoyed.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

A recent report stated that only 15% of parents in the UK have ever taken their child to an art gallery. I want to encourage all of our families to seek out opportunities to visit museums, galleries, and theatres when possible. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council provide information on many free local activities that can help young people develop their cultural capital. Research suggests that engaging with the arts can significantly boost a child's academic performance and critical thinking skills, helping them to succeed later in life.

Similarly, I would like to encourage parents and carers to let their children see them reading. It's one of the most powerful ways to model good habits. According to the National Literacy Trust, over a million children don't own a book. This is a concerning statistic, as we know that reading is a cornerstone of success. Reading for pleasure not only improves a child's literacy but also enhances their understanding across all subjects, boosting their progress throughout school and improving their life chances.

School Information and Important Dates

Following a trial, we are now allowing students to leave at the end of the school day via the Brookdale Gate on foot. Previously, this was only for bikes, but we hope this change will help to reduce congestion at our other two exits.

A report from the Education Policy Institute indicates that the UK birth rate is falling, which is causing a surplus of school places, particularly in primary schools but also for secondaries. This has a ripple effect on school funding, which is based on pupil numbers. However, in Nuneaton and Bedworth, this surplus is creating a unique opportunity. This year, the catchment area for local schools is widening, due to the birth rate and more school places being made available, meaning that friends or relatives with a child in Year 6 will have a significantly greater chance of gaining a place at Higham Lane School—the only Ofsted-Outstanding school in Nuneaton. If you know anyone with a Year 6 child, please encourage them to list Higham Lane as their first choice. For current Year 7 students, we have a couple of spaces remaining. If you know a family with a Year 7 child without a school place or who is unhappy with their current school, they are welcome to contact us directly to inquire about a place.

A reminder that our **Open Evening** is next Thursday, the 2nd of October. To allow staff time to prepare, we will be following our **Student Progress Evening (SPE) timings**. The school day will begin at the normal time of 8:40 am, but lessons will be slightly shortened to allow the school day to finish at 2:15 pm. We appreciate your understanding, as this allows our dedicated staff, who will be here until around 8:30 pm, to have a break and prepare for the evening. School will be open at the normal time on Friday morning.

Our Year 11 students are now just three weeks away from their first trial exams, which begin on the 13th of October. Parents and carers can help by ensuring their child has a quiet space to work at home—a desk and chair away from distractions like tablets, phones, and TVs. Encourage them to create and stick to a revision timetable to recap their learning.

Finally, a reminder that the Year 13 Student Progress Evening is on Thursday, the 23rd of October. We look forward to seeing you there as we support our students in their final push toward their A-level examinations in the summer of 2026. Thank you in advance for your attendance at the SPE so we can work together.

Exceptional Examination Results

I'm incredibly proud to share some fantastic news about our summer exam results. Data from SISRA, which collects data from over 1,000 schools, indicates that if a Progress 8 figure were being calculated for our school this year, it would be approximately +0.8. This means that the average Year 11 student last year achieved 4/5 of a grade higher than expected based on their Key Stage 2 data in EVERY subject! This is an incredible achievement and the highest score the school has ever reached.

Equally, our value-added score for Year 13 A-level data is approximately 0.31, meaning the average Year 13 student last year achieved nearly a third of a grade higher than expected in each subject, based on their GCSE profile. This is also the highest score the school has ever achieved.

Combining this excellent data with our Ofsted Outstanding rating from May 2025, we believe that the school is going from strength to strength. We are also thrilled to have become the sixth form of choice in the local area, with 170 students currently on our roll—over 40 more than we've ever had before. It's fantastic to see so many students from both Higham Lane and other schools choosing to continue their education with us.

Thank you also for your omni-present support. A strong home-school relationship is a key factor in supporting your child to reach for the stars! I wish everyone a well-deserved and wonderful weekend.

Best wishes, Michael Gannon, Headteacher
Higham Lane School

HIGHAM LANE SCHOOL

OPEN DAY



THURSDAY
2ND OCTOBER 2025
5PM - 7.30PM

WWW.HIGHAMLANESCHOOL.CO.UK

SHANKLIN DRIVE, NUNEATON, CV10 0BJ

02476388123

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider