

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an incredibly difficult time here at Higham Lane School, but I have been immensely proud of the way in which our school community has pulled together during this period of grief. The kindness, compassion and support shown by our students and staff have been truly heartwarming. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the family at this incredibly difficult time.

Charlie appointed Young High Sheriff of Warwickshire



On Monday evening, a small number of our students and staff attended a prestigious event alongside the Mayor, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the High Sheriff of Warwickshire and a number of other distinguished guests.

We were absolutely delighted to see Charlie, from Year 10, appointed as the Young High Sheriff of Warwickshire for the next 12 months. This is an incredibly prestigious appointment and a wonderful achievement. Charlie will undertake a variety of duties and represent young people at a wide range of events and functions across Warwickshire. I have no doubt that he will be a fantastic ambassador for both Higham Lane School and the wider community. Congratulations, Charlie!

Remembrance Service

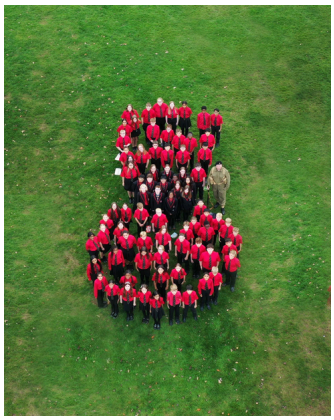
It is incredibly important to me as Headteacher that we teach the young people in our care about the extraordinary sacrifices made by previous generations, who gave their today for our tomorrow.

On Wednesday, it was a real privilege to lead our whole-school Remembrance Service, alongside our Head Students, for over 1,500 students and almost 200 members of staff. I was immensely proud of the way in which our students observed the service with such dignity, respect and impeccable behaviour. A special thank you goes to our visitor, Cameron, who played the Last Post live on a bugle as part of the service. It was a particularly moving moment.



I would also like to thank Jim Goldstraw, a former Higham Lane School teacher, who returned to school to deliver some fascinating and interactive assemblies to our Year 7 students. Jim brought with him genuine First and Second World War memorabilia, including a First World War uniform worn by his own grandfather during battle. This provided our students with a unique opportunity to connect with history and understand the sacrifices made by previous generations.







Anti-Bullying Week – Monday 16th November



Next week is Anti-Bullying Week, and we will be supporting the national campaign by inviting students to wear odd socks on Monday 16th November.

At Higham Lane School, we take bullying extremely seriously. Every student has the right to feel safe, respected and valued, and we will always take concerns seriously and act upon them. Whilst cases of bullying are rare here, it exists in every school and we cannot be complacent. There are several ways in which students can report concerns or seek support:



- Emailing our HLS_Help@highamlaneschool.co.uk address
- Placing a written note in the box situated by the Attendance Hub.
- Speaking directly to any trusted adult in school.

Please do encourage your child to speak up if they are experiencing bullying or are worried about someone else. We are here to listen and help. We have a range of experienced and highly skilled staff on hand to help including a fully trained counsellor, pastoral staff, safeguarding staff, a trained coach, a learning mentor, staff who support with attendance, a specialist Y7 transition coordinator and we even have a Reintegration Unit with staff trained to help get students back into school following absence, amongst others who can support students who need that bit of extra help. Our school motto is work hard, be kind and take responsibility. We expect all students to be kind to others and take responsibility for their actions so please discuss these core values with your child.

Celebrating our ELSA provision as part of our SEND provision

Higham Lane School was delighted to host one of the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training sessions this week. We welcomed around 20 ELSA practitioners from across Warwickshire, who visited to learn more about our fantastic provision within The Hub.

The feedback from our own students about their ELSA sessions has been brilliant, and visiting practitioners were particularly impressed by the quality of our provision, commenting that it goes above and beyond expectations.

We are now beginning to develop opportunities to collaborate with other local schools so that we can share our excellent practice and continue to support the emotional wellbeing of young people across our community.



Looking ahead – opportunities and events

- Good luck to our A Level Law students who are representing Higham Lane School at the Bar Mock Trial at Leicester Crown Court tomorrow. This is a fantastic opportunity to experience the legal system and develop their advocacy skills.
- We also wish everyone involved in the CEAT Christmas Choir the very best of luck for next week. We are looking forward to hearing about their experiences.
- Finally, thank you in advance to our Year 12 and Year 13 French students who will be working with Warwick University Language Ambassadors next week. These opportunities provide valuable experiences beyond the classroom and help to broaden our students' horizons.

Cold weather reminder

As a reminder, we are now in the Cold-Health Alert season, which runs from 1st November until 1st April 2027. The Met Office has issued its first Yellow Cold-Health Alert of the season for the West Midlands, effective from 9.00am on Thursday 12th November until 12.00pm on Saturday 14th November 2026. Please ensure that your child comes to school suitably dressed for the weather. In particular, students should have:

- Appropriate waterproof leather shoes, in line with our school dress code.
- A warm, black waterproof coat for wet and cold weather.
- A small umbrella in their school bag, which may also be useful.

Please see https://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/information-uniform for further details. Thank you for your support in ensuring that students are comfortable and appropriately dressed throughout the winter months.

Dates for your diaries

Wednesday 18th November – Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations commence
Friday 20th November – Non-uniform Day – World Children's Day
Wednesday 25th November – Year 11 photographs – whole year group and individuals
Thursday 26th November – Year 11 photographs – forms and sports teams
Thursday 26th November – Year 11 Student Progress Evening (online) 3pm until 7pm. Please note that the school will be on SPE timings.
Monday 30th November – Staff Training Day – school closed to all students in all year groups

A final message

As always, thank you for your continued support of Higham Lane School. I am incredibly proud of our students and staff and of the way in which our school community continues to demonstrate kindness, resilience, ambition and a commitment to one another.
I hope everyone has a restful weekend, and I look forward to another positive week ahead.

Best wishes



Michael Gannon – Headteacher



Healthy Futures
Compass

join us for

Parenting On Tap

Health and Wellbeing Information Sessions to Support Your Child

Vaping Awareness

Session for Warwickshire Parents and Carers

Are you confused about vaping, or want to know more about the risks and how to talk to your child about it?

Join our Parenting on Tap session and hear from health and wellbeing professionals about the facts around vaping, current trends, and practical ways to talk to your child about vaping.

This free and relaxed session is informal and open to all parents and carers in Warwickshire.

Session Details

WEDNESDAY
18th
NOVEMBER 2026

7pm-8pm

Fossato Lounge
1Abbey End,
Kenilworth, CV8 1QH

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