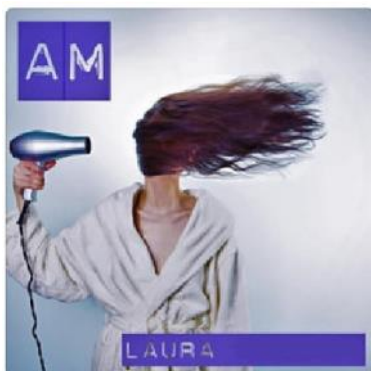




## Welcome to our 'eggciting' Easter edition!

*DEAR Parents/Carers/Students,  
In this 'eggcilent' Easter edition of HLS Express, I know you will enjoy reading about Higham Lane School's budding pop star, a pulsating performance in the Rotary Youth Speaks competition,*

*fantastic fund-raising by our students, BBC News School Report day, continued success from our sporting students, plus much, much more!  
We wish you all a Happy Easter!  
PHIL KELLY, Headteacher*



# POP STAR IN THE MAKING!

A SILKY-VOICED Higham Lane School student has her sights set on becoming a global singing sensation following the release of her first song!

A lifelong music lover, Laura, 8H2, has released an original single — 'AM' — which is available to download via all the major online digital distributors.

The background to the recording of the original track stems from one occasion when Laura was sitting at the piano, playing the chords to Justin Bieber's hit 'Despacio'.

She decided there and then to record a cover of the song with her stepfather, David, which they recorded and produced together prior to it being published on Soundcloud, a music and podcast streaming platform.

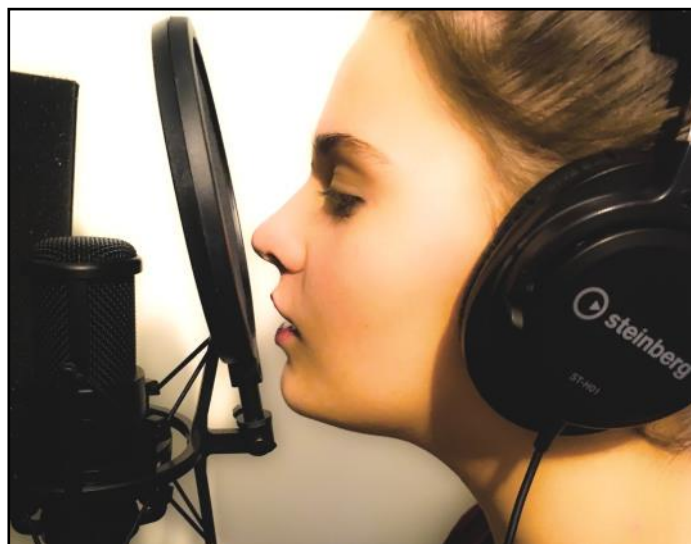
Unfortunately, as it was a cover version, the song couldn't be released on any of the big digital music platforms due to copyright/royalty issues.

Inspired by their musical efforts, Laura and David thought it would be a good idea to release an original track, so they set about writing the music and lyrics to a brand new song entitled 'AM'.

The recording and producing were both carried out in the music room at Laura's home, and David, a keen musician himself, engineered the track using Cubase music production software.

Once completed, a decision was made to release the song on all the big digital distribution platforms, including Apple Music, iTunes, Spotify and Deezer.

Pop and R&B fan Laura, whose musical inspirations include



• **ORIGINAL TALENT!** Singer-songwriter Laura hopes her single, 'AM', will be a huge hit with music fans.

Adele and Jess Glynne, now plans to pen and release an entire album of original songs by the end of the year.

Not surprisingly, the talented songstress hopes to study Music as an Option subject in Years 9, 10 and 11!

The School wishes Laura the best of luck in her music career!



**Higham Lane School, Shanklin Drive, Nuneaton, CV10 0BJ**



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Pupil Premium  
Awards 2016  
Local Winner



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[www.highamlaneschool.co.uk](http://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk)



# Charity sky dive raises more than £5,000!



• **FEARLESS FOUR!** Daisy, Macy, Georgia and Reina following their successful charity parachute jump.



• **SAFE AND SOUND!** Molly is back on terra firma.

FOR the second year running, a group of Higham Lane Sixth Form students reached for the sky to raise money for charity!

The fearless group travelled to Hinton Skydiving Centre, located on the Northamptonshire/ Oxfordshire border, to participate in a county-wide tandem sky dive challenge set by the charity Young People First.

After climbing to 13,300ft, the parachutists exited the plane and reached speeds of over 120mph in free fall prior to deploying their 'chutes.

Thanks to their efforts, a grand total of £5,102.25 was raised, which will be used to help vulnerable young people in Coventry and Warwickshire.



• **NEARLY THERE!** One of the HL6 students comes in to land.



# Rosie, Lexie and Bethany are the talk of the town!



• **TOP TALKERS!** Bethany, Rosie and Lexie are congratulated by members of Arbury Rotary Club and English teacher, Mr Smith, following their third place finish in the West Midlands finals of this year's Youth Speaks competition.

**PUBLIC** speaking is a talent, and that is what three Higham Lane School students showed while competing in the West Midlands regional finals of this year's Rotary Youth Speaks competition.

