

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half-term, I would like to reflect on what has been a wonderful first half-term back after the summer holidays. It has been fantastic to see our students return with such enthusiasm, embrace new opportunities and continue to work hard across all areas of school life. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Celebrating our school community

Things certainly got spooky at our Key Stage 3 Halloween Disco on Tuesday evening! Thank you to everyone who attended and to the staff who generously gave their time to organise and support the event. It was wonderful to see our students enjoying themselves and making happy memories together. School is so much mor than just lessons and grades and it is crucial that our young people have the chance to have fun and make lifelong friendships.

Thank you also to all the staff, parents, carers and students who attended our Year 13 Student Progress Evening last night. The evening was a great success despite SchoolCloud, our online booking system, being unavailable for much of the day due to a global internet issue. We really appreciate everyone's patience and understanding.

Yesterday, our students and staff also enjoyed a theatre trip. Thank you to everyone involved in organising and supporting the visit. We hope it was both enjoyable and valuable in enriching our students' understanding and supporting their GCSE Drama studies.

Please see our Autumn Term newsletter which highlights our outstanding progress across our wider school community.

Staff Development

Today is a staff training day, providing an important opportunity for colleagues to reflect, collaborate and develop their professional practice. We are incredibly fortunate to have such an experienced and talented staff body at Higham Lane School. While we are proud to have achieved the highest Ofsted grading in every area, we must never become complacent. Our ambition is always to improve further and ensure that every student receives the very best education and support possible.

Today's training will allow colleagues to share expertise, strengthen their skills and explore ways to improve teaching, learning and pastoral care. By investing in our staff, we are investing in our students and their futures.

We also say goodbye to Mr Emery today who has worked at HLS for many years and has expertly supported countless students over the years in his pastoral role. We wish him well in his new career path.

Keeping our school safe

Recent reports by the BBC of a teenage boy found guilty of attempting to murder a 15-year-old girl by stabbing her at a school in Norwich are deeply concerning and highlight the importance of robust safeguarding measures.

At Higham Lane School, the safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority. We will continue to conduct random screening of students each morning and reserve the right to search students where we have reason to believe they may be carrying prohibited items, including weapons. Please be aware that schools have legal powers to search students in certain circumstances without consent from the student or their parent or carer. These powers are subject to specific legal requirements and will be exercised appropriately and responsibly. We want every student to feel safe, supported and ready to learn each day. Thank you for your continued support as we take all reasonable steps to maintain a safe environment for our entire school community.

Safeguarding arrangements during half term

While the school is closed, our commitment to the safety and well-being of our pupils remains our highest priority. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have concerns about the safety, welfare, or well-being of any child or young person over the break, please do not hesitate to act.

Below is a list of services and contact numbers available to support you and keep children safe during the holidays:

Immediate Risk or Danger

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, contact the Police straight away by calling 999.

Reporting Safeguarding Concerns in Warwickshire

To report concerns about abuse, neglect, or cruelty, you can contact Warwickshire Children and Families Family Connect (incorporating the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub - MASH):

- Phone: 01926 414144
- Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday (8:30am - 5:30pm), Friday (8:30am - 5:00pm)
- Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team: 01926 886922 (for evenings, weekends, and bank holidays)

Mental Health & Crisis Support for Young People

If a young person is experiencing a mental health crisis, you can access the local RISE Crisis Team:

- Phone (8:00am – 8:00pm): 02476 641799
- Phone (8:00pm – 8:00am): 02476 932800
- The Samaritans: Call free anytime on 116 123

General Family Advice and Information

The Warwickshire Family Information Service (FIS) provides general support, guidance, and resources for families:

- Phone: 0800 4081558
- Email: fis@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Websites: Warwickshire Children and Families | Warwickshire Cyber Safety

Looking ahead to next half-term

A reminder that school reopens on Monday 2 November. We will have an extended tutor time that morning to help students settle back into routines and prepare positively for the half-term ahead.

There are several important events coming up:

- **Year 11 practice interviews:** Taking place in Chine Hall throughout the first week back, these will help students develop their confidence and prepare for their next steps beyond GCSEs.

- **Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 5 November, 5.30pm–7.30pm:** We look forward to welcoming current Year 11 students and their families who are considering joining our fantastic Sixth Form. We are delighted that our Sixth Form students have once again achieved the highest A-level grades among our local schools. Our Sixth Form is significantly oversubscribed, but priority is given to students currently attending Higham Lane School. The majority of places go to our own Year 11 students, and any current Year 11 student who meets the minimum entry requirements is guaranteed a place.

- **Year 11 Road Safety Workshops – Friday 6 November:** These sessions will help students develop their awareness of road safety and make informed, responsible decisions as they become increasingly independent.

Wishing you a happy half-term

Finally, thank you to our students, staff, parents and carers for everything you contribute to making Higham Lane School such a special community. Our success depends on the positive relationships we build and the shared commitment we have to helping every young person achieve their potential.

