



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today has been a beautiful sunny day and it has been wonderful to see students enjoying the sunshine, whether out on the field or taking shelter under the shaded areas of the playground such as the recently built covered area. With temperatures forecast to reach 25°C today, students were permitted to remove their blazers and ties and have their shirts out, in order to make things a little more comfortable during the hot weather.

On that note, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) issued a Yellow Heat Health Alert this morning for our area from 9:00am on Friday 22 May until 5:00pm on Wednesday 27 May. Please do take care of yourselves and your families during this period of warm weather by staying hydrated, avoiding prolonged exposure to direct sunlight during the hottest parts of the day, and ensuring children have access to sun protection where appropriate.

The exam season is well underway and has gone brilliantly and I wanted to say thank you to our incredible staff who have been delivering additional revision sessions, often in their own time, to our GCSE and A Level students to give them that last boost before they sit their exams. Good luck to our Y11 and Y13 students who have more exams when we return after half-term.

On Sunday 17 May, Bobbin in Y10 and Cookie in Y9 competed at the English Karate Federation National Open Championships. Bobbin won silver medals in both Cadets Kata and Black Belt Kata and Cookie won bronze in U14 Kata, gold in Team Kumite, and gold in U14 Kumite, making him this year's English National Champion! Wow! In addition, on Saturday 16 May, both Bobbin and Cookie attended selections for the Federation of European Wadokai Karate Championships taking place in September. We are delighted that both were successful and will now represent England.



On Monday afternoon, I had the privilege of meeting a fantastic young man in Year 9 who has won an award from Derbyshire Local Authority for his kindness and benevolent actions. He is a very private individual and does not wish for his name to be publicly announced, but I did not want his achievement to go unnoticed. We are incredibly proud of him for receiving such a prestigious award.

A huge well done to the Year 9 boys who showed incredible determination and resilience during the HLS lunchtime tug of war competition. Congratulations to Spiritus House on their well-earned victory!

Congratulations also to Ethan in Year 8, who has recently been selected for the Warwickshire County Cricket Pathway. A fantastic accomplishment and thoroughly deserved.

Well done to Orla in Year 9, who recently performed at the CBS Arena and did a brilliant job. She is certainly one to watch in the world of music and we wish her every success with her future performances.

Higham Lane School is a fantastic school with incredible students, but we cannot be complacent about knife crime or naïve enough to think that weapons are not being carried within our local community of Nuneaton. The school will continue to do everything possible to keep students and staff safe. Under Department for Education powers, the school reserves the right to screen all students as they enter the school site to check for weapons and to search students if we believe they may be in possession of a weapon. Schools do not require parental permission to conduct screening or searches, and parents/carers will not be contacted in advance of these actions; this is to keep all students and staff safe.



On 8 June 2024, former Higham Lane School student Tom Ellis tragically lost his life in Nuneaton town centre following a knife attack. On Monday morning, Tom's younger sister Ella, who attends Higham Lane, alongside Tom's parents, spoke with remarkable bravery to our Year 9 students about their devastating loss and the impact knife crime has had on their family. Following this, all Year 9 students took part in workshops led by Warwickshire Police and St John Ambulance to help them better understand the laws surrounding knife crime, what to do if they suspect somebody is carrying a knife, and how to administer potentially life-saving first aid. Each year, the school now presents the Tom Ellis Award to a student who demonstrates exceptional dedication and commitment to sport, reflecting Tom's own passion for sport during his time at Higham Lane and beyond. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Ellis family. We are also pleased to share that £200 raised from the Christmas Fair will be donated to support the purchase of bleed kits for areas across Nuneaton and the local community in partnership with the local Neighbourhood Watch.

All Year 7 students took part in police-led workshops on Wednesday and Thursday focusing on the safety and laws surrounding e-bikes and e-scooters.

As a school, we strongly advise against purchasing an e-scooter for your child. It is illegal to ride a privately owned e-scooter on public roads or pavements. As a result, they are strictly prohibited travelling to and from school and cannot be stored on the school site. We are currently reviewing our stance regarding e-bikes. For the time being, students are permitted to travel to school using an e-bike only if it has an originally fitted manufacturer-installed battery. Retrofitted batteries or conversion kits are strictly prohibited, as the school cannot verify whether they are legal or safe. There have also been recent national news reports involving serious incidents caused by e-scooters. They can travel at

significant speeds and can be extremely dangerous. We therefore strongly encourage parents and carers to think very carefully before purchasing either an e-bike or e-scooter for their child.