The trio of girls — Lexie (10H2), Bethany (10H2) and Rosie (10H3) — travelled to the Arden Hotel, in Henley-in-Arden, for the event, where they were pitted against the region's top speakers.

Although they were one of the youngest teams competing, the girls finished third overall, beating off the attentions of other schools and sixth forms from the area.

Bethany, Rosie and Lexie were an inspiration to their families and friends who supported them as they tackled the topic of 'Equality'.

Although being last to speak, it did not deter them from

showing their skills and passion on the subject. The judges commented on the 'excellent, detailed and insightful introduction from the chair, and the wide ranging topic of 'Equality' being evidenced well and handled effectively by the lead speaker, with team work evident throughout'.

As a result, they finished in a very creditable third place with 90 points, behind Leamington's Trinity Catholic School (98) and Kineton High School (99).

The team's sponsors — Arbury Rotary Club — were extremely pleased as this is the highest-achieving group they have supported over the years.

High praise is deserved as the girls and Mr Smith really showed the other teams that Higham Lane is sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with state/private schools and sixth forms within the West Midlands area.

## Scouts chosen to attend World Jamboree!

SIX Higham Lane School students are riding along on the crest of a wave following selection to attend the 24th World Scout Jamboree in 2019!

The six super Scouts — Ewan (10H2),

Rebecca (10L3), Harry (9H2), Evie (9S1), Hannah (9H2) and Cameron (8S2), will travel to the USA for next year's spectacle, which takes place at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve in

West Virginia, from July 22– August 2.

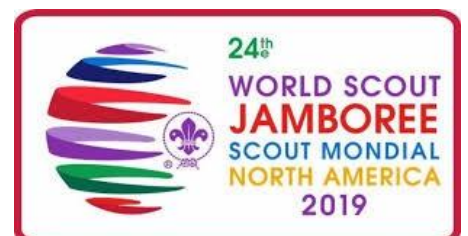
It is a great achievement for the Scouts as they had to participate in various tasks and were judged throughout a selection day attended by 200 youngsters. They were chosen to make up half of the Nuneaton contingent representing the 64-strong Warwickshire team.

All the students are required to raise £3,500 each in order to attend the jamboree, and are already participating in various fund-raising activities to achieve their goal.

Held every four years, the World Organisation of the Scout Movement event is attended by tens of thousands of Scouts from around the globe in celebration of the organisation.



• **AMERICA HERE WE COME!** Headteacher, Mr Kelly, congratulates Rebecca, Cameron, Ewan, Evie, Harry and Hannah on their selection to represent Warwickshire at next year's World Scout Jamboree.



**Margaret Haggie** is taking early retirement having given the School 16 years' service as an admin assistant, most recently on Student Services. We are enormously grateful for all the care Margaret has shown to our students, particularly in areas such as first aid. She will leave us on April 30.

**Matt Draycott** has secured a Head of Physics post in Leicestershire, where he lives. Matt will leave us at May half term. We are really sorry to lose Matt as he has been an excellent colleague, teaching both Physics and Chemistry, including at A level. We congratulate him

## Farewells and hellos!

on securing his well-deserved promotion and appreciate his desire to have the same school holidays as his family.

**Alex Smith** (Maths) joined us in September. Due to family commitments and her work with Warwick University Volleyball, she is sadly leaving us.

**Emily McIntosh** (English) will be leaving us when Katy Ison returns in the summer term. She has worked hard and we are sorry to lose her.

**Daniela Ling** has done an excellent job in teaching Spanish for us this term, making a big impact on A level and GCSE classes. Unfortunately, Daniela is travelling a very significant distance each day and she has therefore secured a post near to home.

Next term we will be welcoming back **Katy Ison** (English) and **Chandni Patel** (Science) from maternity leave.

**MR KELLY, Headteacher**



• **CIVIC SEAL OF APPROVAL!** The Mayor and Mayoress of Nuneaton and Bedworth, Cllr Bill Hancox and his wife Sheila, visited the School during the non-uniform day in March to meet the Junior Leadership Team and personally thank Higham Lane School for supporting their Annual Appeal.

# Phenomenal fund-raising!

A MASSIVE thank you to students and staff who donated a total of £1,306 for our non-uniform day in November. The donations were split between Macmillan Cancer Support, Student Voice initiatives and the School Production.

Student Voice has purchased four new red litter bins to support their litter action plan and the School Production will be using their donation to purchase costumes and props.

The School has also received a thank you from the Poppy Appeal for our donation of £170.75 towards the district total of £63,868.19.

In addition, a big thank you to all those who donated items for Nuneaton Foodbank, especially students in 8L1 who provided a whopping 12.23kg of our 157.8kg total! All donations are greatly appreciated by people in our community.

A second non-uniform day, held in February, resulted in a further total of £1,263 being donated by students and staff. This was split between the Teenage Cancer Trust charity, Student Voice and this year's School Production.

The third and final non-uniform day, in March, saw the magnificent sum of £1,158 raised for the Mayor of Nuneaton & Bedworth's Annual Appeal — the Lymphoedema Clinic at Nuneaton's Mary Ann Evans Hospice's palliative care unit.

Paying a special visit on the day to say thank you for supporting his charity were the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Bill Hancox and his wife Sheila, who congratulated the School on their various fund-raising initiatives throughout the year.

