

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Express



Issue 43

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## Welcome to our Christmas Cracker!

DEAR Parents/Carers/Students,  
In this cracker of a 36-page HLS Express festive edition I know you will enjoy reading about our very own 'Golden Girl' — Miss Charles — the School's Armistice Centenary commemorations, Christmas Carol Service, Anti-Bullying Week balloon

release, Higham's Got Talent, open evenings, excellent GCSE and A-level results, continued success by our sporting students, plus much, much more!  
We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

PHIL KELLY, Headteacher

# GOOD AS GOLD!

Inspirational Miss Charles receives top UK award!



• GOLDEN GIRL! Miss Charles receives her Gold Plato at the Pearson Teaching Awards ceremony.

IT'S OFFICIAL! Higham Lane is home to the best secondary school teacher in the country!

Romayne Charles, Subject Leader for Modern Ethics and Social Sciences, was presented with a prestigious Gold Plato at the 2018 Pearson Teaching Awards ceremony, held in London on Sunday, October 21.

However, she was informed about the award a week previously, but had to keep it a huge secret from her family, including dad, Andrew, and brother, Richard, who

accompanied her to the event, held at 'The Brewery'.

When her name was read out it came as a complete surprise to them, and they were both overcome with emotion and pride.

Miss Charles' inspirational work, in and out of the classroom, led to the accolade, but she says her own inspiration came from teachers who inspired her during her time as a student at Alderman Smith School in Nuneaton.

"I remember I had some brilliant teachers

at Alderman Smith, they went above and beyond for me, Miss Crampion and Kirsty Robinson, and I remember thinking 'I want to be like them'.

"My mum and dad also instilled in us how important an education is, my dad taught me to read before I went to school. They always went above and beyond too."

The road to Gold began earlier this year when, following nominations from Higham Lane students and an endorsement by Headteacher, Phil Kelly, Miss Charles

Turn to P2



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● **AMAZING!** Colleagues Mrs Lynch and Miss Hemmings are overjoyed upon hearing the 'golden' news.



● **LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!** The BBC film crew record Miss Charles' reaction to the announcement.

**From P1**

received a Silver Pearson Teaching Award in the 'Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School' category. She picked up her trophy at a celebratory tea held at the House of Commons in July.

As in recent years, the BBC covered the 2018 awards and a news crew was subsequently dispatched to spend the day in school where Miss Charles was interviewed and recorded at work in the classroom. They also questioned students and colleagues as to what makes her such an inspirational teacher.

Along with other Silver award recipients from around the country, Miss Charles was invited to Pearson's glitzy UK awards ceremony, where she would be vying for Gold in her particular 10-strong category.

A few days prior to the event, the BBC contacted the School again and asked if they could return to carry out more filming. Mr Kelly, was let into the secret that Miss Charles was going to receive the Gold award, and they were coming to film her reaction upon hearing the news from a famous celebrity.

The stage was set! Miss Charles was teaching her 9S3 tutor group in ME3, with colleagues from the Modern Ethics and Social Sciences departments also in

attendance. A knock on the door was followed by an entrance into the room of pop star, Carol Decker, lead singer with T'Pau, who enjoyed a massive No. 1 hit with the single 'China In Your Hand'. She had been specially invited along by the BBC to make the announcement.

Miss Charles' mouth hit the ground when she saw the vocalist enter the room brandishing the Gold Plato, and the students and fellow teachers erupted in joy upon the realisation that she had been awarded the title 'Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School'.

Everyone was sworn to secrecy for the next few days prior to the official announcement at the 20th Pearson Teaching Awards, which were set up by Lord Puttnam CBE to celebrate outstanding teachers and teaching across the UK.

A humble, but delighted, Miss Charles, commented: "This award is testament to what a fantastic school Higham Lane is. I feel privileged to work with such highly-skilled, dedicated and supportive colleagues.

"In addition to this, I enjoy being in the classroom with the students who make every day of my job exciting and rewarding.

"I would like to take this opportunity to

thank the students, in particular those who nominated me, or were interviewed by the judging panel. Although the award is an incredible honour that I feel extremely lucky to receive, hearing the kind words of students has actually been the most rewarding part of the process as often, when teaching, you do not realise you are making a difference.

"To anyone who is considering a career in teaching, go for it! There is no better profession!"

Mr Kelly — who also attended the awards ceremony in London, hosted by BBC presenters Anita Rani and Sean Fletcher — was full of praise from his 'one in a million' teacher, saying: "She is so modest and unassuming and is a team player, but she is also an enthusiastic, inspiring teacher who has the highest expectations and engages warmly with staff, students and parents. This award is thoroughly deserved and we are all so proud of her."

Not surprisingly, Miss Charles' achievement received significant publicity, both locally and nationally, including an hour-long TV programme 'Britain's Classroom Heroes', screened on BBC2, which showcased this year's Pearson Teaching Award category winners.



● **CONGRATULATIONS!** Members of 9S3 gather round Miss Charles after receiving her Gold award from T'Pau's Carol Decker.

• **INSPIRATIONAL!** Pop star, Carol Decker, and Headteacher, Mr Kelly, congratulate Miss Charles on receiving the accolade 'Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School'.



# Royal Albert Hall date for Saskia!

**DANCING** queen Saskia (8H2) is over the moon after securing a place in a top London show!

The Higham Lane student has successfully auditioned to take part in a performance at the Royal Albert Hall in May next year.

Around 45 youngsters from her troupe — Dance Kraze — will be joining her at the London show, along with other dance schools from across the UK.

Saskia has been dancing at Nuneaton's Dance Kraze studio for around six years and enjoys tap, jazz and ballet, with tap being her particular favourite.

She undertakes examinations twice yearly and is currently working towards her Grade 2 in ballet.

Higham Lane School wishes Saskia and her fellow Dance Kraze performers all the very best for their performance at the Royal Albert Hall, where they will be dancing 'jazz style' to the tune 'Rhythm of the Night'.

• **TWINKLE TOES!** Saskia is looking forward to performing with the Dance Kraze troupe at London's Royal Albert Hall.



# We will remember them!



THIS year, Higham Lane School joined the rest of our nation in saluting the Armistice Centenary – the 100th anniversary of the end of hostilities in World War One.

The Armistice Day commemorations fell on a Sunday, which resulted in the School paying its heart-felt respects to the country's fallen and injured two days in advance.

At the 11th hour, of the 9th day, of the 11th month, a hush fell over the playground as a trumpet signalled the start of two minutes' silence in honour of the heroic service men and women who have laid down their lives for our great country over the past 100 years.

Prior to the ceremony, more than 1,400 students gathered around the playground perimeter, where they stood in their seven year groups. The students, and staff, were joined by three musicians — a trumpet player from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Sean Doughty — and two accompanying drummers, Year 11 students Bailey and Joe.

At 10.55am, the drummers made their call and the first reading was undertaken, while the blowing of a whistle signalled the start of two minutes' silence at the stroke of 11 o'clock.

An invisible cloak of quietness enveloped the playground as everyone bowed their heads in remembrance of the gallant soldiers, sailors and airmen who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, or been injured in conflicts, since 1918.

Another whistle was blown to signify the end of the silence prior to the Bedworth-born trumpeter playing the 'Last Post', which eerily resonated around the hushed playground. A second reading followed, bringing the moving ceremony to a close.

The School's Armistice Centenary commemorations were organised by Jim Goldstraw, a member of the School's History Department, which has ensured that students — and staff — were made



• 'LAST POST' — Guest trumpet player, Sean Doughty.



• **LEST WE FORGET!** Organiser of Higham Lane School's Armistice Centenary commemorations, Jim Goldstraw (left) with trumpet player Sean Doughty and Year 11 drummers Bailey and Joe.

aware of the significant milestone in world history.

A former soldier turned teacher, Mr Goldstraw arranged for special 100-year Armistice Centenary commemorative badges to be sold in School and also held lunchtime sales to students of poppy-branded equipment, such as rulers and pencils.

He also organised for each tutor group to produce their own special tributes to our fallen heroes which were collated into a Book of Remembrance, one of which was presented to the local branch of the Royal British Legion. In addition, a special 'Lest We Forget' mural has been created in the foyer of Chine Hall.

Mr Goldstraw commented: "This 100th anniversary is important as the First World War is now genuinely history and it needs to be passed on to the next generation of young people to keep the memory alive.

"The First World War was the start of the modern world as we know it — and remembrance is part looking back to show respect to all who died; and part looking forward to inspire our young people to make the most of their lives and make a difference."