On Thursday 21 May, we celebrated our HLS Culture Day. Students and staff were encouraged to wear cultural dress, colours of their national flag, or local and national sports kits. Funds raised during the day supported the Mayor's Appeal for the Nuneaton Heritage Centre; money raised will help repair and restore the stonework of the historic Chilvers Coton Heritage and Community Centre. It was wonderful to see such a wide array of cultural clothing reflecting the diversity and heritage within our school community. Outfits included England football shirts (including my personal favourite – the iconic Italia '90 shirt!), Scottish kilts, Welsh flags worn as shawls, Irish Gaelic football shirts, Indian cricket shirts, Australian rugby shirts, African dresses, and much, much more. The atmosphere throughout the school was incredibly positive and celebratory and I could not be prouder of our amazing students.



Our students have also been enjoying our newly relocated HLS Rewards Shop, which has now moved onto the playground and has its very own rewards hut! Ms Lish, supported by her fantastic Year 9 helpers, distributed rewards today to students in recognition of the house points they have earned through their hard work and positive conduct. The most popular items included bags of sweets, stationery, and sports equipment.

A reminder that next week, beginning Monday 25 May, is the half-term holiday and school will be closed to all students for the duration of the week. School will reopen to all students on Monday 1 June.

Please also note the following important dates:

Wednesday 3 June – Year 9 vaccinations

Thursday 4 June – Year 10 Student Progress Evening (online) from 3:00pm–7:00pm. Please note that on Thursday 4 June, school will close early at 2:15pm to allow staff time to pop to the loo, eat something, grab a drink and prepare for the evening before meeting parents and carers from 3pm.

It has been a fantastic half-term and I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support. Most importantly, thank you to our incredible students, who continue to work hard, be kind, take responsibility, and strive to be the very best they can be every single day.

Have a wonderful half-term break and enjoy the sunshine – but please do stay safe in this mini heatwave.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Gannon'.

Michael Gannon
Headteacher



105,628



103,673



98,874



HIGHAM LANE

Winter Concert

'A Celebration of Music'

WEDNESDAY
17TH DECEMBER
2025

COOMBE HALL
7PM

£5 PER PERSON
TICKETS AVAILABLE ON
PARENTPAY



Dear Parent or Guardian

Trespassing on the railway network is extremely dangerous and endangers not only the lives of those on the track, but also passengers, railway staff and the general public.

Many people - especially young people - fail to understand the danger they put themselves and others in, when they make the choice to stray onto the rail network. As summertime approaches, we are already seeing an increase in the number of incidents being reported in the local area of Bugbrooke and incidents we're seeing involve children and young people:

- Walking along the railway lines
- Throwing stones at trains
- Placing objects on the railway lines
- Using the railway as a playground

I am sure you agree that all of the above activities are extremely dangerous.

The British Transport Police and Network Rail are seeking the support of parents, guardians and the local community to highlight the danger and implications of these activities to help us reduce the number of young people putting themselves and others at significant risk.

To assist with the conversation there are a number of online videos available and range depending on the age group of your child:

www.switchedonrailsafety.co.uk

www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/safety-education/

www.youvstrain.co.uk

Key Messages

Trains are **ALWAYS** running on the railway and can differ in times meaning that you can never predict when a train will pass

The Electricity is **ALWAYS** switched on around the railway
Always **Stop, Look and Listen** before using a Level Crossing

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE?

Trespassing on the railway is also a **criminal offence** which can involve your child obtaining a criminal record and a fine of £1000.

If you wish to report any information to us, please call us on Freephone 0800 40 50 40 or text the information to 61016.

What is AI?

AI stands for artificial intelligence and can be used to create text, images, videos, music and artwork based on instructions given to an AI tool.



What is an AI tool?

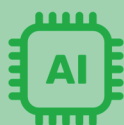
AI tools are applications, such as ChatGPT, Snapchat My AI, Google and Google translate. There are many more!



