

# TIME TO GO YOUR OWN WAY!

**Stevie Nicks –  
Retiring after 13  
years at HLS**



Steve Nikols joined HLS in April 2007 having enjoyed a successful career in the newspaper printing business. He joined his wife, Janice, who was one of our most highly-regarded teaching assistants.

Steve has been an excellent Cover Supervisor, overseeing classes in every-possible subject! Whether he has been asked to cover English, Design and Technology, Art, Geography, Music, Spanish or Computer Science, Steve has done a consistently excellent job, setting the highest expectations of students' effort and behaviour and always explaining the work with care and an impressive degree of knowledge. His warmth and cheerfulness has also been greatly appreciated by the students. When it has been time to cover a PE lesson or Sports Day, Steve has donned that famous bright blue tracksuit and England shirt! Steve has also supervised many a school trip to theatre, art galleries, theme parks and more.

**TURN TO P2**



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

Tel: 024 7638 8123  
Fax: 024 7637 0550



**Pupil Premium  
Awards 2016  
Local Winner**



Email: [contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk)  
[www.highamlaneschool.co.uk](http://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk)



Beyond the classroom, Steve has been the HLS official photographer! He has been our paparazzi at music concerts, school plays, sponsored walks and visits from special guests. Steve's finest moment must be his incredible calmness and skill in snapping students as they arrive for our annual Year 11 school prom. He makes each student feel valued and takes absolutely stunning pictures, whilst managing to side step the wide range of vehicles that are engaged in seven point turns!

Arguably Steve's greatest achievement has been the way he has transformed the School's magazine, HLS Express, from a very basic publication into a highly-professional, lively, engaging record of the School's work. Steve's brilliant eye for a great story from his local newspaper background, has been put to good use here. His clever headlines, often with puns to rival Tim Vine, along with stunning photographs and skilful layout, have really engaged readers. We feel our school magazine is far better than any other comprehensive school's magazine any of us have ever seen!

We are so sorry to see Steve leave us at this time, but we are delighted that he can now enjoy a well-earned retirement. Steve will enjoy seeing more of his family, particularly his grandchild and watching his beloved Chelsea FC (I have always admired his taste in football clubs!).

Thank you for being a wonderful colleague Steve! You are one in a million!

Phil Kelly, Headteacher

*What can we say about Stevie Nikols?*

*The man, the legend, the sideburns.*

*Thanks for all the cover in the PE Department, always dependable and willing to brave the elements, loving being out in the mud in his suit!*

*Thanks for all the sports teams, sports days and school show photos you give up your free time to do.*

*Thanks for all the HLS Express sports articles. Your headline puns are genius. Your support for Higham Lane School has been OUTSTANDING. The kids love you, the staff love you and you will be sadly missed!!*

*From the PE Department.*

Dear Mr Nikols,

Thank you for all the times you covered our lessons in lower school and the times you covered our registration groups at sixth form. We are also grateful to you for being our private study supervisor when needed and ensuring we are always on task and working hard. A very special thank you for celebrating our successes in the HLS Express. We wish you all the best for your new adventures away from school! A BIG thank you.

Best wishes  
The Sixth Form



## Welcome To Our Biggest-ever Issue!

DEAR Parents/Carers/Students,  
In this cracker of a 40-page HLS Express festive edition I know you will enjoy reading about the Queen's visit 25 years ago, the School's Armistice commemorations, our Christmas Carol Service, Anti-Bullying Week, Enrichment Week, two successful

open evenings, excellent GCSE and A-level results, fantastic fund-raising, 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

# BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT!

Silver anniversary  
of the visit by Her  
Majesty the Queen

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, Higham Lane School welcomed a Royal guest of honour when Her Majesty the Queen, Elizabeth II, made her first-ever visit to Nuneaton.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, visited the town on December 8, 1994, when she officially opened the School's brand-new Science block and presented the School farm with a calf.

Her Majesty and Prince Philip were escorted around the site by Headteacher at the time, Dr Ramsey Tetlow, both Royals taking time to speak to students and members of staff, in particular John Terry, who had established the School's smallholding.

Higham Lane School's farm was developed in the 1970s and '80s by Mr Terry, and continued to operate until his retirement in 1998. In its prime it was home to a host of animals, including cows, pigs, sheep, goats and chickens. Unfortunately, the farm eventually

Turn to P2



• A RIGHT ROYAL CONVERSATION! Her Majesty the Queen chats with one of the students during her visit to Higham Lane School in 1994.



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**From P1**

closed due to lack of funding.

Mr Terry, a teacher of Rural Studies, was also a keen author and wrote five books based around life on the farm, the most famous being 'Pigs in the Playground'. In total, they sold more than 100,000 copies!

After being educated as a student at Higham Lane, Mr Terry later returned as Head of Department teaching Agriculture, Horticulture and Environment Studies, and spent his entire 25-year educational career at the School.