**THE JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM**





## News from the English Department



# Dressed to impress!

THIS year's World Book Day prompted several members of staff to dress up as their favourite characters from popular books.

The aim was to prompt discussion while also raising the profile of reading for pleasure.

Curiosity about the various characters — ranging from Veruca Salt from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* to Queen Elizabeth I — provoked lots of interest from students as teachers spent the first 10 minutes of every lesson explaining who they were and their particular book.

To help celebrate World Book Day, students visited the Learning Resources Centre at lunchtime to participate in the '100 Million Minutes' national reading challenge (*photos below*) thrown down to young readers.

The day was a huge success, not only creating a real buzz around the School, but also communicating the message that reading is fun and key to high achievement.

• Please turn to P21 for more images and details of the '100 Million Minutes' reading challenge.







## News from the Music Department



# Improvisation is key for instrument creation!



THE Music Department had a fantastic response to the Independent Learning Unit (ILU) set for Year 7 this year with creative, decorative and inspiring creations that reflected instruments studied by students.

Materials varied from plastic bottles and cardboard boxes to ear plugs, plastic piping and clothes pegs!

Brilliant work incorporating subjects was seen, such as Art, ICT, Design & Technology, Mathematics and Photography to name but a few.

As you can see from the proud smiles on the faces of the students in the photographs, this part of the ILU was well worth all their hard work.

**MRS DAVENPORT**  
Subject Leader  
for Music







## News from the Music Department







## Inspirational training!

AT HIGHAM Lane, we are thrilled to be working with Di and the team at EmployabilityUK on 'Let's Inspire'.

Following the success of last year's programme with the Year 12s, we are bringing professional employability skills training to our Year 10 students.

The programme offers an opportunity for students to gain transferable employability skills that are not sector or career path specific.

Examples of these skills include CV planning, interpersonal and communication skills, preparation for the world of work, personal brand and confidence building.

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED



## Drivers asked to curb bad habits!

A POLITE request is being made to drivers of vehicles who park in the vicinity of Higham Lane School.

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.



# Message received loud and clear!

ON FRIDAY, March 9, Year 9 watched a theatre production called One 2 Many, which is produced by the Loudmouth Theatre Company

One 2 Many helps young people aged 12 upwards to learn about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and understand the impact it can have on their bodies, behaviour and future choices.

Alcohol and cannabis are the most common drugs that young people seek help with in



the UK and there is still a lot of confusion around new psychoactive substances or so-called 'legal highs'.

One 2 Many draws on research with young people and explores key facts around alcohol and binge drinking, cannabis, psychoactive substances, risky behaviour and strategies for staying safe around alcohol and drugs.

This accessible and thought-provoking programme includes an interactive drama session followed by a workshop where these topics can be explored further.

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED



## Lesson in democracy!



ON MONDAY, March 12, Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in an interactive theatre production which educates young people about Parliament, democracy, active citizenship and British Values. The production reiterates and consolidates work completed in CPSHE.

'Make it Count' follows the story of 14-year-old Kacey, who isn't interested in politics and doesn't keep up with current events.

Kacey ultimately feels that, as she is not 18 and cannot vote, political and social matters do not apply to her. In her opinion, she can't make

a difference so why bother wasting time with 'boring politics'?

Led by her inspiring (and slightly unconventional!) teacher, Mr Lewis, Kacey goes on an unexpected journey as she is introduced to the exciting and important world of Parliament.

Visiting prolific points in political history through to the modern day landscape, Kacey witnesses first-hand how Parliament has evolved over time and learns how she too can play a role in our democratic society.

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED





## News from the Modern Foreign Languages Department



• **LIFE IN THE FAST LANE!** *Kristof Sokol, from Jaguar Land Rover, explains how languages changed his life.*



# Languages can open doors in the world of work!

THE Modern Foreign Languages Department was delighted to invite four guest speakers into School to promote the importance of languages in the world of work.

Steve, from the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham, spoke to Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students about how languages are important in keeping the country safe and secure.

Carmen Santos, who works for the Education Department in the Spanish Embassy, addressed Year 10s and 11s and delivered a great origami workshop with Year 10 Spanish students . . . in Spanish!

Alex Pickering, from the Goethe-Institut, addressed Year 10 and Year 11 students and delivered a pre-GCSE Option workshop to Year 8 students about German and languages in the world of work. Kristof Sokol, a Jaguar Land Rover employee, spoke to Year 10 and Year 11 about how languages changed his life and opened so many doors for him professionally. He now designs cars of the future for JLR.

Thank you to everyone who helped ensure the event ran smoothly and to all students involved for displaying exceptional behaviour.