In addition to Mr Goldstraw's efforts, Steph Gibbs, Assistant Subject Leader for History, screened a special presentation to Higham Lane School staff, which highlighted the sacrifices by military men during World War One, the

Armistice, and this year's Centenary commemorations.

Two days after the School's commemorations, on Remembrance Day itself, a poppy wreath was laid at the War Memorial in Riversley Park during Nuneaton's Remembrance Sunday Service — exactly 100 years since the end of World War One.

Representing the School was Headteacher, Mr Kelly, accompanied by Head Boy and Head Girl, Bethany and Sam, along with the Head of the Sixth Form Student Union, Jack.

The Higham Lane contingent joined other schools, organisations, businesses, members of the military and the general public in saluting our country's heroes for their bravery through the years.



• **DRUMMER BOYS** — Bailey and Joe.



• **EYE IN THE SKY!** A bird's eye view of Higham Lane School's Armistice Centenary commemorations.



• **HIGHAM LANE SCHOOL REMEMBERS!** The 'Lest We Forget' mural in Chine foyer.



• **WE SALUTE YOU!** Head of the Sixth Form Student Union, Jack, along with Head Girl and Head Boy, Bethany and Sam, laid a wreath on behalf of the School at Nuneaton's Remembrance Service.

AT THE end of this term, we say farewell to four colleagues. **Charmelle Longe** joined HLS in September 2017 and has made a good contribution to our English Department. Charmelle has also brought the DMU Gospel Choir (who recently appeared in Britain's Got Talent!) to HLS as part of staff well-being training and to open the Sixth Form Celebration Day. We wish her every success in her new position. **Amanda Johnson** joined HLS in September 2016 as a teacher of ICT and Computing and she has done an excellent job and achieved impressive results. Amanda has recently been teaching Maths for us. We thank Amanda for her enthusiastic contribution and wish her well in her new role, which will be much nearer to home. **Claire Hazlehurst** joined HLS in 2017 as a teacher of

## Farewells and hellos!

English and completed a successful NQT year. She is a very enthusiastic English teacher and supporter of school fundraising events. We wish her every happiness, particularly in her forthcoming nuptials, and in her future career. **Jason Smith** joined HLS in February 2015 as a Cover Supervisor. Jason's love of literature was noted and he began teaching English for us. We are particularly grateful for Jason's contribution to A-level English Literature teaching and inter-school debating. We wish Jason all the very best in his future

career and we know that he will particularly enjoy having increased time at home as a parent.

In these currently challenging times for teacher recruitment, we are delighted to have recruited replacements for all four departing colleagues. Next term we welcome back two colleagues who worked in our English Department a few years back and successfully completed their NQT years with us: **Jo Tutt** and **Laura Lewis**. We are also delighted to welcome a very experienced English teacher: **Emma Riley**. Finally, we are pleased that **Zahraa Mohammed** is joining us as a teacher of Maths. In February, **Natacha Finley** will return as Subject Leader for MFL following her maternity leave.

**MR KELLY, Headteacher**



## News from the Music Department

### Readers

Kyan  
Simon  
Brennan  
Robert  
Alex  
Sam  
Jess  
Alex  
Megan

### School Choir

Isabelle  
Danielle  
Grace  
Katie  
Eleanor  
Mankaran  
Lily  
Harleigh  
Rhea-Mai  
Niamh  
Olivia  
Bethan  
Phoebe  
Jaden  
Erin  
Maisie  
Saskia  
Violet

### School Orchestra

Scarlett  
Amy  
Tegan  
Maicie  
Megan  
Bethany  
Ellis  
Ruby  
Isabella  
Alice  
Rebecca  
Lily  
Milee  
Lucy  
Dominic  
Kyra  
Turaya  
Catherine

# Tuning-in to the Christmas spirit!

A FEAST of festive sounds resonated around St Nicolas Parish Church when Higham Lane School's annual Carol Service got Christmas off to a splendid start!

Musically-gifted students from across all year groups attracted a large congregation of family, friends and staff to the Nuneaton church, where they were entertained by the note-perfect School Choir and Orchestra.

Following a warm welcome to everyone from the Reverend Kelly Betteridge, the service opened with the carol 'Once In Royal David's City', angelic soloist Alice singing the first verse, followed by the reading of 'Is It That Time Again?' by Headteacher, Mr Kelly.

The congregation then raised the roof with 'Ding Dong Merrily on High', prior to Scarlett eloquently reciting a reading from the Gospel According to St Luke.

The School Choir was in excellent voice as the singers belted out 'Carol of the Bell' by Mykola Leontovych, prior to Head Boy, Sam, taking the lectern for the third reading of the night, 'Opportunity Knocks'.

Another carol, 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', then reverberated around the rafters, followed by Deputy Headteacher, Mr Banks, reading Matthew 2: vs 13-15, interspersed by students Simon and Alex acting out the script 'At This Time of Night', which led nicely into another all-time favourite carol, 'While Shepherds Watched'.

Standing in for a poorly Head Girl, Beth, Mrs Davenport then delivered the reading 'Mary's Musings' while an Address by the Rev Betteridge was following by the final reading of the service — 'That Shows Us the Way That God Loves' by six Year 7 students — Kyan, Jess, Megan, Brennan, Alex and Robert, and Head Boy, Sam.

Prayers and a Blessing by the Rev Betteridge was followed by a rousing rendition of 'O Come All Ye Faithful', which culminated a spirited service and left one-and-all filled with the true meaning of Christmas!

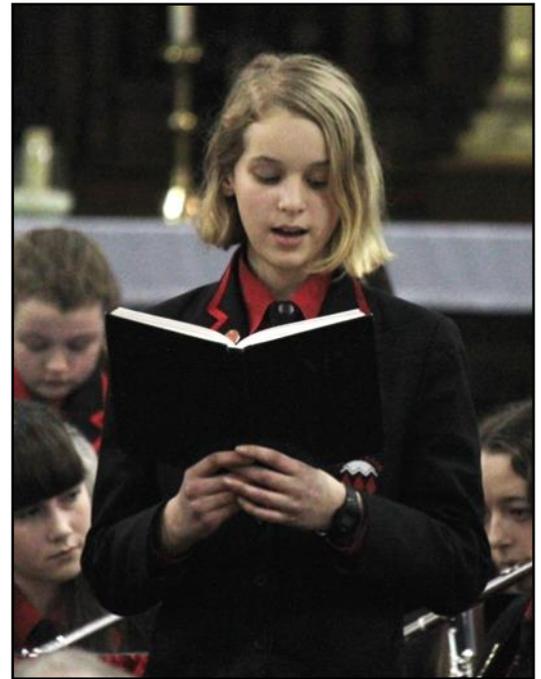
Afterwards, the congregation was able to sample delicious festive fare of mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine.

Organiser of the event, Mrs Davenport, commented: "Once again, it was a beautiful, moving evening which ignited the Christmas spirit in everyone's hearts.

"I would like to thank all involved, but particularly the students for their commitment to the Music Department, not only on the night, but also in attending the practice sessions during the year to provide such wonderful occasions for family and friends to share."

**MRS DAVENPORT, Subject Leader for Music**

• More photographs from the Carol Service, the Christmas Concert and Reg Hadden Court Concert, can be found on the HLS website and in the next edition of HLS Express!



• **ANGELIC VOICE!** Soloist Alice gets the Carol Service underway, singing the first verse of 'Once In Royal David's City'.

## Music exam successes

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Higham Lane School Music students have recently passed their Associated Board Examinations.

Grade 7		
Amy (11L2)	Clarinet	Merit
Grade 5		
Isabella (11L2)	Alto Sax	Pass
Megan (9S3)	Flute	Pass
Grade 3		
Simon (9H2)	Piano	Merit
Grade 2		
Afeeni (9S2)	Flute	Distinction
Annaliese (8S1)	Flute	Pass



## News from the Music Department

• FESTIVE TREAT! Higham Lane School's Orchestra, Choir and Readers got Christmas off to a cracking start at the Carol Service, held at St Nicolas Church, Nuneaton.





• **YUMMY!** Higham Lane School's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors held a bake sale which raised a tasty £247 for the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

# Balloon goes up on bullying!

HIGHAM Lane joined other schools from around the country to participate in the national 2018 Anti-Bullying Week, which took place from November 12-16, this year's theme being 'Choosing Respect'.

It has emerged that a top priority for teachers and young people is showing that bullying is a behaviour choice, and that students can set a positive example by opting to respect each other at school, in their homes and communities, and online.

Activities for the week, organised by the School's Student Leadership Co-ordinator, Miss Arshad, included the introduction of a new Anti-Bullying Charter, a copy of which is now being displayed in every classroom.