Recalling the Queen's visit, Mr Terry said: "She arrived on-farm and the children were waiting with the animals. She asked if they were nervous, which of course they were, and she said she could tell as the halter [on the calf] had been put on too tight.

"She went on to loosen the halter and stood with them talking about all aspects of the farm. She then asked me what bull I was going to use on our heifers and I told her we were using hers — 'Windsor Imperial December'.

"I will never forget she turned around and said he would do a marvellous job on our heifer. She knew what she was talking about.

"The whole experience was one of the best days of my life!"

After retirement from teaching, Mr Terry went on to become a first generation farmer, resulting in the eventual ownership of a 35-acre Warwickshire farm.

During her visit to Higham Lane School a quarter of a century ago, the Queen signed her name and planted a tree on the perimeter of the front field outside Coombe Hall entrance. She also spoke intently with students and several

members of staff, including caretaker Ian Faulconbridge, who is still at the School.

Upon departure from Higham Lane, the Royals travelled across town to visit the George Eliot Hospital. Here, Her Majesty unveiled a bust of herself by acclaimed Nuneaton sculptor John Letts, the monarch having allowed him two prior sittings at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen's visit to the Midlands concluded with a tour of the Jaguar car factory in Browns Lane, Coventry.



• **THIS WAY MA'AM!** Headteacher, Dr Ramsey Tetlow, escorts the Queen around the School.



• **GUARD OF HONOUR!** Higham Lane School students are keen to get up close to the Queen and Prince Philip.



• **ALL SMILES!** Her Majesty the Queen.



• **PLEASED TO MEET YOU!** The Queen shakes hands with caretaker Ian Faulconbridge, who is still working at the School today.



● **GREETINGS!** The Royal party is welcomed to the School.



● **WARM WELCOME!** The Queen goes on walkabout.



● **DOWN ON THE FARM!** Above and below: The Royals, accompanied by teacher, John Terry, meet two of the student helpers.



● **IN HER ELEMENT!** During her visit, Her Majesty officially opened the School's new Science block.



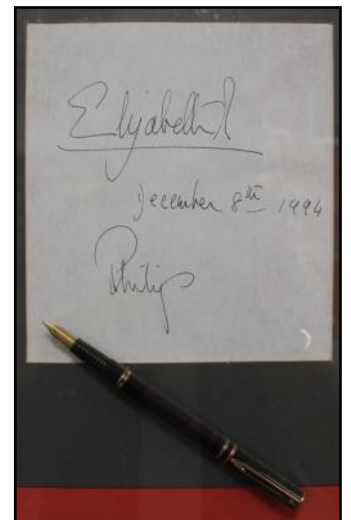
● **MAKING NOTES!** The Duke of Edinburgh chats to Music students.



● **A FARMER'S LIFE FOR ME!** Former teacher, John Terry.



● **SIGN HERE PLEASE!** The Queen signs the visitors' book (seen right along with Prince Philip's signature), which is proudly displayed in Chine Hall foyer today.





# Lest we forget!



• **SCHOOL'S TRIBUTE** — Head Boy and Head Girl, Will and Esther, and President of the Sixth Form Student Union, Megan, prepare to lay a wreath at Nuneaton's Remembrance Sunday Service.



• **ON PARADE** — Organiser of the event, Mr Goldstraw, and trumpet player, Michael Taylor, are flanked by drummer boys Tom, Milo, Shaun and Jake.

AT THE 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, Higham Lane School paid heart-felt respects to the country's fallen and injured service men and women during this year's Armistice Day commemorations.

Marking the 101st anniversary of the end of World War One hostilities in 1918, all students and staff gathered on the playground in a hushed and respectful silence.

At 10.55am, four drummers — Tom, Jake, Milo and Shaun — made their call and a reading, undertaken by organiser of the event — History teacher Mr Goldstraw — was followed by the blowing of a whistle at the stroke of 11 o'clock to signal the start of two minutes silence.

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 the Great War.

At 11.02am a whistle was blown again to signify the end of the silence and the strains of 'The Last Post', performed by trumpet player Michael Taylor, of Bulkington Silver Band, resonated around the playground.

The day prior to the School's commemorations, a poppy wreath was laid at the War Memorial in Riversley Park during Nuneaton's Remembrance Sunday Service.

Representing the School was Headteacher, Mr Kelly, accompanied by Head Boy and Head Girl, Will and Esther, along with the President of the Sixth Form Student Union, Megan.

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.



• **THE 11th HOUR, OF THE 11th DAY, OF THE 11th MONTH** — A bird's eye view of Higham Lane School's 2019 Remembrance Day commemorations.

# Eloquent Esther specially selected for church reading by High Sheriff!

HIGHAM Lane School's Head Girl, Esther, was specially chosen to read the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi at the High Sheriff of Warwickshire's Legal Service held at The Collegiate Church of Saint Mary in Warwick on Monday, October 14.