**MRS FINLEY**

**Subject Leader for Modern Foreign Languages**

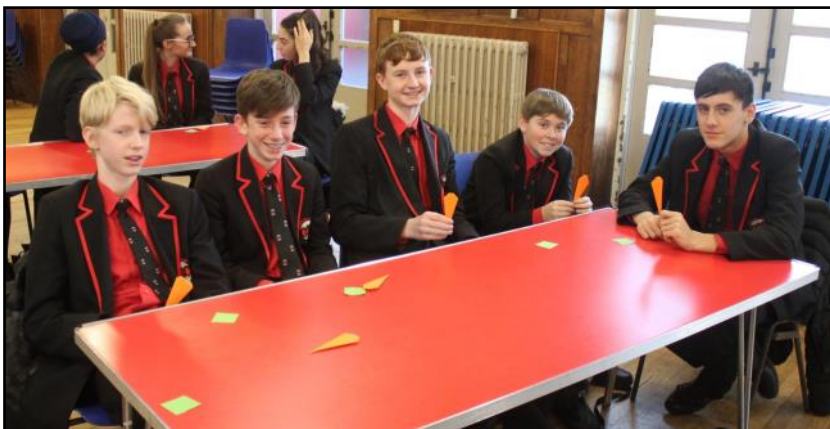


• **CULTURAL VIEWPOINT** — *Alex Pickering, of the Goethe-Institut, delivers a German workshop to 81Gm1 and 82Gm2.*





## News from the Modern Foreign Languages Department







## News from the Catering Department

# Creative cooking!

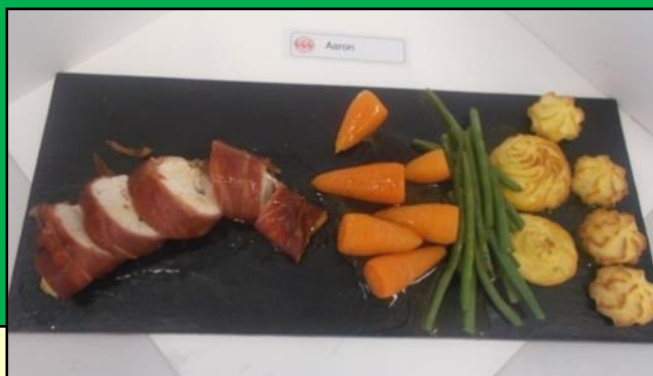
IN JANUARY, Year 11 students worked extremely hard on their Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE NEA2 practicals.

Their brief was based on them being in the final of a student chef competition, using local and regional ingredients. Therefore, a strong focus was on presentation and Midlands-based food.

Their time frame was three hours in which they had to create three dishes and three accompaniments. Skills included butchering chicken and pheasant and making their own Italian meringue, pastries and sauces.

The Catering Department has been suitably impressed with the outcome and wish students all the best with the rest of the course. They deserve to do well!

**MRS MESIAS, Catering Department**







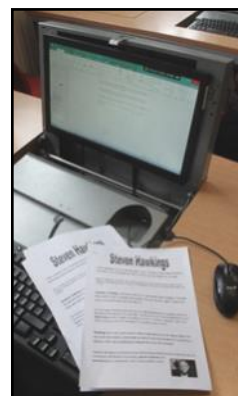
## News from the Catering Department







## News from the English Department



# Big News Day for budding reporters!

ONE hundred and twenty Year 8 students took part in this year's BBC News School Report Day.

The annual event, which involves group project work, encourages students to prepare and broadcast their own news stories.

News Day itself, on Thursday, March 15, involved students coming off timetable to become news reporters for Higham Lane School.

The newshounds began the day by researching breaking news stories, both local and national, and producing a news bulletin which featured on the school website.

Students were also encouraged to report on topical issues affecting young people today.

Selected groups were given the opportunity to record their stories using green screen technology and BBC backdrops to create an authentic feel to their news bulletins.

The second activity involved students becoming Weather Watchers for the day. They took photographs of the weather at School prior to creating weather reports and sharing information with fellow watchers across the country.

The big day ended with a screening of their news reports and a presentation ceremony in which students received certificates for successfully completing the project and producing high quality work.

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







## News from the English Department







# Super time on the Canadian slopes!

IN FEBRUARY half term, a party of staff and students headed off to Canada for the School's annual ski trip.

After flying into Montreal airport, the group travelled to their hotel at Mont Sainte Anne, near Quebec City. First impressions were good — big rooms, swimming pool, hot tubs, a games room and, most impressive of all, the ski slope was right next to the hotel.

The first morning of skiing brought the usual mix of excitement and apprehension and students were divided into groups with the excellent ski instructors.

Five hours of skiing for five days in a row meant the students made fantastic progress in their skiing ability and confidence.

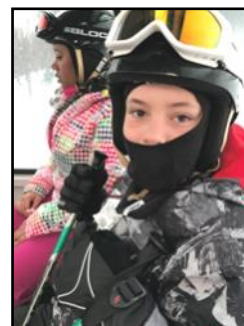
In the evenings, students had time to relax and make use of the hotel's facilities. On one night we enjoyed a very competitive game of bowling and also visited a local water park which, during winter, becomes a frozen park with rides in the snow.

After an exhausting five days of activities the final day was spent on a guided tour of the very picturesque Quebec City and shopping at an outlet mall.

