



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I'm delighted to welcome our incredible students back to Higham Lane School for what has already been a brilliant first week. It's wonderful to see the school buzzing with energy again! I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members, who have already made such a positive first impression.

A Focus on Our Community

Our staff began the new term with two days of top-tier professional development. On Monday, our new Deputy Headteacher, Mrs. Bissett, led a fantastic session on supporting our most vulnerable students. As research shows, strategies that work for those who need the most support benefits everyone. On Tuesday, we welcomed Paul Dix, a leading author in trauma-informed education and the author of "When the Adults Change, Everything Changes." This training was a crucial follow-up to the work we began last year with our educational psychologists and was focused on helping our students who have experienced adverse childhood experiences. This ongoing commitment ensures our staff is equipped to provide the best possible support to every student.



Year 7 - First Week

We are delighted with the wonderful start that our new Year 7 students have made during their first week at Higham Lane School. Transitioning to secondary school is an exciting milestone, and your children have settled quickly into new routines, engaged positively with their lessons, and have consistently demonstrated our Higham Lane Learner Values of work hard, be kind and take responsibility.

Please be aware that from Monday 8th September, year 7 students will no longer access school via Shanklin Drive and will use Higham Lane or Brookdale Road entrances. Students can access the school from 8:15am and are expected to arrive no later than 8:35am. The school day finishes at 3:15pm, please can we ask parents/carers that are collecting their children in vehicles to arrange to meet them a short walk away to reduce traffic around the school site.



Celebrating Our Exam Results

The summer was filled with outstanding achievements! On Thursday, August 15th, our Year 13 students collected their A-Level results, and we are thrilled to report they are the best A-Level results the school has ever achieved. Our Sixth Form is the highest-performing in Nuneaton and Bedworth and one of the best in Warwickshire. We also welcomed a record 179 new students into Year 12, an incredible testament to the demand for our exceptional Sixth Form. It was a pleasure to meet them all on Wednesday and welcome them to our amazing school.

A week later, on Thursday, August 22nd, our Year 11 students celebrated their fantastic GCSE results. We were particularly pleased to see that a quarter of all grades in English and Maths were the top grades of 7, 8, or 9. I am immensely proud of the hard work and dedication of all our Year 11 and Year 13 students and the way they personified working hard, being kind and taking responsibility—you absolutely smashed it!

These results, combined with our maintained Ofsted Outstanding judgement—making us the only school in Nuneaton and Bedworth with this rating—showcase the unwavering commitment to excellence from our entire community. Clear Expectations for All



This week, we held assemblies to reiterate our high expectations and our praise and behaviour policies. I am delighted to say that student behaviour this week has been exemplary and they really have aimed to be the best that they can be. We have already issued hundreds of House Points for Working Hard, Being Kind and Taking Responsibility. Well done to everyone and students will be able to trade their hard-earned House Points for real rewards at our Praise Kiosk.

A few important reminders regarding safety and conduct:

Bicycles and Scooters: If your child cycles or uses a scooter to school, they must sign a bicycle agreement and, crucially, wear a helmet. Forms are available from student services. Please, for their safety, do not allow them to come to school without a helmet. Research shows that helmets can save lives. Also, please note that e-scooters are strictly prohibited as it is illegal to ride them on a public highway.

Weather and Attire: Following the extensive rain we had on Thursday, please ensure your child comes to school with an appropriate coat or umbrella. As we move into autumn, the weather will become colder and wetter.

Parking: For the safety of our students, please do not park on the zigzag lines outside the school. We kindly ask that you park a little further away and allow your child to walk the final part of their journey. This reduces traffic congestion outside the gates, which can be both frustrating for local residents and dangerous for our students. Please always drive safely and considerately in the local area.

Key Dates for Year 11

This is a pivotal year for our Year 11 students. We have two key events coming up:

Year 11 Parents' Information Evening: Tuesday 9th September, at 5:30 pm. This evening is designed to give you everything you need to support your child's GCSE success! I will provide a brief welcome before heading to a governors' meeting, but our subject leaders for English, Maths, French, and Science along with key senior staff, will share key strategies for success. Additionally, you can drop in between 5:00–5:30 PM and 6:30–6:50 PM to speak with our learning mentor for study and revision advice. Year 12 students will also be on hand to share their Year 11 experiences. Please park on the school playground at the rear of the building, accessible via the main entrance on Shanklin Drive. We thank you in advance for your attendance at this crucial information evening.

Year 11 Trial Exams: October 13th to October 23rd. These exams are essential. It's vital that students prepare for them with a structured revision plan. Research shows that successful revision includes having a quiet space at home, free from distractions like phones or tablets, and taking regular, short breaks. Students should focus their efforts on the subjects and topics where they feel less confident.

School Upgrades

We are committed to providing the best possible environment for our students. We've begun a comprehensive program of painting and decorating to make the school brighter and cleaner and extensive gardening work has taken place. We are also delighted to have been successful in a bid for a very large sum of money to replace many of the old original 1939 single pane windows. We hope this will make the school more comfortable, safer, warmer and more eco-friendly as we go into the autumn and winter. We have also appointed a new catering company, and we hope we will see an even quality of food for a students to enjoy and to refuel for learning in the afternoon! A healthy diet is vital for a student's ability to focus and learn.

Our latest investment in outdoor table football tables has been a huge hit with the students, providing them with more to do during breaks. We are also exploring options for more covered areas on the playground so students can stay comfortable and dry on wet days.



Thank you to you, our amazing parents and carers

Thank you, as always, for your unwavering support of me and our school. Have a wonderful and relaxing weekend after a fantastic first week back.

#WorkHard #BeKind #TakeResponsibility

Best wishes,

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

Michael Gannon
Headteacher