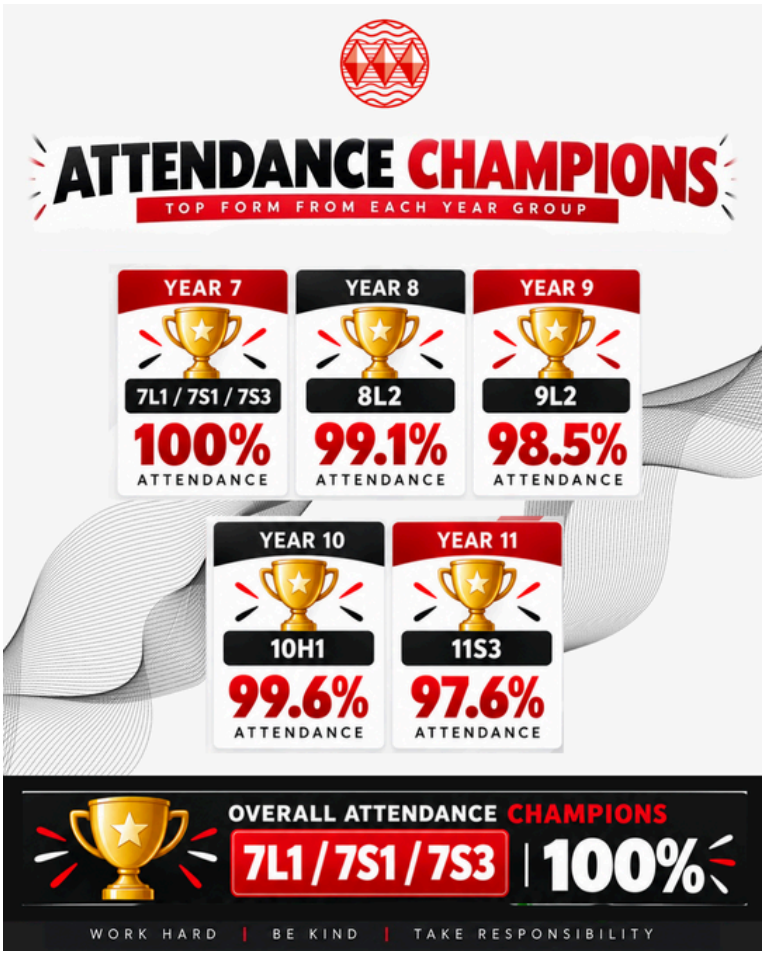
I hope you and your families enjoy a restful, happy, and well-deserved half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2 November, refreshed and ready for another successful half-term.

Best wishes,





Michael Gannon
Headteacher



Support 4 Learning Successes
at Higham Lane School

Issue: Autumn 1 - 2026

Welcome from the Support 4 Learning Team

Welcome to the latest edition of Support 4 Learning Successes! At Higham Lane School, we are deeply committed to nurturing the potential of every student. This newsletter highlights the outstanding progress, creative achievements, and dedicated support initiatives taking place across our department and wider school community.

Intervention Update:

ASDAN:

We are very proud to announce that we have become an ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) accredited school! ASDAN courses are for learners whose strengths are in practical, portfolio-based skill-building over traditional exams. Higham Lane School specialises in the Personal Development Programme. We will be helping our students achieve their bronze, silver or gold qualification this year.

EPATT:

We will be introducing our new literacy intervention programme that is free to schools in Warwickshire provided by the Educational Psychologist service so this will be a very exciting! The EPATT is an online assessment and monitoring tool which includes a daily 14-minute intervention which concentrates on improving reading skills and the enjoyment of reading. It can be delivered individually or in a group.



ELSA:

This half term in ELSA groups we have been making Positive Pumpkins using card and glue. Each student wrote down something that they are grateful for or a positive message to themselves. We have also focused on a football theme by creating our team of players, our goals, and man of the match!

Relax Kids:

In Relax Kids, Natasha has been working her magic! The students are really starting to notice how much better they feel in themselves and report that they are sleeping much better and their anxiety has reduced.

ADHD Group:

In the ADHD group we focused on relaxation and square breathing. The boys visualised switching off muscles in their bodies like a light switch. It was a great achievement to see some large characters in school use these techniques and comment on how wonderful they felt afterwards.

What's next for Autumn 2?

In Autumn 2 we will be welcoming some of our more vulnerable Year 7 students into interventions. After a term of monitoring them, we can use this time to identify area of need and put into the right intervention. Our focus will be on mindfulness, emotional regulation and lots of Christmas themed crafts!

On our return to school after half term, first week's focus will be on "I am a firework" where we look at what lights our fuse, and causes us to explode and potentially hurt others. This will involve paints and educational psychologists recommended activities.