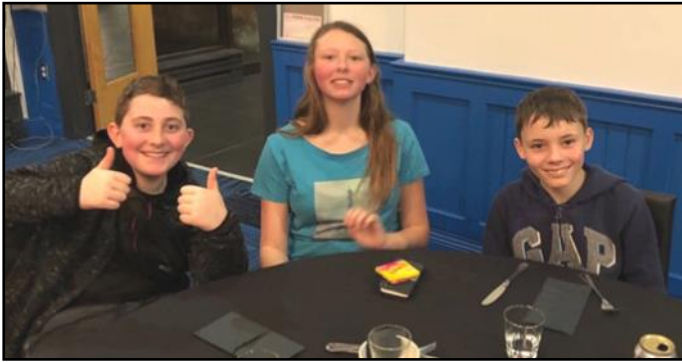
Another fantastic skiing holiday where students were a credit to the school.

A massive thank you to Mrs Mitchell for organising the trip.

**MR WILSON**  
Subject Leader for PE









# Festive feast of music!



KEEPING up years of tradition, Higham Lane School's marvellous musicians once again ensured the festive period got off to a sensational start thanks to three cracking concerts. Getting the Yuletide celebrations underway was the Carol Concert, held as usual at Nuneaton's St Nicolas Parish Church.

As in recent years, during the week leading up to Christmas, students were invited to play a matinee performance at Reg Hadden Court, situated opposite the School, where residents and staff thoroughly enjoyed a feast of festive song and music.

This was followed, two days later, by the evening Christmas Concert at the School. A record-breaking audience of 160 packed into Coombe Hall for a magical evening of musical entertainment.

Under the directorship of Mrs Davenport and Mrs Fawcett, the school orchestra, flute and string ensembles, school choir, African drummers and guitarists all played an assortment of tunes, ably supported by several other performers with their interpretations of traditional carols, popular songs and compositions.

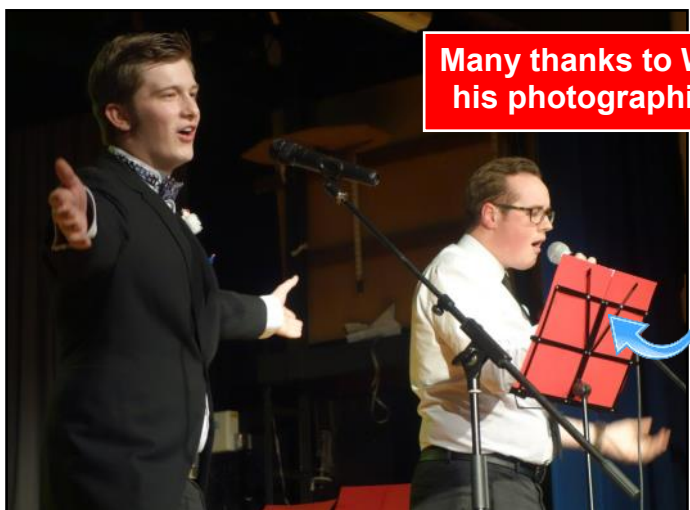
Subject Leader for Music, Mrs Davenport, commented: "A big thank-you is extended to all the fantastic musicians for their hard work and dedication which provides us with such wonderful concerts year after year.

"Many thanks also to the parents and carers of students involved for their continued support, encouragement and ferrying!"

• More photographs can be found on the HLS website!







Many thanks to William (11L1) for his photographic contributions!







## Music exam successes

THE following Higham Lane School Music students have recently passed their Associated Board Examinations. Congratulations!

<b>Grade 2</b>		
Saffi (7H2)	Clarinet	Distinction
<b>Grade 1</b>		
Mylo (7H1)	Clarinet	Distinction







## News from the Learning Resources Centre

# Reading towards 100 Million Minutes!

WORLD Book Day fell on March 1 this year, which enveloped us in the weather phenomenon known as 'The Beast from the East'.

With temperatures falling and a dark, threatening, snow-filled sky — what better way to spend your lunchtime than to be curled up in the Library with your book?

Contributing to the national 100 Million Minutes Reading Challenge, we invited students into the Library at lunchtime to well, read. No computers, no printers, just peace and tranquillity to sit and enjoy reading — which we did!

**MRS TURNER and MRS GUNN**  
Learning Resources Centre



## Accelerated Reader — Million Words Challenge

ALL our Year 7 students take part in Accelerated Reader and read a book every two weeks. Every word read contributes to our Million Words Challenge.

It can be done in Year 7 — One Million Words can be read during the year and below is the Top 10 as of March 15.

These students are well on their way to a prize for 1,000,000 words:

Name	Words Read
Alexandra 7S3	751,451
Katie 7S3	691,000
Alexina 7H1	681,518
George 7H2	658,128
Shantelle 7S3	654,156
Aamir 7H1	617,127
Eleanor 7H1	610,593
Aliyah 7H2	595,642
Ibraheem 7H1	586,104
Reuben 7H1	567,752





# Year 11 — Your exams are nearly here . . !



THERE'S not long left now until your exams. Have you started revising? The answer should be YES!

If you haven't already done so, you need to start revising NOW – **DO NOT LEAVE IT TOO LATE!**

Planning ahead will help you achieve your goal.

## When are your exams?

• Start by making a list showing the order they come in so you can plan your revision accordingly. If Maths is one of your first exams, make sure it is one of the first subjects you start revising.

• Prioritise the subjects that may need more attention than others.

• Ask for help and attend any catch-up classes that are on offer. You cannot revise something that you do not fully understand.

## Make a space for yourself

• Revise somewhere that you won't be distracted.