Esther was invited to take part in the service by The High Sheriff, Simon Miesegaes, when he visited Higham Lane in July and was so impressed by the School and particularly its Junior Leadership Team, of which Esther is a key member.

The church was packed with distinguished representatives of the judiciary, the emergency services, the armed forces, local government, police cadets and schools from across Warwickshire. Stunning song and musical performances were offered by local school choirs and musicians and The Carice Singers. The Very Reverend John Witcombe, The Dean of Coventry, gave the address.

Headteacher, Phil Kelly, who had the



• **PROUD MOMENT!** Head Girl, Esther, with the High Sheriff of Warwickshire and Headteacher, Mr Kelly.

pleasure of attending the service with Esther's parents, commented: "We are so proud of Esther! She read superbly, with great clarity and

expression and many members of the congregation came up to Esther after the service to congratulate her! "We are thrilled that Higham Lane, a comprehensive school in the north of the county, was chosen to play such a significant part in this wonderful occasion!"

Following the event, Esther received a personal letter from the High Sheriff, praising her for the eloquent reading.

It read: 'A note to thank you for reading so beautifully at my Legal Service on Monday and for representing Warwickshire's schools. We had over 400 attendees — to hold the poise you did and to be 'word perfect' was some achievement. I send you and your fellow pupils at Higham Lane my best wishes for the rest of the academic year and beyond — and thank you again for your contribution on Monday.'

Yours ever,  
Simon Miesegaes'.



## Pyjama time for Pudsey!

CHARITY-MINDED Higham Lane Sixth Form students dreamt-up a novel way of raising money for this year's BBC Children in Need appeal! Several decided to attend college in

their pyjamas or onesies, for which they paid a cash forfeit.

As a result, a tidy sum was forwarded to Children in Need, helping swell this year's grand total to almost £50 million!



## Readers, Orchestra and Choir

Millie R  
 Jotham  
 Adam  
 Zacharia  
 Courtney  
 Scarlett B  
 Grace  
 Ebbie  
 Tegan  
 Ellena  
 Megan B  
 Grace  
 Scarlett C  
 Georgia  
 Reuben  
 Evie  
 Jessica  
 Chloe D  
 Brennan  
 Megan E  
 Tyler  
 Alexina  
 Amelia  
 Oliver-James  
 Chloe C  
 Pavandeep  
 Will  
 Esther  
 May  
 Tom  
 Amy H  
 Edward  
 Bethan  
 Ellis  
 Tarandeep  
 Lily L  
 Robert  
 Niamh  
 Alice  
 Iona  
 Olivia  
 Rebecca  
 Lily R  
 Emelia  
 Milee S  
 Dominic  
 Lucy  
 Kyra  
 Erin  
 Amy S  
 Maisie  
 Mia  
 Violet

# Carols for Christmas!

ST NICOLAS Parish Church resonated with a feast of festive sounds as Higham Lane School's annual Carol Service got Christmas off to a cracking start!

A large congregation was in attendance as family and friends of the musically-gifted students, along with members of staff, were entertained by the School Orchestra, Choir and readers.

A warm welcome to everyone from the Reverend Kelly Betteridge was followed by the carol 'Once In Royal David's City', angelic soloist Millie R singing the first verse, followed by the reading of John 1: vs 1-14 by Deputy Headteacher, Mr Banks.

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

Another festive favourite, 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' was performed with gusto, prior to Head Boy, Will, taking the lectern for the second reading of the night, 'The Innkeeper'.

Another carol, 'While Shepherd Watched', then reverberated around the rafters, followed by Head Girl, Esther, reading 'Mary's Musing'.

A haunting piano solo, 'O Holy Night' performed impeccably by Milee S, was followed by a third reading from Assistant Subject Leader for Science, Mr Parker.

Festive favourite 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' then filled everyone with the spirit of the season while the Rev Betteridge's address highlighted the true meaning of Christmas.

Next, the School Choir performed 'Somewhere Only We Know' with Erin, Rebecca and Grace B providing sensational solo contributions.

The final reading of the night, 'Simeon Sees The Saviour', courtesy of Simon, along with Prayers and Blessing by the Rev Betteridge, was followed by a rousing rendition of 'O Come All Ye Faithful', which culminated an uplifting service.

Afterwards, the congregation was able to sample delicious festive fare of tea and mince pies served up by Miss Mackey and Mr Parker.

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. can be found on the HLS website.



## Music exam successes

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

<u>Grade 7</u>		
Avneet (Year 13)	Flute	Pass
<u>Grade 6</u>		
Esther (8H3)	Flute	Pass
<u>Grade 5</u>		
Niamh (8H3)	Flute	Merit
Rebecca (11L3)	Flute	Pass
<u>Grade 2</u>		
Alice (9S2)	Clarinet	Distinction
Melissa (7S2)	Flute	Merit
Isabel (7S3)	Flute	Merit
Evie (7S2)	Flute	Merit
Isabella (7H1)	Flute	Pass
Amy (7H2)	Clarinet	Pass
<u>Grade 1</u>		
Evie	Flute	Merit
Pavan	Clarinet	Pass



## News from the Music Department



• **IN PERFECT HARMONY!** The School's orchestra and choir perform at the Christmas Carol Concert.