*The list of certain suppliers of AI-related products is for information purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by JCQ and awarding bodies. It is each centre's responsibility to investigate and verify any suppliers they use, including any terms and conditions which govern the sale or use of the supplier's products. The list provided is not exhaustive.

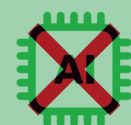
When can I use AI?

- Your teachers may use it in class when teaching the course, but remember teaching in the classroom is not an exam!
- There are some assessments where you can use AI – your teachers will tell you if you can or cannot use an AI tool.
- Remember, the rules are different for different assessments and subjects, so always check with your teachers first!
- When an AI tool is allowed, **you must acknowledge**** the AI tools and the material produced by the AI tool that you have used in your work. If you do not acknowledge AI use, it will be **considered as cheating**.



When can I not use an AI tool?

- AI tools cannot be used in an exam or any other assessment where exam rules apply.
- This is what exam boards call **AI misuse and is a form of cheating**.



**Acknowledgment – When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source, you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is known as referencing. You must make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words, for example, *ChatGPT 3.5 (https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/), 25/01/2025*.

IF YOU USE AN AI TOOL, YOU CANNOT GET MARKS FOR WHAT THE AI TOOL HAS PRODUCED, AS IT IS NOT YOUR OWN WORK

If I'm allowed to use AI, how is this breaking the rules?

- AI misuse is when you use an AI tool in an exam or assessment where you are not allowed to; and/or
- Where you use an AI tool to create work and then say it's your own.



How to make sure you don't misuse AI

DECLARE

- Remember to sign your declaration form when handing in your work for final assessment.
- Your signature on the declaration form tells your teacher and the exam board that you are saying all the work you're handing in is your own.
- If you have used an AI tool, **you must declare***** that you have used it before signing the declaration form!

*****Declare** – this means that when you submit your work for marking, the awarding body will normally require you to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed the regulations.

ACKNOWLEDGE

If you are allowed to use an AI tool in your assessment (remember to check!), you must do the following:

- reference the AI tool you have used
- give the date of when the AI tool generated the content
- give details of how you used it.
- save screenshots of what you have asked or instructed the AI tool to do and what answer the AI gave you, and include this with the work submitted.

LAST CHECKS



Know the rules



Check with your teachers



ACKNOWLEDGE and DECLARE



Community Safety Update



Dear Parents and Students,

As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety and community wellbeing, we have an important message from Warwickshire Police. With the school holidays approaching, it is vital to be aware of the risks and consequences associated with illegal and antisocial motorbike use.

Operation Undertook

Warwickshire Police have launched a dedicated policing initiative called Operation Undertook. This operation specifically targets individuals using motorbikes illegally and antisocially during the school holidays. Increased patrols and enforcement actions will be in place to ensure community safety.

What Counts as Antisocial Motorbike Use?

- Riding off-road bikes in parks, fields, or public land without permission
- Causing noise, alarm, or distress to residents
- Riding without a licence, insurance, or safety gear
- Gathering in groups and riding recklessly in neighbourhoods

Legal Consequences

- **Section 59 Notices:** Police can issue warnings or seize bikes being used antisocially
- **Fines and Penalty Points:** Riders can face fines, points on their licence, or disqualification
- **Criminal Records:** Persistent offenders may face court action and a criminal record
- **Driving Licence Impact:** You can be banned from driving before you're even old enough to hold a licence

Long-Term Financial Impact

- Future insurance premiums for motorbikes, cars, or even home insurance can become extremely expensive or difficult to obtain
- Insurers view riders with a history of illegal or reckless behaviour as high-risk, which can lead to refusals or surcharges

Impact on Housing Tenancy

Parents, please be aware: antisocial behaviour linked to your household can put your housing tenancy at risk. Local councils and housing associations work closely with police to:

- Issue tenancy warnings
- Enforce Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- In serious cases, initiate eviction proceedings

What Parents Can Do

- Know where your child is and what they're doing
- Talk to them about the dangers and consequences of illegal riding
- Report concerns to Warwickshire Police or your local council

Report It

If you witness illegal or antisocial motorbike use:

- 'Dob Em In' ([safeinwarwickshire.com](https://www.safeinwarwickshire.com))
- Call 101 or report online at warwickshire.police.uk
- In an emergency, always dial 999

Let's Keep Warwickshire Safe

Together, we can protect our communities, prevent accidents, and ensure young people stay on the right path. Let's stop illegal riding before it stops someone's future.