• Make it comfortable.

• Keep the space tidy and when you take a break, move away from your revision space.

• Turn your phone off while you revise – no social networking! Leave it in another room if you can't trust yourself.

• If you feel silence would help you work better, let others around you know that you are working.

• If silence doesn't help, try playing background music instead, or use some headphones to reduce the risk of outside distractions.

## Technique

By now, you should know what revision techniques are out there. The important thing to remember is to use whatever works best for you, regardless of what works best for your friends. These are **YOUR** exams!

Think about using the following:-

- Summary notes.
- Reading out loud when memorising.

- Creating posters and mind maps.
- Highlighting key words for each topic.
- Making revision cards.
- Looking at past exam papers.
- Using different colours (paper/pens).

• Test yourself regularly. This is important. It will help to identify your weak areas and build your confidence as your strengths increase.

## Do not work all the time!

It is important to work for around 40 minutes before taking a short break. If you work for too long in one go, your brain will get tired, making it harder to remember all the information.

## Eat and sleep well

• Do something in your break. You could call a friend or have something to eat. Use these things as a reward for your hard work before moving on to another topic.

• Get into good habits – go to bed at a reasonable time and make sure you always have breakfast. You cannot

function properly if you haven't had enough food or sleep so make sure you take it seriously.

• Make sure you stay hydrated and drink plenty of water. Stay away from energy drinks. They can give you a boost to begin with, but then make you tired.

• Take time to relax.

## Think about yourself

• Focus on what you need to do and not what other people are doing. Everyone is different and you must do what is best for YOU.

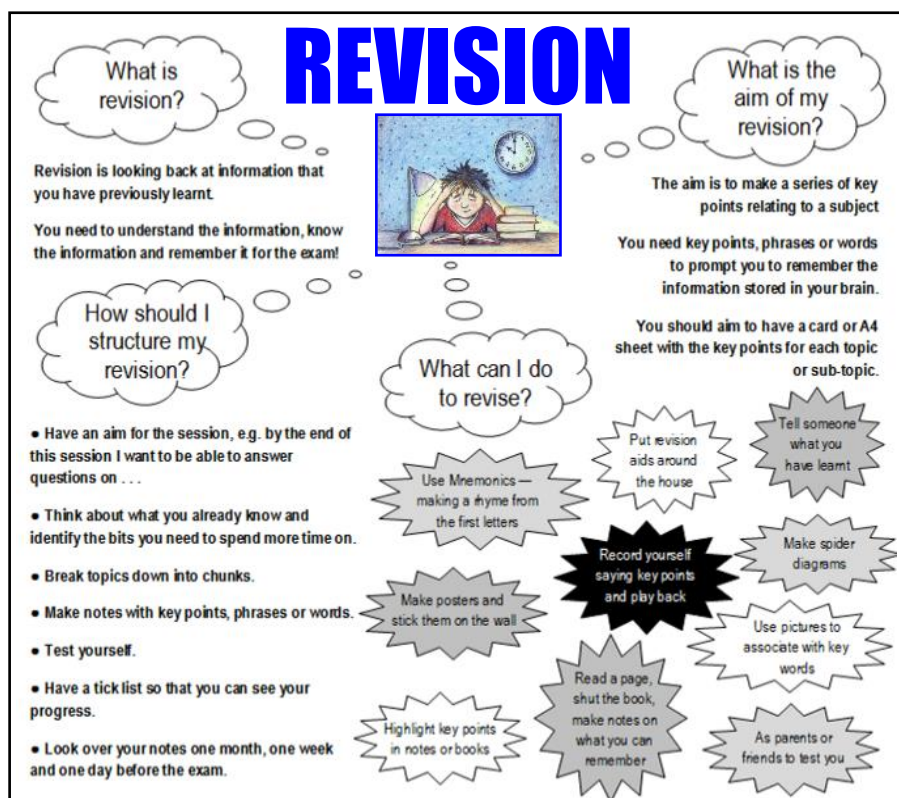
• Don't be afraid to ask for help. See your teachers, Progress Leader, Learning Mentor, parents/carers or friends.

• Remember that this period of hard work and stress will not last forever!

• Preparing for your exams may seem like a lot of work, but the more prepared you are, the more you will achieve. Your goal is in sight. Strive to achieve your best!

I wish you every success!

**MISS AYLIFF, Learning Mentor**







## News from the Physical Education Department

# Footballers continue to impress!

THE **Year 7** football squad have continued their impressive start at Higham Lane.

They have now played numerous fixtures, including two County Cup games, two league matches, three five-a-side tournaments and four friendlies.

This means over 30 different Year 7 students have represented the School this year!

In the County Cup, they are still to play against Ash Green in the semi-final.

In the league, the weather has unfortunately affected fixtures with only one game played, which Higham won 3-1 against Nicholas Chamberlaine.

After winning the District five-a-side tournament, the boys qualified for the West Midlands finals in February. In a very competitive tournament, the squad of eight got off to great start, beating Erasmus Darwin Academy 2-1 and Ormiston Academy 4-2.

In the next game, they narrowly lost 2-1 against Wolverhampton Grammar School, and then drew 1-1 with Thomas Telford School.