## Lauren's writing skills recognised!

CONGRATULATIONS to Higham Lane Sixth Form student, Lauren, who has been awarded the 2019 George Eliot Essay Competition Prize in this, the Nuneaton-born female writer's bicentenary year. Lauren's written work really impressed the judges, and her prize was presented by Rotary Club of Nuneaton members Tony Collett and David Lloyd along with John Burton from The George Eliot Fellowship.

• **WRITE-ON!** Lauren receives her prize from Tony Collett and David Lloyd, of the Rotary Club of Nuneaton, and the George Eliot Fellowship's John Burton, watched by Subject Leader for English, Mrs Somel, and English teacher, Mrs Ison.



AT THE end of term we are saying farewell to a number of colleagues.

**Steve Nikols** has been an excellent Cover Supervisor since April 2007, with very high expectations of our students. He has covered every possible lesson from PE to Art to Maths and always enjoyed excellent relationships with students. Steve has also been the editor and chief writer of our excellent termly school magazine, HLS Express. This publication has been transformed in quality under Steve's stewardship. Steve has also been our official photographer, attending a range of school events, often outside of school hours to take stunning photographs. We shall miss this helpful, cheerful colleague. I am also very sorry to lose a fellow Chelsea fan from the staff! We wish Steve a happy early retirement, during which he will be able to spend more time with his grandchild.

**Madeline Mesias** has been an effective teacher of Design and Technology, specialising in Food and

## Farewells and new arrivals!

Textiles. Her practical work with students has been stunning! She has also made a strong contribution to staff wellbeing through running a range of activities for staff to learn new skills and has also recently taken on the Assistant Subject Leader role on an acting basis. We wish Madeline well as she takes up a Subject Leader role in Leicestershire.

**Bex Wood** has been an effective teacher of ICT, iMedia and Computer Science and Assistant Subject Leader, acting as Subject Leader at one stage. Bex has also made a strong contribution to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We wish Bex every success in

her new role as Subject Leader at a school in Coventry.

**Andrew Wood** has been an enthusiastic teacher of Maths and acting Assistant Subject Leader. He has made a significant contribution to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We wish him every success in his new post teaching Engineering to older students.

**Sara MacCallum** has been a very effective data clerk as well as contributing to overseeing Sixth Form private study. We wish her every happiness in her new role in a school a little nearer home.

**Emma Carpenter** has been an efficient science technician. We wish her success in her next position.

We wish **Mrs Endlicher** all the best as she begins her maternity leave.

Next term we welcome **Mrs Key** to Design and Technology, **Mrs Skerratt** to Maths, and **Mrs Czapczyk**, who will be covering Mrs Endlicher's maternity leave. We are also appointing a teacher of Computer Science and iMedia.

## Theatrical lesson in how to stay safe!



## TV director is Guest of Honour

HIGHAM Lane School's 2019 Annual Prize Giving was held at the Civic Hall, Bedworth, on the evening of November 14.

Guest of Honour was highly-

accomplished TV director, Paul Gibson, who broadcast an amazing thought-provoking speech and presented awards to successful students.



• GUEST OF HONOUR — Headteacher, Mr Kelly, welcomes Paul Gibson to Higham Lane School's 2019 Annual Prize Giving evening.

AS PART of their work in CPSHE, students in Year 8 have been using a resource called Real Love Rocks, produced by the children's charity Barnardo's.

This looks into healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, sexting and porn, the consequences of Child



Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and grooming.

As a culmination of this work, the School was delighted to receive funding from Nuneaton Borough Council to provide a theatre workshop from the Loudmouth Theatre Company which deals with all of the issues above in an interactive way.

As well as the play, students were invited to a 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 to our students the importance of healthy relationships and where to go to if they need help.

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED



# Fantastic five raise funds to help save our planet!



• **CARING FRIENDS!** Ellena, Evie, Amy, Amelia and Megan raised £140 for the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

FIVE Higham Lane School students have shown their passion to protect threatened animals by raising a mammoth £140 for the World Wildlife Fund For Nature (WWF)!

The caring quintet — Amy (7L3), Evie (7S3), Ellena and Megan (7L3) and Amelia (7S3) — joined forces to raise the cash by holding a craft and bake sale at the Ellena and Megan's house in October.

The Year 7 friends sold home made items such as biscuits, cup cakes, conflake cakes and toffee apples, along with knitted headbands, pompoms, bookmarks and bracelets.

In addition, other fund-raising activities included 'guess the name of the teddy bear', 'guess how many sweets in the jar' and tombola.