Higham Lane's Golden Sports Stars!



We are delighted to announce that Higham Lane School have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2024/25 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Some of our sporting achievements this year include: Year 8 Girls District Rounders Champions Year 9 Girls District Rounders Champions Year 11 Girls District Netball Champions Year 10 Girls District Netball Champions Year 9 Girls District Netball Champions/Runner's Up Warwickshire Schools Year 8 Girls District Netball Champions/Runner's Up Warwickshire Schools Year 7 Girls District Netball Champions Year 8 Girls Football Year 11 Boys Football District Cup winner Year 10 Boys Football District Cup and league winners Year 10 Boys Football reached the quarter finals, the last 8 in the National Schools Cup Year 9 Boys Football District cup and league winners Year 8 Boys Football District cup winners Key Stage 3 & 4 Girls District Badminton Winners Key Stage 4 Girls District Badminton Winners

With a total of over 200 young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. We are also really impressed with the amount of students taking part in our Inter-House sports events. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. A special thanks goes to all of the staff at Higham Lane School who have contributed to





HIGHAM LANE SCHOOL

has achieved the Gold School Games Mark
award for their commitment, engagement
in the School Games for 2024/25.





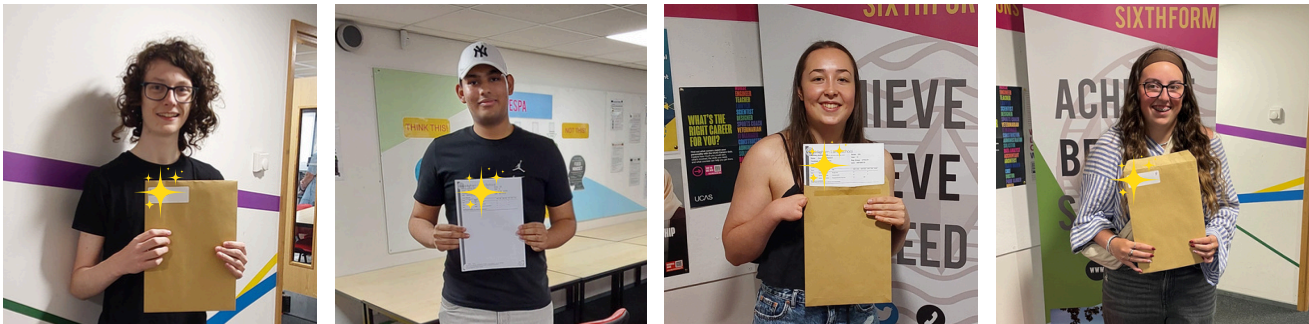
CELEBRATING OUR BEST EVER YEAR 13 RESULTS!

THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are absolutely delighted to share with you the fantastic news that our amazing Year 13 students have achieved the best set of A Level results that Higham Lane School has ever seen. This is a remarkable achievement, and we could not be prouder of each and every student for their hard work, resilience and determination.

We are delighted to announce that our incredible Year 13 students achieved 28.5% of grades at A*-A, 59.4% of grades at A*-B and average grade of a B-; these outstanding outcomes are a testament not only to the commitment and ability of our students, but also to the dedication of our talented teaching and support staff who have guided and supported them every step of the way. In 2024, Higham Lane School had the highest average point score of all schools in North Warwickshire so we are delighted to have built on this success by further improving our A*-A and A*-B grades.



Mr Sears, Head of Sixth Form says: "Our students should all be so proud of themselves. We are thrilled that so many of our students are now going on to exciting next steps, with a large number securing places at a wide range of excellent universities, including some of the most prestigious institutions in the country. Others are embarking on employment or apprenticeships with companies as diverse as MIRA, Jaguar Land Rover, Aldi and Google. I wish all of our Year 13s every success in their futures."