In their last game, where they needed a victory to qualify for the final, they won 5-3 but were unfortunately knocked out on goal difference. A very disappointing way to finish, especially as the team drew with the eventual tournament winners, Thomas Telford School.

The friendly matches against Queen Elizabeth and Etone on their Astroturf were an excellent chance for the boys to get match practice together during the winter period.

Each time the boys were divided into three seven-a-side teams and played a trio of matches in some very cold conditions.

Overall the teams enjoyed a great deal of success, winning many games.

The **Year 10** football squad won their District Cup quarter-final against Ash Green School 3-2 following a very good team performance and will play Queen Elizabeth in the semi-final.

The **Year 11** football squad has now won the District League for the fifth year in a row — a fantastic achievement!

In the Warwickshire Cup, facing yet another away game, they beat Harris 2-1 in a very tough semi-final and are through to the final which will be played on Tuesday, May 1, at Leamington Football Club.

Their opponents will probably be North Leam School, who have beaten them in the last two Warwickshire Cup finals. Come on boys, you can do it this time!

**MR WILSON**

Subject Leader for PE



• **SO CLOSE!** The Year 7 five-a-side squad were unlucky to be knocked out of the West Midlands finals on goal difference.



• **MATCH PRACTICE!** The Year 7 football squad look forward to their game with Queen Elizabeth.



• **BRAVING THE COLD!** The Year 7 football squad who faced Etone School.





## News from the Physical Education Department



• **A CREDIT TO THE PE DEPARTMENT!** The Year 8 students who acted as sports leaders in a variety of activities held at Higham Lane for secondary, primary and infant schools in Nuneaton.

TWENTY Year 8 students were selected to act as leaders in a variety of activities held at Higham Lane School for secondary, primary and infant schools in Nuneaton.

In the first event they had to time, count and measure all the different events and work out the scores for the 120 Year 2 students taking part in the infant agility competition.

Straight after that was the Year 7 indoor athletics competition for both boys and girls from different secondary schools in the district.

Again, lots of timing and measuring

### Amazing job by sports leaders!

was required before working out the results to find the winning school.

A week later the students were at it again. This time they were helping to lead the Year 5 and Year 6 athletics competition and then the Year 8 indoor athletics competition.

Teachers from the visiting schools

commented on the excellent job all the leaders did.

They were then asked to officiate the District indoor athletics finals, where they did an absolutely amazing job under a great deal of pressure from the watching parents/carers and primary school teachers.

Well done to all our leaders who were a credit to the PE Department and have been asked to help out at another event in June.

MR WILSON

Subject Leader for PE



## Indoor athletes perform well in area finals

AFTER winning their respective District competitions, Higham Lane's Year 7 and Year 8 boys' teams both qualified for the School Games finals, held at Solihull in March.

The Year 7s produced several excellent individual results in all the running events, against some very strong teams, finishing seventh overall in the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire area.

Also putting in a good performance, the Year 8s ran extremely well in the individual and relay events, and finished high up in the field events, to clinch eighth place overall.

MR WILSON

Subject Leader for PE

• **SCHOOL GAMES FINALISTS** — The Year 7 and Year 8 boys' indoor athletics teams.



# Joe's world is turning upside down!

THE world is turning upside down on a regular basis for up-and-coming gymnast Joe (7H1) as he continues to impress at the sport!

On Friday, March 9, he travelled to Liverpool for the National Junior Gymnastics Finals at the Echo Arena.

Here, Joe competed in the parallel bars, vault, floor and rings. He was most pleased with the floor and rings apparatus (*pictured*) where he enjoyed a clean routine and nailed his dismount.

Well done Joe, we look forward to reading more about your gymnastics career and seeing further amazing photographs!

**MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE**







## News from the Physical Education Department



• **KEY STAGE 3 GIRLS BADMINTON TEAM** — Esther, Lilly, Lily and Tia.



• **KEY STAGE 4 GIRLS BADMINTON TEAM** — Hannah, Asmita, Beth and Catherine.

# Sensational season includes clean sweep of all eight badminton titles!

### Key Stage 3 Girls

The Year 9 girls badminton team have shown good improvement over the season.

In November, they finished as winners in the District Tournament. Since then, they have convincingly won two league fixtures 8-0 and drawn two. This means they finish the season as league winners.

In the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull finals they played extremely well against some tough opposition to finish fifth in the tournament.

### Key Stage 3 Boys

The Year 7 and Year 8 boys badminton team have enjoyed a fantastic season

this year, playing against opponents who are all a year older.

In November, they won the District tournament. They have also triumphed in three of their league fixtures and drawn two to win the District league as well.

In the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire finals they won their first two games 4-1 against Lyng Hall and Arden. In their third match they just lost 4-1 against a very strong North Leam team to finish third overall

### Key Stage 4 Girls

The Year 10 and 11 girls badminton team has played superbly well this year. They easily won the District tournament and triumphed in their two league

matches to win the league again.

In the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire finals they played some excellent badminton to win 5-0 against Kings High, 5-0 against Stoke Park and 5-0 against Tudor Grange.

This meant they progressed through to the final where they played Studley who they again beat 5-0 to finish winners. A fantastic team performance!

### Key Stage 4 Boys

The Year 10 and 11 boys badminton team has played superbly well this year.