The whole school pledge says: 'At HLS we expect all students and staff in our school to treat each other with respect, care and kindness. We strongly believe it is important to build understanding and empathy towards others that goes beyond tolerance'.

In addition, an Anti-Bullying poster competition was also held, with students being asked to design a new poster inspired by the 'Choosing Respect' theme. The winning entry is being displayed around the School to help get the message across.

During break time on two days, the School's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors helped raise awareness by holding a bake sale of cakes and samosas to raise money for the Anti-Bullying

Alliance. The Alliance is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals who work together to reduce bullying and create safer environments in which young people can live and grow. The bake sale raised the mouth-watering sum of £247!

The climax to the week was a biodegradable balloon release, each balloon carrying an anti-bullying pledge adopted by individual tutor groups. Form member discussed the values that are important to them and collaboratively created a pledge which was written on a tag and attached to their balloon. On the reverse of each tag is a form asking the finder to contact the School and share their pledges on anti-bullying.

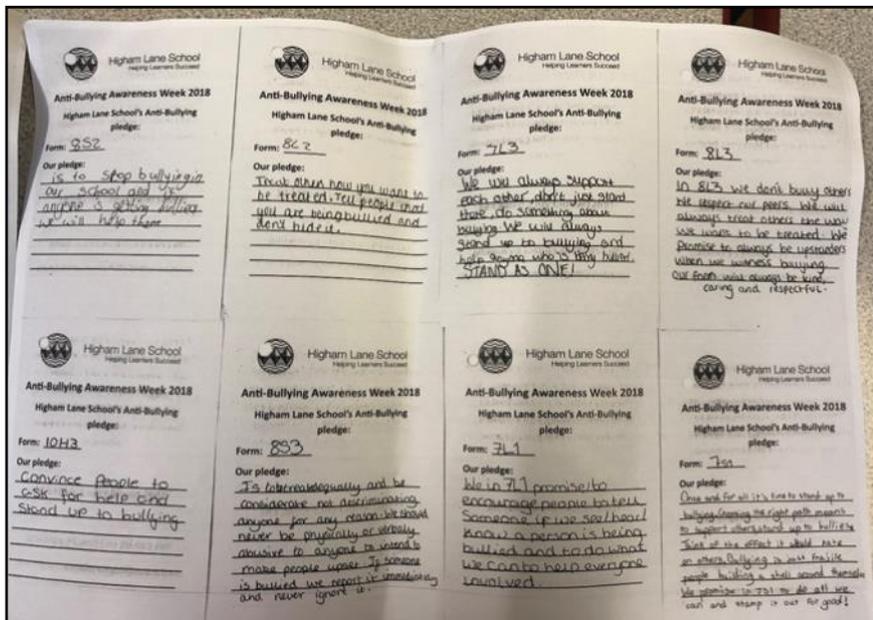
However, the event was in jeopardy when, upon arrival at school on the morning, the helium gas had proved faulty and all the balloons, inflated the previous evening, were lying on the floor!

What could have been a potential disaster was averted when the School's Data Manager, Lisa Bromage, telephoned her husband, Russell, to see if he could acquire a supply of helium in double-quick time from his business contacts. Not only did Mr Bromage manage to arrange for a new supply of helium, he also blew up all the balloons himself so the release could continue, albeit later than planned!

**MISS ARSHAD**  
Student Leadership Co-ordinator



• **SPREADING THE WORD ON ANTI-BULLYING!** Tutor group representatives collect their balloons.



● **GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS!** A selection of the pledges compiled by each form.



● **UP, UP AND AWAY!** The balloons, carrying anti-bullying messages, are released.

# Diana Award anti-bullying training

By KIM, 10H1

ON JULY 4, at King’s High School in Warwick, the basis of our Diana Award anti-bullying training was formed – all of us were eager to apply everything we learned there to our campaign at Higham Lane School.

The design of the programme helped us to do this by providing new tools such as SMART Action Planning, as well as improved communication skills, which aided us in the events we held after getting back to school.

We found that at first, our ABA team had varying levels of confidence and ability, therefore working with, and meeting, new people encouraged all of us to feel challenged!

Particularly, the resources we were equipped with during the training acted as quite useful guides on how to work holistically to change attitudes towards bullying. Also, most of us found the Ambassadors leading the event, Paddy and Sarah, charismatic and perfect role models demonstrating how to be an engaging Anti-Bullying Ambassador!

Furthermore, at New College on September 28, our team were involved in Up-Skill Training: a chance to focus on our own skills, in practice at a school environment.

Particularly, using the work we’d already completed as an opportunity to present it to the other schools at training, our

public speaking and co-ordination became successful after we each spoke independently about our passions in smaller groups.

The fact that as ABAs, we can openly talk about subjects that matter and, as a result, create a combined effort to raise awareness of the struggles we all face, is amazing.

Overall, the Up-Skill Training made us realise that it is possible to cover bullying in many fun and diverse ways — as a school we have a strong focus on ‘Prevention’ to raise awareness in a positive way and create a happy school environment where respect and friendship underpins our everyday interactions.

## Year Ambassadors appointed

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have been appointed Year Ambassadors for 2018-19.

- Year 7:** Cherie (7H3) and Erin (7H3).
- Year 8:** Jenna (8H3) and Maisie (8S3).
- Year 9:** Josh (9H1) and Lily (9L3).
- Year 10:** Abigail (10L2) and Megan (10L2).
- Year 11:** Umair (11S2) and Olivia (11L2).



# Getting the message across loud and clear!



INCLUDED in the Year 8s' CPSHE Education programme is a resource called 'Real Love Rocks', which examines healthy and unhealthy relationships, sexting and porn, consent, grooming and the consequences of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

As a culmination of the work, produced by children's charity Barnardo's, the

School was delighted to receive funding from Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council to provide a theatre workshop from the Loudmouth Theatre Company which deals with all the above issues in an interactive way.

In addition to the play, 'Working For Marcus', students were invited to a follow-up Q&A session with the

characters so they could question their motives and decisions.

The students also received a workshop session with the company to go through and reinforce the importance of healthy relationships and where to go to if they need help.

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED

## If you had to choose between buying sanitary wear or eating, which would you choose?

In August 2017, Plan International UK conducted a study among 14-21 year old girls and young women which found that:

More than a quarter of girls said they used a sanitary product for longer than its intended use because they couldn't afford a fresh one.

1 in 10  
have been  
**UNABLE TO AFFORD**  
sanitary protection

1 in 7 have  
struggled to  
afford sanitary  
protection

48% of girls in  
the UK are  
embarrassed by  
their periods

49% have missed an entire day of school because of their period; of which 59% have made up a lie or an alternate excuse.

Almost one-third (32%) have missed more than one day of school because of their period.

Whether it's period poverty, not being able to ask at home, or just being caught short, we want to let girls keep their dignity.



The Red Box Project

## Red Box Project

HIGHAM Lane School has recently taken in one of the Red Boxes described opposite.

The Red Box will be housed in the Library office, where girls can collect items from 8am until 4.15pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday and 8am-3.30pm on a Wednesday.

We hope that students will not feel embarrassed to ask for the Red Box. This is a free and confidential service and staff will be discreet when students ask to use it.

If students aren't comfortable asking the librarians out loud then a written note can be discreetly passed.

We will also be looking for donations for the other Red Boxes, which are currently held in schools and community areas within the borough, so any items you can donate would be greatly received by the librarians or myself, who will then forward the items to the Red Box Project.

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED



## Pulsating lesson in resuscitation!

WORKING in conjunction with Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service's Heart Shield programme, all of Higham Lane School's Year 8 students are trained in how to deliver emergency lifesaving procedures. The main aim of the county-wide programme is to help ensure secondary school students receive instruction in basic emergency skills such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

All students took part in hour-long sessions which began with watching an instructional DVD before splitting into smaller groups to undertake practical CPR and defibrillator training with firefighters.

As can be seen by the accompanying photographs, the students really got to grips with the techniques, which one day may help them save someone's life!

**MRS MITCHELL, Subject Leader for CPSHEED**





# GCSE students are jumping for joy!

HIGHAM Lane School students were left jumping for joy after performing very strongly in the new-style 2018 GCSE qualifications.

72% of students achieved five or more Standard Passes including at least Grade 4 in English and Maths. 50% achieved five or more Strong Passes including at least Grade 5 in English and Maths.

82% of students achieved a Grade 4 or above in English, 75% in Maths, 72% in both English and Maths and 78% in at least two Sciences.