The money raised means the WWF can continue with its vital work in helping to protect the world's most endangered species, places and people.

In addition, the charity is able to carry on fighting the ongoing battle against climate change and plastic pollution while also addressing the unsustainable consumption of precious natural resources around the globe.

Amy explained why the girls decided to raise funds for the WWF: "We want to make people aware of all the amazing things this charity does to help the environment, such as tackling climate change and animals facing extinction.

"£10 will buy 40 seedlings for a forest in Tanzania, £20 will pay for a WWF school visit for an orangutan education and £100 will pay for a hand-held GPS to map turtle nests.

"Thanks to the people who supported our sale, the WWF can pay for all three of those things."

The other girls also sent out a clear message that, if people don't act now, the world is in danger. Amelia said: "Why do people ignore this? All the fighting and hatred in the world doesn't help us. Our world is dying!" while Megan commented: "I think this is a matter that is getting worse and worse and needs to be helped."

Ellena outlined the apathy she thinks surrounds our planet's existence: "I feel like people know but don't bother, so we thought we could make a difference," with Evie stating: "I strongly believe this is an urgent matter and needs to be dealt with now!"

As a thank you, the girls all received certificates from the WWF, acknowledging their fantastic fund-raising feat.

Examples of the world's animals in danger of extinction are Polar Bears, whose population is projected to decline 30 per cent by 2050; Black and White Rhinos, down 63 per cent since 2006 due mainly to poaching and Bornean Orangutans, more than 100,000 lost since this century due to deforestation.

Closer to home, the UK's Grey Partridge population has plummeted by more than 80 per cent since 1970 while Puffin numbers are estimated to decline by the same amount in the next 45 years. These are alarming figures.

Amy concluded: "I think that if everyone did a little something to help, we would be able to make a huge impact on the state of our planet.

"Whether it is something as simple as a donation to the WWF or a massive fund-raising event, together we can tackle climate change and save the environment.

"You can even do something as simple as turning off a light and opening the curtains. Every little counts!

"After all, the only people who can make a difference is us!"



WWF

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO

*Amy, Ellena, Evie, Amelia and Megan*

## FOR RAISING A FANTASTIC

£ 140.00

We're so grateful for your support, it means we can continue our vital work to help protect some of the world's most threatened animals, places and people; tackle climate change and address the unsustainable consumption of precious natural resources.

Thank you again,

Tanya Steele, CEO WWF-UK



# Open Evening 2019



## Volunteers step forward!



ONCE again, one of the highlights on Higham Lane School's autumn calendar attracted a huge number of visitors through the gates this year.

The 2019 Open Day and Evening, held on October 2, offered prospective students, their parents and carers, the ideal opportunity to take a look behind the scenes and see what makes the School outstanding!

As always, the event drew large crowds, who were able to witness the excellent education offered by the School and talk to the talented teachers in 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 really burst 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 the sensational students who stole the show again this year, the eager volunteer helpers and tour guides demonstrating their unrelenting enthusiasm and dedication for the School throughout a long and tiring day.

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





# Open Evening 2019



# Open Evening 2019





# A box of delights!

THE bizarre concept for this year's school show, 'The Costume Box', came as a result of unearthing so much incredible singing talent during last year's Enrichment Week.

Mrs Davenport, Miss Watson and Mrs White were blown away by the number of quality singers and were adamant a musical was needed to showcase these wonderful performers.

Mr Ireland had the slightly odd – but ultimately very successful – idea of basing it around the 1980s childrens' TV programme 'Mr Benn' in which the main character went to a fancy dress shop, put on a costume and had an adventure as whatever he'd dressed up as. And so 'The Costume Box' was born as a way of tying together the kids' favourite songs from well-known musicals.

With six members of staff co-ordinating the various scenes and songs, Mrs White had the unenviable task of trying to bring it all together into a coherent whole but, with the help of the wonderfully conscientious and positive students, that's exactly what she did to produce a stunning show enjoyed by record numbers of people on both nights.

During any show, there are normally a number of issues between the cast that have to be dealt with, but these kids were so lovely there was none of that; only a fantastic, hard-working ethos and a lot of fun.

And, thanks to the equally talented Art Department, the stunning set put the finishing touches on a really special experience for everyone involved.

From all the staff (Mrs White, Mrs Davenport, Miss Watson, Mr Ind, Mr Ireland and Mr Bottrill), we'd like to say a MASSIVE congratulations to all the students who took part and an equally MASSIVE thank you to EVERYONE who helped in any capacity, particularly Mr Wilson who gave up so much time providing the lighting and sound effects each night.

So . . . onto the next one! We've already got numerous ideas we're excited about so, if you'd like to be involved again, or want to take part for the first time, we'd love to get as many of you involved as possible.

See you next year for another extravaganza from The MAD Laners (Technology, Music, Art, Drama).