They romped home in the District tournament and won all six of their league matches to finish as champions again.

In the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire finals they lost their first game 3-2 against Tudor Grange but then improved their play to win their next two games 5-0 against Ernesford Grange and Aylesford. This meant they finished third in the tournament.

### DISTRICT LEAGUE RESULTS

**Hartshill:** U14 Girls drew 4-4, U14 Boys drew 4-4, U16 Boys won 5-3.

**George Eliot:** U14 Boys won 7-1, U16 Boys won 8-0.

**St Thomas More:** U14 Boys drew 4-4, U16 Boys won 7-1.

**Nicholas Chamberlaine:** U14 Girls drew 4-4, U16 Girls won 8-0, U16 Boys won 8-0.

**Polesworth:** U14 Girls won 8-0, U14 Boys won 6-2, U16 Girls won 5-3, U16 Boys won 8-0.

**Twycross:** U14 girls won 8-0, U14 Boys won 7-1, U16 Boys won 8-0.



• **BOYS AT THE DOUBLE!** Back row, the Key Stage 4 badminton team — Chris, Jake, Jack and Nick. Front, the Key Stage 3 team — Ryan, Lewis, Jack and Alex.

MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE





## News from the Physical Education Department



• **WHAT A LOT OF NETBALL PLAYERS!** The Year 7 Friday night practise sessions attracted a large number of girls keen to represent Higham Lane School at the sport.

# Year 7s net top three places!

SUCH was the phenomenal turnout by Year 7s every Friday night for netball training, Higham Lane could have fielded four teams instead of three this season! However, other schools in the area

struggled to attract players, so Higham found it difficult to find fixtures against under-strength opposition.

As a result, the A, B and C teams took the top three spots respectively in the

Nuneaton League and hopefully they can do the same in the forthcoming Nuneaton Tournament!

**MRS DAVIES**  
PE Department



• **AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT!** Higham Lane's Under-16 netball team show off their trophy after winning the Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire Triangular tournament, which paved their way for a place in the Nationals as one of the top 18 teams in the country. For full story, see back page!



# HLS Express Sport

## PLAYERS SHOW GRIT IN THE SNOW!



• **HIGHAM LANE SCHOOL'S UNDER-16 NETBALL SQUAD 2017-18** — Back row (left to right): Morgan, Leah, Laura and Asmita. Front: Billie-Jo, Hannah, Megan, Katie and Kristen.

IN THE wake of success in both the County tournament and Coventry/Warwickshire/Solihull Triangular, Higham Lane School's Under-16 netball team found themselves competing in January's West Midlands Finals.

In this regional competition, hosted by Bromsgrove School, the Higham girls performed superbly well in their group, securing wins against Stafford Grammar 17-4, Bromsgrove 9-5, King Edward V1 Birmingham 15-9, Wigmore 22-2, Abraham Darby 19-0 and Wolverhampton Grammar 15-7, winning their section while scoring 97 goals and conceding 27.

A very strong Kings Norton team were the challengers in the semi-finals, however, the Higham squad was on a roll and knew they were 14 minutes from reaching the England Netball National

Schools finals! A pulsating performance by both the defence and attack led to a closely contested 10 – 8 victory and a place in the prestigious finals, gaining them a top 18 ranking in England.

This is the 14th time Higham have qualified for the finals of this elite competition, where they faced the crème de la crème of the country's private and state schools.

The venue for this year's Nationals was Stanborough School, in Welwyn Garden City. The squad and supporters travelled down to Hertfordshire in glorious sunshine on the Friday afternoon and were joined by parents/carers, family and coaches for an enjoyable rewards ceremony at the hotel during the evening.

Unfortunately, things changed for the worse the following morning when the

team woke up to heavy snow and a bitterly-cold easterly wind. Arctic conditions are not conducive to good netball! The organisers debated on cancelling the tournament but, as it would be a mammoth task to re-arrange, decided that the show must go on!

In truly horrendous conditions, the Higham girls showed true grit and battled through their section with mixed fortunes, losing two ties by the odd goal while winning three games comfortably to finish 11th overall in the competition.

Coach, Mrs Davies, commented: "The wintry conditions were a real leveller for all 18 teams involved in the event and full credit must go to the Higham girls for competing in such awful weather. Thanks also to all the travelling parents/carers, Headteacher Mr Kelly and his wife, along with Year 12 students Lucy and Christie, who battled the elements to ensure the team received top support on the day."

"Qualification for the Nationals was a fantastic achievement by this group of talented girls who have worked so hard for five years to become the 11th ranked school in England!"

However, the outcome could have been much better for Higham but for one unfortunate umpiring decision which disallowed a legitimate goal that would have moved the girls up to sixth position!

**MRS DAVIES, PE Department**

## Under-19s miss out on Nationals

FOLLOWING qualification for the West Midlands finals, Higham Lane's first-ever Under-19 netball squad unfortunately missed out on a place in this year's National Netball finals.

Despite competing a year young, the girls produced some fantastic netball against more experienced teams and just failed to qualify for the semi-finals. Proud coach, Mrs Davies, said: "We are already working on our game plan for next season when the girls will be in the correct age group. Exciting times ahead!"

**MRS DAVIES, PE Department**