



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to write to you at the end of our first week back following the summer holidays. I can honestly say that it has been a fabulous first week at Higham Lane School.

The behaviour, attitudes to learning and overall conduct of our students have been phenomenal. There has been such a positive atmosphere around the school, and it has been a real pleasure to see students returning with such enthusiasm, purpose and determination. I would like to thank all of you for the part you have played in making such a successful start possible.

Our Year 7, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students joined us on Thursday, and it was wonderful to welcome them into school. Our new Year 7 students, our newest members of our school community, have settled in exceptionally well; they have spent time learning all about the Higham Lane School Character Curriculum and what it means to be part of our school community. They have now begun attending their first secondary school lessons and have made a tremendously positive start. I was particularly delighted to look at our data and see that, by the end of their very first day, every single Year 7 student had already received at least one House Point for demonstrating one of our three core values: Work Hard • Be Kind • Take Responsibility. What a fantastic achievement for our newest members of the Higham Lane family!

Our Year 11 students began their return with an extended tutor session, followed by an assembly designed to help prepare them for what will undoubtedly be one of the most important years of their education. With their GCSE examinations taking place later this academic year, we have been very clear about the importance of establishing excellent habits, maintaining high standards and making the most of every lesson from the very beginning.



It has also been fantastic to welcome back our returning Year 13 students, alongside our new Year 12 students. Our Sixth Form continues to go from strength to strength, and we are extremely proud of the ambitious and aspirational culture that exists among our students. **Our A-level results this summer were the best in the history of Higham Lane School. We are extremely proud of our students and staff, and these results are likely to place us among the top-performing schools in Warwickshire once again. An impressive 36.3% of all A-level grades were awarded at A* or A**, while 62% of grades were A*, A or B.** We were also delighted to see so many of our Sixth Form students progress to study at some of the very best universities in the country. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects the hard work, resilience and determination of our students, alongside the dedication of our staff. Our Sixth Form continues to grow from strength to strength. This year, we received more than 650 applications for just 150 places!

This level of demand demonstrates just how highly regarded our Sixth Form has become. However, I would like to reassure all current Higham Lane Year 11 students that they are guaranteed a place in our Sixth Form provided that they meet the published entry requirements. Our Year 12 and 13 students have made an amazing start to the year and we look forward to another successful in what is the 10th anniversary of the Higham Lane School Sixth Form!



Our GCSE results were equally impressive, with another fantastic set of outcomes for our students. These results are expected to place Higham Lane School among the highest-performing schools in the locality once again. These results are something for our whole school community to be incredibly proud of. Our Y8, 9 and 10 students joined us today (Friday) and have been equally brilliant. They have all attended an assembly today and got straight back into learning!

Schools across the UK are currently experiencing unprecedented challenges, with many struggling to recruit and retain teachers and, consequently, operating below their full staffing capacity. We are extremely fortunate at Higham Lane School to have once again started the academic year fully staffed. We do not appear to be experiencing the same difficulties that many schools are currently facing, and this is testament to the reputation that Higham Lane has developed as an excellent place to work and learn. We are also extremely fortunate to remain oversubscribed in Year 7, with a significant waiting list. This continued demand is another reflection of the confidence that families have in our school. We never take this support for granted, and we remain committed to providing the very best possible education for every student.

From Monday, Year 7 students will no longer be able to enter school via the Shanklin gate. They should instead enter via either the Brookdale gate or the Higham Lane gate. Thank you for your support in ensuring that students arrive through the correct entrance.

The Government has announced that children under the age of 16 will be banned from buying high-caffeine energy drinks in England from April. We strongly recommend that parents and carers do not allow their children to consume high-caffeine energy drinks. These drinks are also prohibited in school, so please do not send your child to school with them. We believe that students learn best when they are properly rested, hydrated and fuelled, and we appreciate your support with this.

The Government is also due to introduce measures relating to children's access to social media, following the introduction of restrictions in Australia. Whatever the precise details and timescale of future legislation, our message to parents and carers is clear: please ensure that you are using the parental controls available on your child's devices and that you regularly check their phone and online activity to ensure that they are safe. Online safety is an increasingly important part of safeguarding our young people, and this is an area where school and home need to work together.

Our new Year 7 students have been required from their very first day to hand their mobile phones in at the start of the school day. These phones are securely collected and then handed back to students at the end of the day. For all other year groups (Y8-11), students have been reminded that mobile phones must not be on their person during the school day. They must be switched off and kept in their bags. We have explained to students that, once we have ironed out any teething issues associated with the daily collection process for Year 7, we will look to roll this approach out to other year groups. Sixth Form students can use their devices whilst in the Sixth Form Centre but not in the main building or in the outside areas around the school including the field and the pathways near to the main school building. We have also made students aware that the school will conduct random searches of classes, without students being given advance notice. Where appropriate, students may be searched to ensure that they are not carrying a mobile phone in places such as trainer pockets or jacket pockets and that phones are switched off and securely stored in bags and to ensure that no students are in possession of any other prohibited or dangerous items to do all we can to ensure our whole school community is safe.