**MR BOTTRILL**  
The Costume Box Script Writer





## Life-saving lesson!

ONCE again, our Year 8 students were taught how to potentially save a life, thanks to Warwickshire Fire & Rescue.

The Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) workshop, held for the fourth year in a row at the School, saw students learning about the difference between heart attacks and cardiac arrests, learn CPR and learn how to use a defibrillator.

This is a vital life skill that we are eager to promote at Higham Lane.

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED



## In the driving seat at MIRA's TeenTech event!

THE School was very pleased to receive an invite to attend the Year 9 TeenTech event at MIRA in November. Fifteen students attended the event, which saw them create innovative gadgets for the future and visit various interactive engineering companies for an insight into their product creation and design.

One of our groups finished as runner-up in the innovative design category, winning a £15 Amazon voucher for the School.

We have since bought a book on the motor industry with the voucher, which can be found in the library.

**MRS MITCHELL**, Subject Leader for CPSHEED

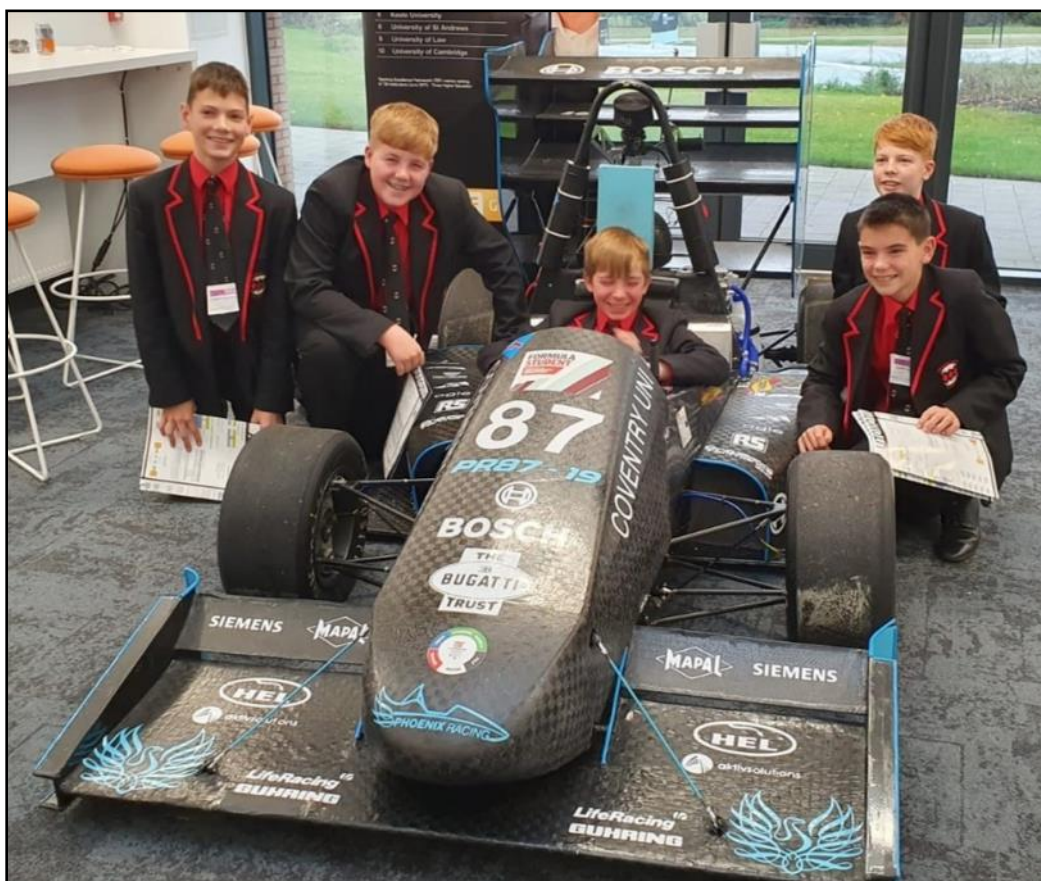
## Road safety theatre production

IN SEPTEMBER, a visiting theatre production company highlighted the dangers and distractions on our roads to Year 7 students.

The production was kindly funded by WCC as part of their ongoing support around road safety at Higham Lane School.

This will continue in Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 through our work done with Sam Hemus in CPSHE lessons.

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for CPSHEED





## Medical Mavericks!

AS PART of Higham Lane's work with Warwickshire Council Council around careers, the School was invited to take students to the Nuneaton Academy for a Medical Mavericks workshop, funded by Skills for Employment.

Everyone enjoyed a brief introduction to careers in the NHS and the world of medicine, followed by an interactive workshop where students could try out skills normally seen in doctors surgeries or hospitals.

Activities included learning to take blood, ultra sound, ECG, blood pressure and temperature.

**MRS MITCHELL**

Subject Leader for CPSHEED



YEAR 8 students were fully engaged throughout a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) roadshow, which was held at the School in November.