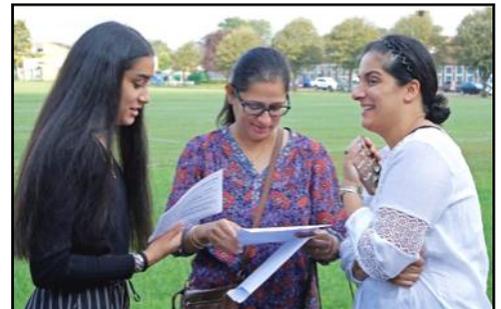
A quarter of all GCSE grades awarded were the highest grades: 9-7/A\*A. Headteacher, Phil Kelly, commented: "We are delighted for our students, parents/carers and staff with this first

set of results under the new-style GCSEs which now apply in most subjects. Changes to the grading system make comparisons with previous years difficult in these new qualifications with their more challenging content and a different assessment system to the previous one. There are many excellent individual performances to celebrate by students of all abilities."

Among the School's top performers were **Anna** (7x9, 2xA\*, 4x8); **Lauren** (7x9, 1xA\*, 4x8, 1xA); **Millie** (6x9, 1xA\*, 4x8, 1xA, 1x6); **Alexander** (2x9, 1xA\*, 4x8, 4x7, 2xA, 1x4); **William** (5x9, 2xA\*, 1x8, 1x7, 1xA, 2x6, 1xB); **Jack** (2xA\*, 3x8, 5x7, 2xA, 1x6, 1xB); **Charinpreet** (2x9, 2xA\*, 3x8, 3x7, 2xA, 1x6); **Lauren** (2x9, 2x8, 3xA, 5x7, 1x6); **Morgan** (8x8, 2xA, 1x7, 1xB, 1x5); **Yasmin** (7x8, 1x7, 3xA, 1x6, 1x5); **Isabelle** (4x9, 1x8, 2x7, 2xA, 2x6) and **Karla** (1x9, 3xA\*, 2x8, 3x7 2xA, 1x5).

Mr Kelly added: "The students have worked extremely hard, effectively supported by a highly-skilled and dedicated team of staff and encouraged by their families/carers. In the light of this year's excellent A-level results, Higham Lane continues to be one of the highest-performing schools and Sixth Forms within Warwickshire. "Our School performed just below the top 14% of schools nationally for progress and our performance is strongly above average. We performed within the top four highest-performing non-selective state secondary schools in Warwickshire.

"Our Progress 8 figure of 0.47 was highly pleasing and shows that on average our students made almost half a grade more progress that similar ability students nationally."



# First class A-level results

HIGHAM Lane Sixth Form was delighted with its first-ever set of A-level results!

Students achieved an excellent 26% of grades at A\*-A and 52% at grades A\*-B. This demonstrates very strong attainment and progress with many students meeting the entry requirements for the top universities in the UK

The School is also delighted that our students achieved a 99% pass rate at A-level.

## 99% pass rate is achieved!

Among the strongest performers were **Ashleigh** (3 A\*), **Sharifa** (3 A\*), **Jack H** (2 A\*, 1 A), **James** (1 A\*, 2 A) **Jack G** (1 A\*, 2 A), **Finley** (1 A\*, 2 A) **Matthew** (1 A\*, 2 A), **Lewis** (1 A\*, 2 A) and **Charlotte**

(3 A). These students and many others have achieved their first choice university places.

Headteacher, Phil Kelly, and Hanif Ladha, Head of Sixth Form, concurred: "We would like to congratulate our students and staff on these excellent results and thank our parents and carers for supporting our A-level students. We wish them every happiness and success in the future."



• **UNIVERSITY HERE WE COME!** Mr Ladha, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form (extreme left) and Mr Kelly, Headteacher (right) congratulate the high-achieving Sixth Form students on their fantastic A-level results. Back row (left to right) Jack H, Lewis, Finley, Jack G and Sharifa. Front: Matthew, Charlotte, James and Ashleigh.

## Drivers reminded to park considerately!

A REMINDER to drivers who park in the vicinity of Higham Lane School while dropping off, or picking up, students.

Please can you all be considerate to our neighbours, other students and parents when parking, and also abide by the Highway Code, which states that:

- Vehicles must not cause an obstruction — this includes parking over dropped kerbs.
- Vehicles must not be parked within 10 metres (32ft) of a junction.
- Vehicles must not stop or park on the zig-zag lines outside the School gates.

- Vehicles partially parking on pavements to avoid causing obstruction should leave enough space for a mobility scooter or double buggy pushchair to get through. This means no vehicle should be parked wholly on the pavement.

Anyone seen contravening any of these laws is liable to receive a fixed penalty notice from one of the Police patrols who regularly carry out checks outside the School in the mornings and afternoons.

The Police also receive regular complaints about speeding on the streets surrounding the School, in particular

Higham Lane, Weddington Road and Hinckley Road.

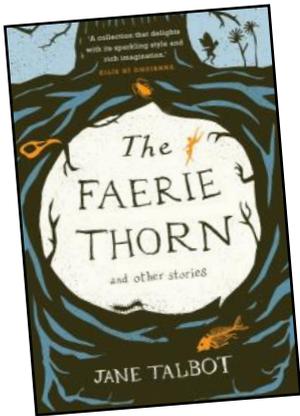
Both Weddington Road and Hinckley Road are limited to a maximum of 30mph while the majority of Higham Lane is also restricted to the same urban national speed limit. Please adhere to the speed limits stated by the signs.

There are other schools and several residential properties around these roads, so please be mindful of your speed at all times.

Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.



## News from the English Department



### Mystical author pays a special visit!

A FORMER Higham Lane student made a special return visit to her former school in October to talk about her writing career.

Author, Janet Talbot, attended the School in the 1970s and has since gone on to forge a successful career in publishing and storytelling.

She explained to the attentive Year 10 audience about her fascination with nature and magic, particularly Irish folklore, which inspired her to write the novel 'The Faerie Thorn & Other Stories'.

In addition, the author also reminisced fondly about her school days at Higham Lane, saying the current uniform is not too dissimilar to 40 years ago but lacks the over-size fly-away collars of the day!

The session concluded with an interesting question and answer session which included students quizzing the speaker about the process of successful writing.

**MRS SOMEL**  
Subject Leader for English





## News from the Economics Department



# Boat-load of fun!

THIS term, Sixth Form Economics students have been learning about influential economist, Adam Smith, who believed that the most efficient way of producing goods was by dividing labour, so that each worker specialises in one specific task.

In order to demonstrate this economic principle, students were initially asked to work individually to produce origami boats, with limited success.

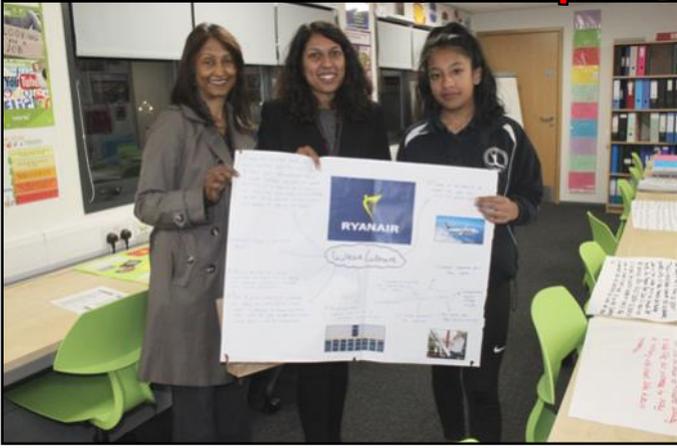
The students were then organised into teams with each person choosing to specialise in an area in which they felt most productive, so creating a production line.

The results were astonishingly different to when they worked individually, proving Adam Smith's hypothesis to be correct. Students understood this key economic principle and had lots of fun, which is what learning should be about. Economics became Funonomics!

**MR VORA, Economics Department**



# HL6 Open Evening 2018



## Sixth Form Open Evening draws record attendance!

A RECORD number of prospective students and their parents/carers were welcomed at the Higham Lane Sixth Form Open Evening, held on November 8.

Each Subject Leader was on hand to provide information, either in the Sixth Form building or Sports Hall, while several universities were also in attendance.