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to **our incredible Sixth Form team**, led by our Head of Sixth Form Mr Sears and our Assistant Head of Sixth Form (Year 13) Mrs Woodall, along with all of **our specialist Sixth Form teachers**; our HLS teachers' expert subject knowledge, knowledge of the exam specifications and their unwavering commitment to nurturing the potential of our students have played a vital role in helping them achieve such remarkable success. They have been instrumental in ensuring that our students were equipped with the skills and confidence to excel in their exams.



We would like to extend our **sincere thanks to our wonderful parents and carers for their omnipresent support, encouragement, and belief in our young people throughout their time at Higham Lane School.** This partnership with us has played a crucial role in helping them to achieve such success.

For any students who would like advice or guidance regarding their next steps, please be assured that **staff are available in school to provide individual support, including information, advice, and guidance** on university places, apprenticeships, employment, or gap year opportunities.

In addition, for any students who may be feeling overwhelmed or in need of emotional support, our **specialist pastoral team is also on hand** to offer care and assistance during this important time.

Once again, congratulations to our exceptional Year 13 students. You have made the whole Higham Lane School community incredibly proud, and we wish you every success and happiness in the future.

Kind regards,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School

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We cannot mention all of our students' amazing achievements but special mentions go to the following students for outstanding A Level results:

Rizan Pathan, Eva French, Brennan Evans (A*, A*, A*) – Rizan has successfully secured a place to study Medicine at the University of Birmingham. Eva has successfully balanced her A Levels with competitive swimming and is now pursuing a Pharmacy degree at the University of Birmingham. Brennan has secured a place at the University of York to study Computer Science.

Deena Mir, Floss Ford, Ruqsar Mussa (A*, A*, A)

Emily Atkins, Jake Simpson, Chris Kibble, Rhys Newark (A*, A, A)

In addition, the following students have made exceptional progress throughout their time at Higham Lane Sixth Form and have achieved results beyond the level expected:

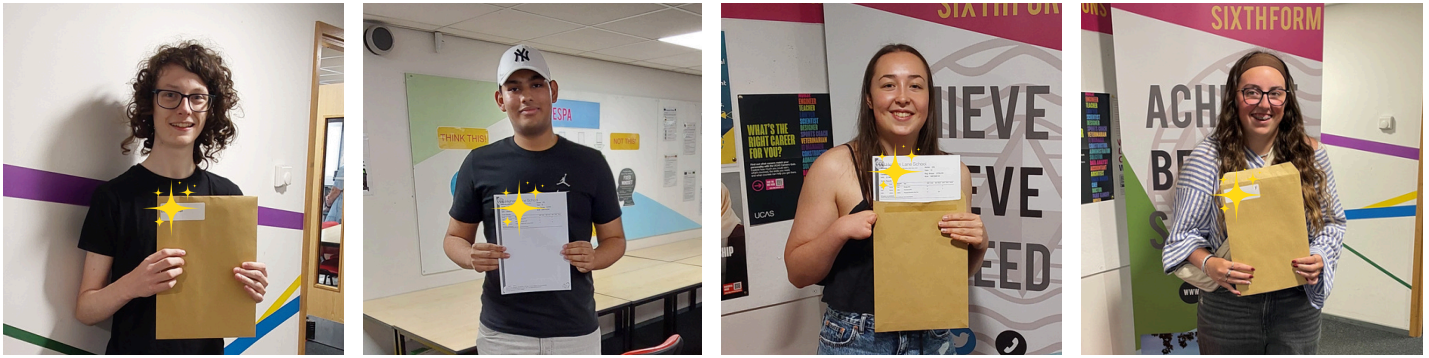
Owen Wright (A, B, B)

Balnoor Goraya (B, B, B)

Ishaa Choudhry (A*, A, B)

Freya Wattis (A*, B, C)





Mr Sears, Head of Sixth Form says: "Our students should all be so proud of themselves. We are thrilled that so many of our students are now going on to exciting next steps, with a large number securing places at a wide range of excellent universities, including some of the most prestigious institutions in the country. Others are embarking on employment or apprenticeships with companies as diverse as MIRA, Jaguar Land Rover, Aldi and Google. I wish all of our Year 13s every success in their futures."