Entitled 'Are We Connected?', the show was delivered on behalf of BAE Systems, in partnership with the RAF and Royal Navy, and focused on Communications and Data.

Areas covered included how mobile phones connect people around the world, how computers talk to each other and how we talk to our devices, such as Bluetooth, along with their real life applications.

## Connecting with STEM learning!

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

They were asked to become base stations and satellites to help

understand how mobile phones communicated and were introduced to different types of waves on the electromagnetic spectrum which encouraged them to think about various ways to write code for a Sphero.

Students had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and, in recognition of the shortage of engineers, the School hopes that by capturing the interest of young people we can hopefully increase the numbers that take STEM subjects and, ultimately, increase the pool of talent in years to come.

**MISS CHARNELL**

Subject Leader for Mathematics



# Enrichment Week 2019



**HUMANIMAL — VICKI WITH BERNIE FROM BIRMINGHAM DOGS' HOME**



**HARRY POTTER ACTIVITY**

## Enriching experience for students!

ENRICHMENT Week is a way of engaging Higham Lane School students outside the classroom by offering them a variety of learning experiences not normally available.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students followed their chosen activities throughout the final week of the summer term, which included out-of-school trips to France, Chester Zoo and Hampton Court.

Others were engaged in programmes within school with Mathematics, Music and English among the Departments providing fun learning opportunities.

The Humanimal programme and birds of prey demonstration proved extremely popular with students and staff alike!

The montage of photographs on the accompanying six-page feature shows the huge amount of pleasure students experienced while enriching their lives!

**MRS MITCHELL, Subject Leader for CPSHEED**



**SWADLINCOTE SKI CENTRE**



# Enrichment Week 2019

BRAMCOTE FOOTGOLF



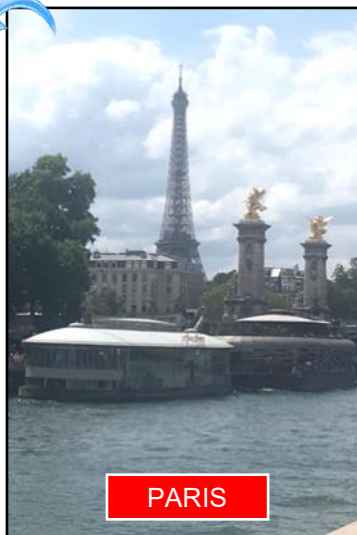
WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK