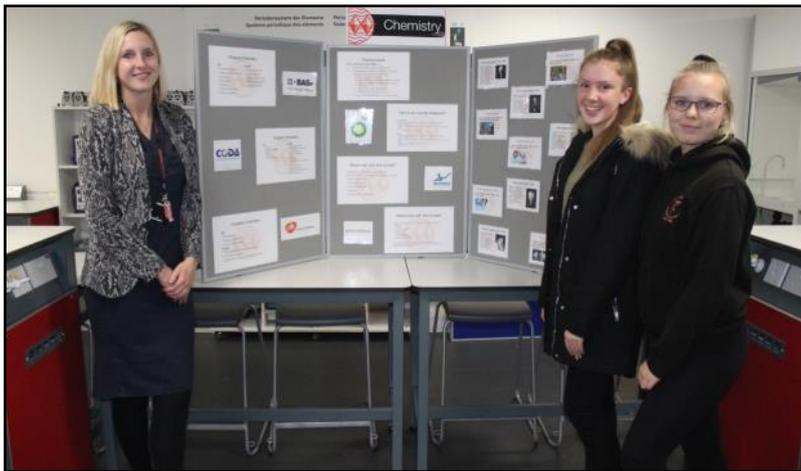
Providing invaluable to the smooth running of the event were volunteer guides and helpers, looking resplendent in their new Sixth Form branded T-shirts.

All subject and university stands proved extremely busy throughout the night, giving future students important information about selecting the right courses that will allow them to meet their aspirations.

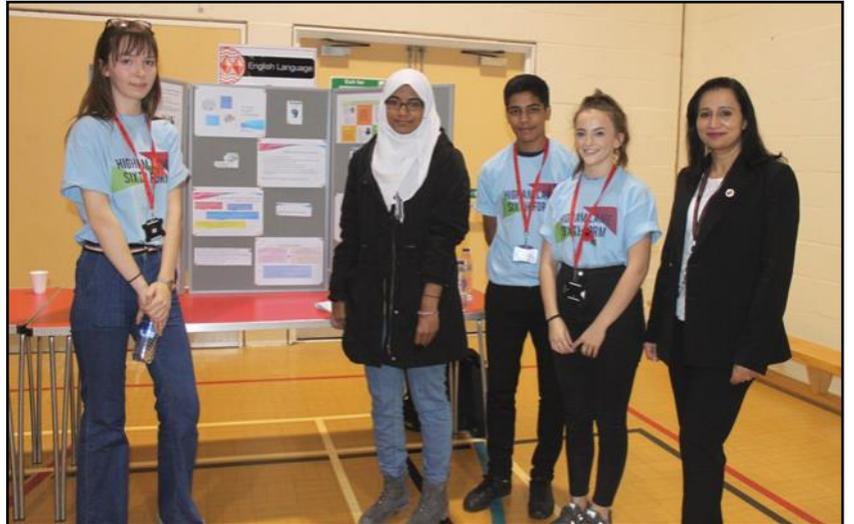
Prospective students can visit the Sixth Form website (via the Higham Lane School website) to obtain further information or please contact Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form, Mr Ladha, at [SixthForm@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:SixthForm@highamlaneschool.co.uk) if you have any questions.

**MR LADHA, Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher**

• More images can be found on the HLS website!



# HL6 Open Evening 2018



# Open Evening 2018



## Students are the stars of the show!



ON OCTOBER 3, Higham Lane School threw open its doors to offer prospective students, their parents and carers, the opportunity to take a look behind the scenes.

As in previous years, the 2018 Open Day and Evening drew large crowds, allowing visitors to witness the excellent education offered by the School and talk to the talented teachers from all subject areas.

During the morning, student tour guides were on-hand to accompany visitors around the site, giving them the ideal opportunity to see live lessons in progress.

However, it was in the evening when the School exploded into life, each Department hosting its own special hands-on activities and demonstrations to show prospective students that learning is so much fun at Higham Lane.

Nevertheless, it was Higham Lane's sensational students who stole the show again this year, the eager volunteer helpers and tour guides radiating their enthusiasm and dedication for the School throughout a long day.

The accompanying four-page photographic collage shows a selection of the activities students were involved in during the event.

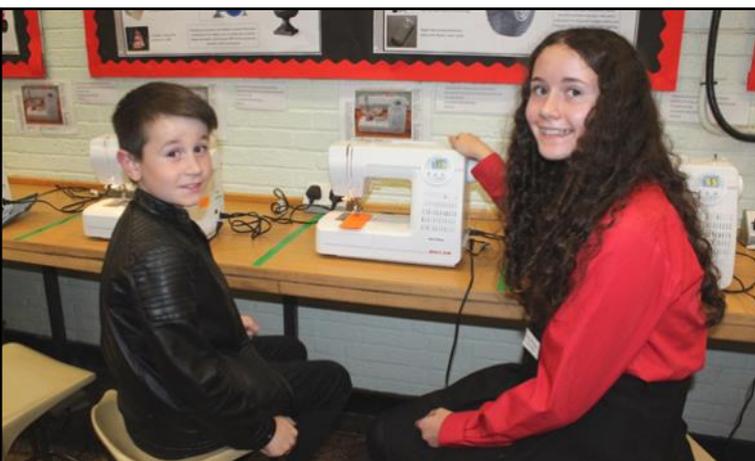


# Open Evening 2018



# Open Evening 2018







## News from the History Department



● **HATS THE WAY TO DO IT!** Students were able to experience the difficult working conditions endured by miners.



● **SURVIVING RELIC** — How the Black Country acquired its name — coal!

# Bringing history to life!

HIGHAM Lane students had a bostin' time while visiting the Black Country Living Museum in November! As part of the Key Stage 3 curriculum, Year 8s are currently studying industrial history, and the Dudley attraction offers an ideal way to learn about the topic by bringing everything to life.

During their visit, 173 students were able to experience what life was like working down a coal mine, see the inside of old shops and houses as they would have been a century ago, and observe various modes of transport, including

motor cars, barges and a trolley bus. However, the day's most popular draw was food — students enjoying fish and chips plus the opportunity to spend their pocket money in the old-fashioned cake and sweet shops.

Everyone was impeccably behaved throughout the day, with one member of the BCLM staff commenting they were the best students they've ever seen!

**MRS DOYNE-DITMAS**

**Subject Leader for History**

● *More images can be found on the HLS website!*



● **EXPERT INFORMATION!** Each of the eight groups were allocated a tour guide for the day.



● **BYGONE TRANSPORT** — Students enjoyed a ride on a trolley bus.



● **BROUGHT TO LIFE!** Mr Bottrill's group learn about the history of mining.



# News from the History Department



● **PLEASED TO MEET YOU!** Museum staff were on hand to answer any questions.



● **OLD SCHOOL!** The 1922 classroom proved fascinating to Higham Lane students.



● **GIVE IT SOME HAMMER!** A blacksmith demonstrates the art of chain making.



● **DOORWAY TO THE PAST!** The groups were able to visit shops and houses to experience life 100 years ago.



● **POPULAR WITH STUDENTS!** The cake and sweet shops.



● **AUSTIN POWER!** A recreation of an old garage.



● **1HP!** Transport of old.



● **PEEK BEHIND THE SCENES!** The museum's boat yard which is used to film parts of the hit TV drama series, *Peaky Blinders*.



• **DOUBLE ACT!** Matthew and James had a rocking good time at the HMV music store in Nuneaton.



• **DEDICATED FOLLOWER OF FASHION!** Brandon checks out the latest styles at Ministry of Design Menswear in Nuneaton's Ropewalk shopping centre.

## It's all in a week's work for Year 10!

YEAR 10 students enjoyed a very successful 2018 Work Experience week, from July 16 to 20.

Out of a year group of 249 students, 220 students went out on Work Experience to 175 different placements, most of which were in the Coventry and Warwickshire area.

Out of area placements included Leicestershire, Northampton, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Birmingham, Solihull, Walsall, Dudley, Barnsley, Leyland, Milton Keynes, Leatherhead, Liverpool and London.

One student did not go on Work Experience due to family holiday commitments, but had arranged a placement during the summer holidays.

Five students were absent, mainly due to long-term illness, and 23 attended school, where, in addition to catching up with school work, they attended daily sessions run by representatives from the DWP (Job Centre).

These sessions covered Budgeting and Money Management, Employability Skills, CV Workshop, National Apprenticeship activity and Interview Skills.

**MRS ALLRED, Work Experience Co-ordinator**



• **MAY I HELP YOU?** Ruby and Millie enjoyed their Work Experience week at Primary Care Pharmacy in Coton Road, Nuneaton.



• **TEA-UP!** Kaisha serves a thirsty customer at Molly's Coffee House in Market Place, Nuneaton.



● **CHARITY-MINDED!** Lexie and Ruby helped in the fund-raising at Sue Ryder Charity Shop in Nuneaton.



● **CARING NATURE!** Maicie looked after the patients at Hinckley & Bosworth Community Hospital.