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In addition, for any students who may be feeling overwhelmed or in need of emotional support, our **specialist pastoral team is also on hand** to offer care and assistance during this important time.

Once again, congratulations to our exceptional Year 13 students. You have made the whole Higham Lane School community incredibly proud, and we wish you every success and happiness in the future.

Kind regards,

Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School



GCSE RESULTS DAY 2025

THURSDAY 21ST AUGUST 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Higham Lane School is thrilled to announce a fantastic set of GCSE results for its Year 11 students, a testament to their incredible resilience and the unwavering support of our dedicated staff. This year's results are particularly meaningful as this cohort's secondary school journey was uniquely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, having missed their Year 6 SATs and faced unprecedented disruption. Despite these challenges, our students have excelled, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

The school's Attainment 8 score, a key measure of student achievement across up to 8 subjects including English and Maths, stands at an impressive 52.05. This is significantly above the national average of 45.9 from last year, highlighting the exceptional progress our students have made. Beyond the overall scores, we are especially delighted to see the high number of students achieving the very top grades which has increased even further this year; over a quarter of all our students secured the highest grades of 7, 8, or 9 in both Maths and English, demonstrating a depth of understanding and academic excellence that is truly outstanding.

I would like to extend a special mention to some of our incredible high-achievers who have secured a remarkable number of top grades:

- Zaaim K: 10 Grade 9s and 2 Grade 8s.
- Sanindie K: 8 Grade 9s and 3 Grade 8s.
- Haris P: 9 Grade 9s and 1 Grade 8.
- Bertina F: 8 Grade 9s, 2 Grade 8s, and a Grade 7.
- Thomas RS: 6 Grade 9s, 3 Grade 8s, and 2 Grade 7s.
- Sofia M: 7 Grade 9s, 1 Grade 8, and 4 Grade 7s.
- Haris M: 6 Grade 9s, 4 Grade 8s, and a Grade 7.

A special and unique achievement goes to Dayyan, a student from Year 8 who, in a remarkable feat, took his Maths GCSE three years early and achieved a Grade 9, the highest possible grade; this is an incredible accomplishment and speaks volumes about his talent and hard work.





We are also immensely proud of the amazing progress made by many of our students who didn't just meet, but absolutely smashed their target grades. This group of students showed immense determination, and in some cases, overcoming exceptional personal challenges to achieve their full potential. Congratulations to Simran S, Randeep S, Eve B, Emily C, Sophie K, Katie K, Samuel H, Bianca A, Megan M, and Lola W. Their journeys are an inspiration to us all.

This success would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the entire Higham Lane School community. I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to our outstanding teachers and support staff. Their excellent teaching, unwavering support in the classroom, and the many additional revision classes they ran after school and during lunch breaks were crucial in helping our students with that last, essential push. This goes above and beyond their day-to-day duties and shows their commitment to every student.

Furthermore, a huge thank you to our dedicated pastoral team, including the Progress Leader for Year 11, Mrs. Green, our Year 11 tutors, the school counsellor, our learning mentor, our disadvantaged students coordinator, and our safeguarding team. The extra emotional and pastoral support they provided was invaluable, ensuring that every student felt supported and could thrive.

It was wonderful to see so many of our Year 11 students back in our school today to celebrate their success and enrol in the Higham Lane Sixth Form to begin their A Level studies next year. Higham Lane Sixth Form is the highest-performing sixth form in Nuneaton and Bedworth and one of the highest in Warwickshire, and we look forward to seeing our current Year 11s continue their academic journey and excel at A Level here at Higham Lane School. We would also like to thank our specialist careers advisor and dedicated Sixth Form team who provided personalised advice and guidance to the students today in terms of their next steps and we were thrilled to enrol so many students from Higham Lane and from other schools, which is testament to how popular and successful the Sixth Form is here at Higham Lane School.

For those students who are starting apprenticeships, employment, or other exciting paths, we wish you all the very best for the future. Please do keep in touch and let us know about the incredible things you go on to achieve. Congratulations to all our amazing students on their successes at GCSE! We are very proud of you all! Thank you also to our incredible parents and carers who are so supportive of the school and work hand in hand with school to support their children to excel here at Higham Lane School.

Best wishes

Michael Gannon
Headteacher