Please remember that if a mobile phone is confiscated, it will not be returned directly to the student. A parent or carer will be required to come into school to collect the device. Thank you for supporting us in creating an environment where students can focus fully on their learning without the distraction of mobile phones.



Higham Lane School has grown exponentially since its inauguration in 1939. However, the roads surrounding our school have obviously not grown at the same rate, and they can become extremely busy at the start and end of the school day. We would therefore ask all parents and carers to park considerately when dropping off or collecting children. Please think carefully about where you park and, in particular, whether your vehicle could make the road more dangerous for students who are crossing to get home. We are very fortunate to have a supportive local community around our school, and we want to ensure that we continue to be considerate neighbours.

We have also spoken to all students about the importance of excellent attendance. Our school target is for every student to achieve at least 97% attendance. This figure has not been chosen arbitrarily. Both national data and our own Higham Lane School data demonstrate a very clear relationship between attendance and academic outcomes. Students whose attendance is 97% or above are significantly more likely to achieve excellent academic results, while as attendance falls, outcomes decline correspondingly. Every lesson matters. Every day matters. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and consistently, unless they are genuinely unwell.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our parents and carers for your omnipresent support. The fantastic start that we have made this year does not happen by accident. It is the result of students, staff, parents and carers all working together and sharing the same high expectations. Thank you for ensuring that your child arrives at school on time, correctly dressed in the full school uniform and equipped with everything they need for the school day. These seemingly small things make a huge difference to a student's readiness to learn. I am incredibly proud of the way our students have returned this week. The behaviour has been phenomenal, attitudes to learning have been exceptional, and there is a real sense of excitement and ambition across the school.

It has been a fabulous first week, and I am hugely excited about what we can achieve together this academic year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Higham Lane School.

Best wishes,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School



Key Dates:

Monday 7th September School Photos Y7-10 & Y12

Tuesday 8th September Year 11 Information evening - 5:30-6:30pm

Wednesday 16th September Year 12 Information Evening & Work Experience Launch

Tuesday 29th September Year 10 Information Evening (including Work Experience Launch) - 5:30-6:15pm

KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

PLEASE PARK RESPONSIBLY NEAR SCHOOL



As parents, carers and visitors, we all play a part in keeping children safe when arriving at and leaving school.

PLEASE DO NOT:



PARK ON SCHOOL ZIG-ZAG MARKINGS

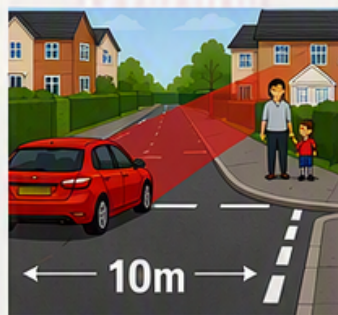


These markings are there to keep sight lines clear for children crossing the road.

Stopping or parking on zig-zags is an offence and may result in enforcement action.



PARK TOO CLOSE TO JUNCTIONS



Parking near junctions can obstruct visibility for drivers, pedestrians and children crossing the road. The Highway Code advises motorists not to park within **10 metres (32 feet)** of a junction unless in an authorised parking space.



BLOCK DRIVEWAYS OR DROPPED KERBS



Residents need access to their homes and driveways at all times. Blocking driveways can prevent emergency access and cause frustration within the local community.



DOUBLE PARK OR STOP IN THE ROAD



This creates unnecessary congestion and increases the risk to children crossing between vehicles.

PLEASE DO:



Use designated parking areas where available.



Consider parking a little further away and walking the final part of your journey.



Allow extra time for drop-off and collection.



Be considerate of local residents and other road users.



Think: "Would I be happy if someone parked like this outside my home?"



PARKING OFFENCES



Obstruction of the Highway
Parking in a way that prevents the free passage of other road users may amount to an obstruction. This includes pavements and blocking access to driveways.



Dangerous Parking
Under Section 22 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, it is an offence to leave a vehicle in a position or circumstance that creates a danger to other road users.



Offenders may face a Fixed Penalty Notice of **£100 fine and 3 penalty points.**



KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

- ✓ Keep School Zig-Zags Clear
- ✓ Do Not Park Within 10 Metres Of Junctions
- ✓ Do Not Block Driveways Or Dropped Kerbs
- ✓ Park Considerately And Respect Local Residents



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP SAFER

A few extra minutes' walk can make a huge difference to the safety of our children and the local community. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



Nuneaton East SNT
Working together to keep our community safe



WARWICKSHIRE POLICE