● **SERVICE WITH A SMILE!** Akshay attended to customers' needs at the Nuneaton branch of Ryman Stationers.



● **EYE CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW!** Aribah checks out a pair of spectacles at Jason Rice I-Care Ltd in Harefield Road, Nuneaton.



● **SUPERMARKET SWEEP!** Danielle undertakes a stock check in the Co-operative store at Nuneaton's Horeston Grange Shopping Centre.



● **MAT FINISH!** Above and below: Lucas and Carter put in some hard graft during their Work Experience week at the Carpet Centre, Horeston Grange, Nuneaton.



● He was welcomed to the company and settled in quickly. He completed the tasks that he was given thoroughly and showed a great attitude to work. He was popular in the office where he worked and almost became part of the team in a week!

MANY positive comments were made when we followed up the students on Work Experience. Typical are:

- He was keen to get up in the morning/excellent timekeeping/arrived earlier than the expected time/very punctual/stayed later than needed.
- Great communication skills/people skills.
- A charming well-mannered young man.
- Very interested, asked lots of questions.
- Very friendly and helpful, willing to get stuck in.
- Very helpful/very polite/very hard worker/very polite and conscientious.
- A real pleasure to have in the store – thank you for letting us have her/a pleasure to have him with us on Work Experience/a joy to have the students on Work Experience with us.
- Great attention to detail in tasks, work done to the highest of standards.
- Works well independently and as part of a team.
- Showed good team spirit and was a welcome addition to the team/got on well with the team.
- She has a very positive attitude when it comes to working life.
- Dressed appropriately and was very smart every day/wore a suit every day.
- Polite and used her initiative/polite, keen and responsible/polite, well presented, keen to learn, good use of initiative.
- Friendly positive and intelligent personality, openly willing to get involved in discussions.
- Showed real interest in the business and asked appropriate questions when something has not been clear.
- Confident, enthusiastic and independent.
- Very polite, willing to take on tasks with very little support or supervision.
- He was always engaging when people spoke to him, always polite and well-mannered with staff and pupils.
- Excellent attitude to work and got on well with the employees.
- Quietly confident, intelligent young man.
- Enthusiastic, intelligent and willing.
- Really good at talking to the children. Happy to be at the nursery and interested in what happens at a nursery.

● He was enthusiastic and very keen to learn and get involved with the activities of the department, including participating in various discussions. He showed good initiative and willingness but also accepted authority and followed instructions that he was given.

- We have loved having her with us for the week and we would welcome her back in future.
- A credit to Higham Lane School.
- He'll do well, gets on with it, an asset.
- Brilliant, hardworking, an asset to the school.
- Quick learner, works well independently, committed and a team player
- He has been a shining example.
- He has been one of the best Work Experience students we have had for a while.
- What he does in a day is more than a trainee would be expected to do in two days.
- Fantastic, brilliant, been a massive help.
- Brilliant, excellent at childcare, thought she was older than she is – so mature, staff would like to keep her for another week.
- She comes across with a positive confident attitude who wants to learn and listen. Wish all our Work Experience students had this can-do attitude.
- Brilliant, can't praise him enough.

Work  
experience!

Particular comments of note are:-

- Would highly recommend her to any other company, she is a credit to herself.
- She is a competent student who has shown enthusiasm during her Work Experience and has conducted herself in a professional manner at all times.
- She has been a joy to have. She has helped wherever she was needed. She has been inquisitive and respectful.
- She is bright, happy, well rounded, hardworking and well mannered. It has been a pleasure having her with us and she has been a great asset to the team.
- She was keen and interested, when asked to get involved has not hesitated, she was punctual and professional in her conduct and followed instructions as necessary.
- It was an absolute delight to have her for the week as I used to be her teacher when she was a pupil. She has worked hard with great enthusiasm, initiative and communication skills. She has built a strong rapport with the children and supported them through a very busy and tough week.
- He is a very polite, keen and helpful person with much potential. He took everything on board well and got involved with the projects assigned to him.
- I have been very impressed with him – he has taken everything in his stride, always keen to learn.

● She was always on time, dressed appropriately, hardworking and enthusiastic. She communicated and interacted effectively with adults, staff, parents and children. She was always polite and approachable and happy to help.

- He is a bright articulate young man, confident and focussed, willing to learn – asks if in doubt.
- Eager and keen to learn. Coped well with back-to-back meetings and a lot of information from across the business. Gained positive feedback from colleagues who spent time with him that he was keen, inquisitive, asked relevant questions and generally gave a very good impression in what was a busy week with a lot of diverse interactions across the business.
- A good worker. He carried out all tasks set on a daily basis. He interacted wonderfully with the children in the setting
- He is intelligent, articulate and has a strong desire to achieve his dream career. He showed a good team spirit and was a welcome addition to the team.
- She has worked very hard during the week with us and it has been a pleasure to have her working with us. She has happily taken on any job given to her and has completed it with no fuss. Her understanding of what is involved has clearly increased throughout the week.
- He adapted well to the working environment and to the different locations that he visited. This is impressive considering his age and lack of experience in the working environment.
- He comes across in a very professional manner and is very inquisitive about the topic.

We received this comment from a parent regarding her son's Work Experience:-  
"He had a great time on his Work Experience week. He worked every day and came home shattered. The whole staff at the facility were so welcoming and accommodating and made him, feel at home. He experienced most aspects of the work and was shown how the facility operates. I feel it was a really worthwhile week and a memory he will have for life."

It is pleasing to see that three of last year's Year 11 students obtained apprenticeships at the placements they went to on Work Experience in Year 10, including one at Triumph in Hinckley.

● We were impressed with how well she worked here and how quickly she picked things up. She was very reliable and always put herself forward to help out and do that little bit extra that has really made her stand out.



● **AMAZING VOCALS!**  
Runner-up, Jean-Pierre.



● **TALENTED WINNERS!** The TAGs Band (left to right) Ben, Danielle, Joe and Hassan.

# Higham's definitely got talent!

AFTER two days of superb auditions, the School's most talented students competed for a place in the coveted grand final of Higham's Got Talent.

The following acts were put through: May and Maisie (both 8S3), Alice (8S2), Jean-Pierre (11H1) and the TAGs Band (Year 11).

From the very start of the final, the atmosphere was absolutely electrifying, with the audience cheering for the acts, singing along and giving everyone a standing ovation. This wonderful support encouraged and energised all performers to deliver their performances with confidence and excitement.

First-up was the TAGs Band, who gave everyone in the audience chills as they blew the judges away with the melodic vocals from Danielle, combined with the amazing guitar and drums from Hassan, Joe and Ben. It was an incredibly strong start.

Next-up was Jean-Pierre, who wowed everyone with his resonating vocals. The audience was very impressed with his performance — this was clearly going to be a very close competition!

Unfortunately, May (who plays the piano whilst Maisie sings), was not able to attend the final. In spite of this, Maisie

performed Adele's 'Someone Like You' solo with such professionalism and determination, it was heart-warming to not only watch her bravely perform on her own, but also hear her sweet and angelic voice whilst singing a cappella. An uplifting atmosphere was created when the audience sang the song along with Maisie, showing how much they were enjoying themselves.

The final performer was Alice, who chose a song from 'Moana'. Despite technical difficulties which resulted in her performing a cappella, she managed to bring a tear to the judges' eyes with her powerful vocals.

After five minutes of intense discussions, the judges finally conquered the difficult task of choosing a winner! Congratulations to our first place winner, the TAGs Band, and runner-up, John-Pierre.

The competition was a huge success and all the money raised went towards Student Voice and the Junior Leadership Team initiatives.

JLT would like to thank all the talented performers for putting on a superb show and also the audience for their unwavering support.

**MISS ARSHAD, Student Leadership Co-ordinator**



● **LET'S ROCK!** The TAGs Band in action.



● **SENSATIONAL SINGERS!** Alice, Maisie and Danielle.



## News from the Modern Foreign Languages Department

# Paris est magnifique!



● **GROUP SHOT!** The Higham Lane School party gather for a photograph in front of Paris' iconic Eiffel Tower.

IN THE final week of the summer term, the Modern Foreign Languages Department organised an educational trip to our European neighbours, France.

During their three-day stay in Paris, the students were able to visit the capital's iconic landmarks and experience first-hand the French way of life, its culture and language.

On the itinerary during the sun-drenched trip was Euro Disney, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame cathedral and the Musée du Louvre, home to the world-famous painting of the Mona Lisa, the lady with the enigmatic smile!

All the students were of exemplary behaviour throughout and a credit to the School. Très bon!



● **CARTOON CAPERS!** Above and below, students enjoyed a fun-packed day at Disneyland Paris.



● **FRENCH CULTURE!** Outside the Musée du Louvre art gallery, home of the world-famous Mona Lisa.





Careers Update with Mrs Mitchell, Subject Leader for CPSHEEd

## World Skills Show at the NEC

IN NOVEMBER, we took 125 Year 8 students to the World Skills Show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

This gave them the opportunity to interact with different workshop providers which ranged from engineering to floristry and the armed forces to carpentry.

Various universities were also on-hand to answer any questions our students may have had regarding higher education.

Careers Information, Advice & Guidance (CIAG) was

available from the National Careers Service and large national employers, like Jaguar Land Rover, while Muller were in attendance to inform our students about apprenticeships.

This event was great for our Year 8 students, who will be making their first steps on their career journey in March when they will choose their GCSE Options.

If any Year 8s would like to see our careers advisor in school, they can make an appointment with Mrs Allred via Sharepoint.



## 2019 Work Experience information

ALL Year 10 and Year 12 students will have a period of Work Experience in the summer term of 2019.

For Year 10 students, this takes place during the final week (July 15-19), while Year 12 will have three days from June 26-28.

All students are actively encouraged to find their own placements.

We find that Work Experience is great at improving our students' employability skills and gives them the edge over others when applying for part-time jobs, colleges or universities and apprenticeships.

If you could offer placements at your place of work for either a Year 10 or Year 12 student, please contact the School on 024 7638 8123 and direct your call to Mrs Allred, our Work Experience Co-ordinator. We would love to hear from you!

## Hospital hosts NHS Taster Day

AS PART of their outreach to local schools, Nuneaton's George Eliot Hospital opened its doors to Year 10 students for a taster day at the end of November.

Six Higham Lane students attended the event, which saw them visit various departments, including Maternity and Resuscitation, to get a feel of how the National Health Service operates.

Various other hospital departments were also on hand to offer the students some great information and guidance on how to enter their chosen NHS career, from either university or apprenticeships.



## Careers in the Curriculum

THE School was lucky enough to have a fantastic Careers in the Curriculum roadshow delivered on behalf of BAE Systems, in partnership with the RAF and the Royal Navy, for our Year 8 students.

The roadshow was devised in response to the Government's acknowledgement that there is already a shortfall of 'home grown' scientists and engineers to meet the needs of the country and, by capturing the interest of young people aged 10-13, we can hopefully



increase the numbers that take STEM subjects and ultimately increase the pool of talent in years to come. STEM subjects are Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Throughout the show, students were introduced to a series of fun and fascinating ways in which Maths is used in everyday life, including examples of the practical application of mathematical techniques within BAE Systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy.

The presentation included the most up-to-date technologies to demonstrate the importance of Maths in the future of engineering — our amazing robot MIA was used to show off her mathematical genius and they explored developments in facial recognition technology.

Students were invited to participate in some of the demonstrations and problem-solving games as the team aimed to demystify the subject and help embed learning that they will encounter in school.



# Tori's Olympic dream!



• **BIG HITTER!** *Tori Willetts (in blue) boxes her way to the GB Elite Three Nations title against Scotland (above) and Wales (below).*

A FORMER Higham Lane School student is looking forward to a thumping good future after being selected to represent her country at the sport of boxing!

Tori Willetts, now 23, attended the School from 2006 to 2011, when Physical Education lessons inspired her into a lifestyle of fitness and sport.

She excelled in all sports, including netball, football, swimming and cross country. However, Tori discovered kickboxing and since then her dedication has driven her to the top of the sport.

During her career, she has kickboxed her way to three English titles, three British titles and a European title, and has also represented Great Britain abroad in Spain, Serbia and France.

Tori's dream is to one day compete in the Olympics and Commonwealth Games but, sadly, kickboxing is not included in either itinerary.

Undeterred, Tori turned her hand to boxing to see how far she could progress in that particular sport.

Success came swiftly as, in the first year competing under the Army Boxing Team banner, Tori won the Elite English National title and GB Elite Three Nations title — the same title Olympic Gold medallist Nicola Adams won as an up-and-coming amateur boxer.

Tori said: "Having goals in boxing

motivates me to keep going. I want to make it to the top. To do that, I concentrate my whole life around boxing, stay focused and reap the rewards when I win titles.

"Whenever I can make use of a training session, I will. Even in my back garden over a weekend, I'll be working on things

my coaches have told me I need to improve on."

Tori's dream to represent her country at the Olympics is now well and truly alive as, being an integral member of Team GB, she remains on course to perform on the world stage in the not-too-distant future!





## News from the Physical Education Department



• **DISTRICT WINNERS!** The Year 9 Boys' badminton team: Jack, Ryan, Lewis and Alex.



• **DISTRICT RUNNERS-UP!** The Key Stage 3 Girls' badminton team: Lily, Hannah and Abi.



• **DISTRICT WINNERS!** The Key Stage 4 Girls' badminton team: Lily K, Lilly J, Esther and Catherine.

# Continued success on the badminton courts!

### BOYS

The Centre Parcs Badminton National tournament has started at District level with Higham Lane again progressing very well.

The Key Stage 3 boys' team won their tournament easily, beating Polesworth, St Thomas More, Twycross and Nicholas Chamberlaine.

The Key Stage 4 boys' teams triumphed in their tournaments, held at Polesworth, again easily winning all their games.

Both teams now progress to the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals being held in February.

In the league, the Key Stage 4 boys have won their first fixtures, beating Hartshill and George Eliot.

The Key Stage 3 boys' team have also played two games, beating George Eliot and Hartshill.

### GIRLS

The girls' Centre Parcs Badminton

National tournament has also been played at District level.

The Key Stage 3 girls beat Twycross in their first game but then just lost out to Polesworth despite them having one player less in their team.

In the Key Stage 4 girls' tournament, Higham Lane entered two teams. The B side narrowly lost their first two games and were then beaten by Higham's A team.

The A team won every game 5-0 and therefore progress to the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals in February.

In the league, the Key Stage 3 girls have only played one fixture, beating George Eliot 8-0, while the Key Stage 4 girls' team have triumphed in their two fixtures, beating George Eliot and Hartshill.

**MR WILSON**

**Assistant Subject Leader for PE**



• **DISTRICT WINNERS!** The Year 11 Boys' badminton team: Will C, Jaitan, Will H and Jake.

## Ivy and Alice shine in the 3R Triathlon challenge



AS PART of Higham Lane School's Key Stage 4 curriculum offered in PE, we have been working closely with Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust at their Empire Gym.

The girls have been put through their paces by the gym team, learning how to use the equipment and adopt a personal exercise programme.

As part of the gym's challenge in October, all members were tasked with a 3R triathlon: run, row (instead of the swim!) and ride.

Two girls out of the class, Ivy, 10H1 (pictured left) and Alice, 10L2 (right), decided to take on this challenge, with Alice winning her age group section. Well done to both girls!

MRS MITCHELL, PE Department





# Fine feast of football!

YEAR 7 football has proved to be very popular with more than 30 students attending training each week.

The boys have played four fixtures this year, including two National Cup games and two league matches.

In the National Cup, they beat Sydney Stringer 6-1 in the first round and then played extremely well but lost to Finham Park 3-0.

League fixtures have been poorly attended by other schools and we have more matches in March and April. Results have been mixed so far with one win, one draw and two losses.

Selecting eight players for a five-a-side tournament was a very difficult task. The team won the qualifying match, beating Etone, and then in the District finals they defeated Etone and Hartshill but just lost to Ash Green by one goal. More matches will hopefully be arranged against Etone, Nuneaton Academy and Queen Elizabeth on their Astroturf in the new year.

The Year 7 girls' football team has also proved extremely popular. Two teams played in the Year 7 and 8 tournaments,



• **THE YEAR 7 GIRLS' FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL SQUAD** — Left to right: *Scarlett, Lily, Alex, Lexi, Rhiannon, Alexa, Bryony and Aimee.*

held at Etone, with 24 girls representing the school.

Two rounds of fixtures have been played so far with one round still to be contested.

The effort, attitude and ability of the players has been excellent throughout.

In the five-a-side tournament it was again very difficult to select eight players. The girls chosen played extremely well to beat Etone 5-0 and Nicholas Chamberlaine 3-0 and they now progress through to the West Midlands finals in February.

The Year 8 football squad has continued to impress and are currently top of the league, having won all their games against George Eliot, St Thomas More, Hartshill and Nuneaton Academy.

In the National Cup, they beat St Thomas in the first round then travelled to Daventry to play the Parker School who they beat convincingly 8-2. Unfortunately, in the next round they lost in a difficult away fixture to Sandwell Academy in West Bromwich.



• **THE YEAR 8 FOOTBALL TEAM** — Back row (left to right): *Josh, Ben, Kyle, Liam, Mason, Will and Alex.* Middle: *Ruben and Miles.* Front: *Ollie, Max, Dan and Isaac.*

The Year 9 football squad has made a great start to the season and are currently unbeaten and top of a very tough league.

They have beaten Etone and Hartshill 2-0 and drawn with Polesworth, Ash Green and George Eliot and were also victorious in a friendly fixture against Kingsbury.

The Year 10 football squad has produced some excellent team performances.

In the league, they have won three, lost three and drawn one and are currently third in the table.

The team seems to play better against more difficult opposition and their effort and attitude has been excellent in all fixtures.

The Year 11 football squad has finished top of the District League, beating George Eliot 5-1, Queen Elizabeth 3-0, Kingsbury 1-0, Nicholas Chamberlaine 2-0 and drawing with Polesworth 0-0.

They will now play against Polesworth School in the League Final to decide which school progresses through to the County Cup finals.

The Year 12 and 13 football team still remains unbeaten this year. They have played two league fixtures, beating Polesworth 1-0 and drawing with Ash Green 0-0.

Most impressive has been their form in the National Cup where they have been drawn away in every round.

In the first round, Higham beat Wigston Academy 5-2, and in the next defeated Groby College 5-1.

The third round threw up a very tough draw against Northampton School for Boys. Nevertheless, following a fantastic team performance, they won 2-0 and are now through to the last 32 colleges in the country.

**MR WILSON**  
Assistant Subject Leader  
for PE



## News from the Physical Education Department



• **THE YEAR 12/13 FOOTBALL TEAM** — The boys have performed really well this year and are through to the last 32 in the National Cup competition. Back row (left to right): Joe, Ethan O, Yagnesh, Matthew, Harry, Kieran, Max and Callum. Front: Brad, Aaron, Ethan M, Elliot D, Sajal and Elliot N.

## Speedy Sam in the running!

CROSS country runner, Sam (9H1), has continued on from last season with more excellent performances this year.

He easily finished first in the District competition, held at the Pingles in September, and therefore qualified to represent the District in October's County Championships at Stratford.

Sam produced a superb run to finish fourth overall and was selected to represent Warwickshire in the National Cross County Cup. This event was held in December at Winsford, Cheshire, with over 500 runners coming from all over the country. Sam ran extremely well in very muddy and cold conditions to finish 64th out of the 124 participants in his race.

In the new year, Sam will be running in the ESSA Championships in March and in the County Championships on Saturday, January 19. If any other Higham Lane students would like to run in January's race please see Mr Wilson for more details.

**MR WILSON**

Assistant Subject Leader for PE

## Basketball team cock-a-hoop after victory!



• **THE YEAR 9 BASKETBALL TEAM** — Back row (left to right): Durlav, Ed, Charlie, Rashik, Jacob and Yassine. Front: Ryan, Saul, Will and Lawrence.

HIGHAM Lane's brilliant Year 9 basketballers emerged triumphant from a tournament the School hosted after coming through three very competitive games.

The first victory came against Twycross who, despite playing some good basketball, just didn't finish their chances in the clinical way Higham did, especially the excellent Rashik.

Nicholas Chamberlaine then gave the team a really tough game which Higham only won through the dramatic 'Golden Basket' rule — after tying the scores up right at the buzzer in normal time, it came down to the first team to score in overtime.

Higham then played a final against Twycross in which we raised our standards higher still and played some great basketball, finishing as champions of the tournament and progressing through to the next round of the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Games, to be played early in the new year.

The Year 11 team also saw some action recently. As only one other team turned up for their tournament — Twycross — Higham played a full match against them. Twycross have historically been very well drilled due to one of their teachers being an ex-England player, so the fact that our boys came within 15 points, having played some really creative and competitive basketball, is a testament to their determination and ability. Well done fellas!

Year 11 team: Carter, Greg, Will, James, Denim, Oli, Nathan, Joe and Josh.

**MR BOTTRILL, PE Department**



## News from the Physical Education Department



● **SHOOTING STAR!** Higham Lane's Year 8 and Year 9 netballers pose for a photo with Tamsin Greenway, former England star and now coach of Wasps Netball.

## Netballers get a big buzz from Wasps' Community Day

HIGHAM Lane's Year 8 and Year 9 netball players enjoyed a great day out at the Wasps' Community Day, held in November.

The girls were met at the Ricoh Arena by several Wasps Netball representatives, where a game of 'heads and tails' got everyone involved.

Also in attendance was Tamsin Greenway, former England netball player and coach of the Coventry-based club. She is also currently acting as a director of Wasps Netball and is a TV commentator on all the major games.

During the day, the girls rotated around various netball drills, culminating with a question and answer session with Wasps' recent signing, Kiwi shooter Tamsin Moala.

**MISS CHINN, Subject Leader for PE and MRS DAVIES, PE Department**



● **QUESTION TIME!** Higham's netballers quiz Wasps new signing, Tamsin Moala.



● **AIMING HIGH!** The girls practise their shooting skills.



## News from the Physical Education Department



## Girls wrap-up place in the Regional finals!

HIGHAM Lane's Under-19 netball team has earned a coveted place in the West Midlands Finals for a second successive year.

The girls lifted the County crown in October and went on to secure the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire title on a bitterly cold night the following month.

• For full story please see the back page!

## Year 9s crowned town champions!

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to Higham Lane's Year 9 netball team, who were crowned this year's Nuneaton champions!

The girls fought off all the other local schools to secure the title, scoring an incredible 85 goals while conceding only four!

The team then turned out on a Saturday morning for the Warwickshire County Under-14 tournament, held at Rugby School in November, with the aim of reaching the next round of the National competition.

Following four excellent performances on the court, the girls triumphed in all their games, beating Rugby 12-4, Kingsley 11-2, Alcester 12-2 and King's High 9-7.

This meant the team was through to the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Triangular, so they were extremely happy!

Higham played superbly well in the competition, beating Bablake, Finham and St Martin's to reach the final.

Unfortunately, following two losses against a superb Stratford Grammar



• **HIGH SCORERS!** The Year 9 netball squad who have enjoyed a fantastic season on the netball court.

outfit and strong Solihull team, the girls finished a very creditable third, narrowly missing out on a place in the West Midlands Finals.

Thanks to all the Year 9 squad for the hard work this season and commitment to training.

MRS DAVIES, PE Department

# HLS Express Sport

## ACTION REPLAY!



• **REPEAT PERFORMANCE!** Proud Mrs Davies with Higham Lane School's victorious Under-19 netball squad after retaining the County crown for a second successive year. The team went on to lift the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire title (see photo P35) and secure a place in the West Midlands Finals. Back row (left to right): Kristen, Erin, Alex, Megan, Ellie-Mae, Macy and Amy. Front: Lucy, Georgia, Christie and Eleanor.

HIGHAM Lane School's Under-19 netball team has reproduced a repeat performance of last year's 'double' success by qualifying for the West Midlands Finals!

The high-flyers progressed through to January's competition after winning the County and Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire titles for a second successive year.

It has been a fantastic season for the Under-19s which began in October when the girls lifted the Warwickshire crown with a superb 100% record in the five-match competition, defeating Princethorpe 11-5, Alcester Grammar School 12-2, King Edward Stratford 11-5, Rugby 7-2 and King's High 9-4.

The team subsequently progressed to the

## Under-19 netball team heading for West Midlands Finals once again!

Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire Triangular, held on a freezing cold November night.

Once again, the girls produced a red hot performance and remained undefeated after four games, beating King Henry VIII 15-5, Tudor Grance 13-6, Bablake 16-3 and drawing against King's High 11-11.

However, this proved insufficient to clinch the title, and goal difference came into play. Thanks to some excellent defending,

Higham were duly declared champions, and now go forward to the West Midlands Finals, to be hosted by Bromsgrove School at the end of January.

Overjoyed coach, Mrs Davies, enthused: "The team is a pleasure to coach, a delight to know, and a credit to Higham Lane. They are an extremely talented group of girls which includes the captain of Wasps Under-19s and three Wasps Hub players.

"Some of the girls have represented the School for seven years, and this is their last year together. They have been joined by four other talented players who have made this a squad of depth and so much talent! Higham will not be the same without them!"

**MRS DAVIES, PE Department**