PARIS



# Enrichment Week 2019

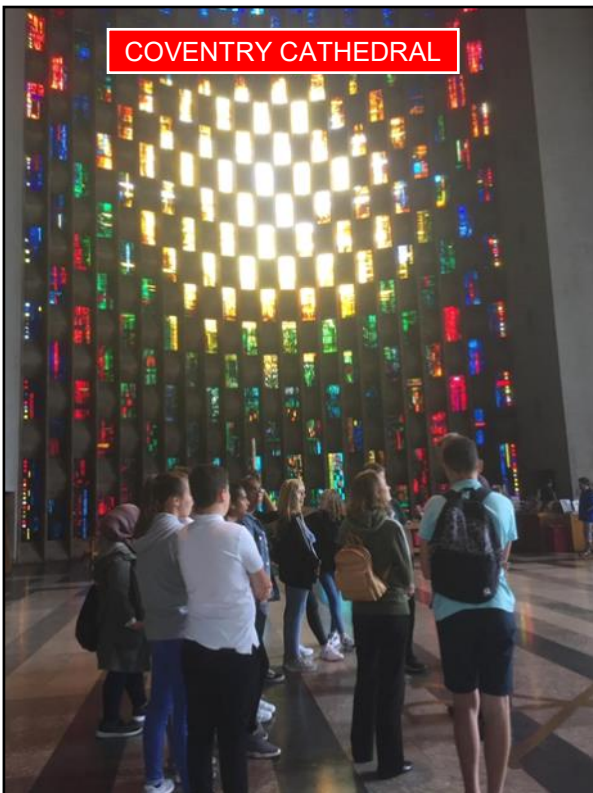




CHESTER ZOO



CHESTER ZOO CLAY ANIMALS



COVENTRY CATHEDRAL



DYEING PROCESSES



BALLOON RACING CARS



BRAMCOTE GOLF DRIVING RANGE

# Enrichment Week 2019



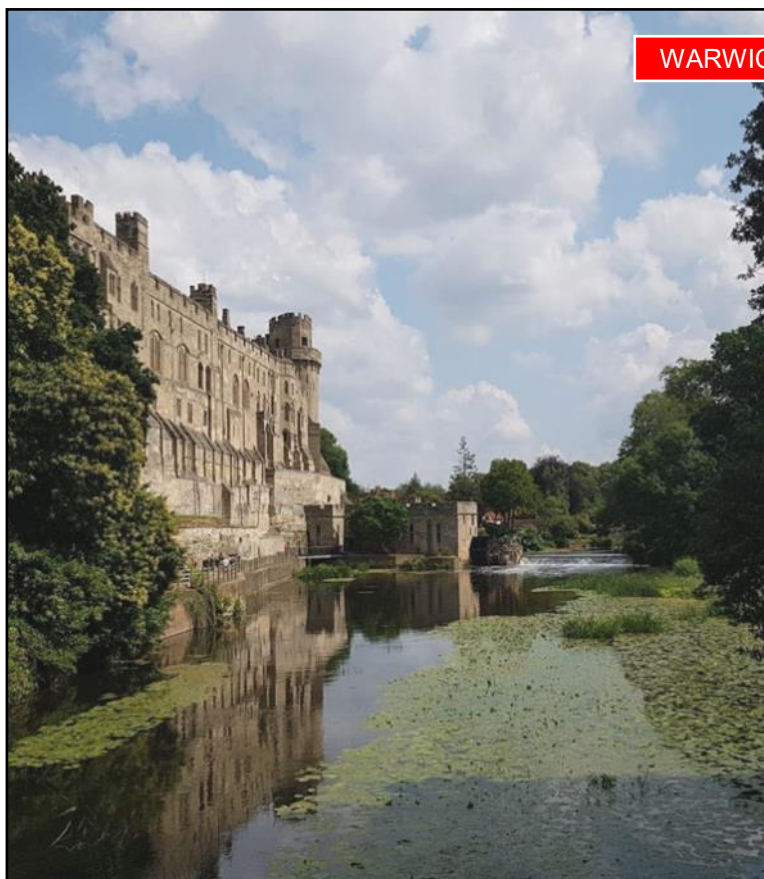
JAGUAR  
LAND-ROVER



JAGUAR  
LAND-ROVER



ZORB FOOTBALL



WARWICK CASTLE



# Enrichment Week 2019

HLS EXPRESS December 2019 23



BIRDS OF PREY



• **WORKING WELL!** Higham Lane School's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors undertook a series of problem solving activities during October's LGBTQ training day.

## Learning how to prevent LGBTQ bullying

IN OCTOBER, Higham Lane School's Anti-Bullying Ambassador team participated in two courses — LGBTQ training and The Diana Award training — to provide us with more detailed information on the subject of bullying.

The first training course undertaken was The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme training where ABAs from six local schools were invited to Higham Lane to participate in a series

of workshops and teaching conducted by two Diana Award trainers.

During the course, the eight ambassadors learned all about the definition and types of bullying, and how we can prevent it, not just in our school, but all over the country.

We were shown many clips of inspirational, selfless teenagers, who have made a massive difference by preventing bullying from happening and creating a safe environment for those around us.

During the course we made many friends from other schools and still keep in touch.

The second training day was an LGBTQ+ course for Higham Lane ambassadors only. Throughout the day, we learned about the terminology related to the subject, which could be used to purposefully hurt someone, and also how we can prevent bullying to make students from the LGBTQ community feel accepted.

The ABA team is very grateful to have been given the opportunity to the training and it has given us knowledge of how to identify bullying, support students and, most importantly, to prevent bullying from happening in the first place.

**ABBIE, Anti-Bullying Ambassador**



• **TOUGH TASKS!** Above and below, ABAs hard at work.



• **TOP TEAM!** Higham Lane's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.



• **BEATING THE BULLIES!** Higham Lane students who participated in The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme training workshop alongside other schools from the area.

THIS year's Anti-Bullying Week took place from November 11-15, the 2019 theme being 'Change Starts With Us', Higham Lane joining other schools from all around the country to participate in the event.

Activities for the week included a bake sale during break time on two days, the School's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors helping raise awareness by selling cakes and samosas to raise money for the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

In addition, every student in the School was issued with an anti-bullying pledge card on which they

## Cooking-up anti-bullying awareness!

wrote their own personal commitment to help prevent bullying of all types.

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. Anti-Bullying Week helps reinforce Higham Lane's whole school pledge, which states: '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'.

**MISS ARSHAD**  
Student Leadership Co-ordinator



• **YUMMY!** The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors raised a mouth-watering amount of cash by holding a two-day bake sale during break time.





# GCSE results make the grade!

HIGHAM Lane School students performed exceptionally well in the 2019 GCSE qualifications.

76% of students achieved five or more Standard Passes including at least grade 4 in English and Maths, an increase of six percentage points compared with 2018.

57% achieved five or more Strong Passes including at least grade 5 in English and Maths (up eight percentage points).

89% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in English (up three percentage points), 86% in Maths (up 11 percentage points), 81% in both English and Maths (up nine percentage points) and 81% in at least two Sciences (up eight percentage points).

Over a quarter of all GCSE grades awarded were the highest GCSE grades of 9-7.

Headteacher, Phil Kelly, commented: "There are many excellent individual performances to celebrate by students of all abilities."

Among the School's top performers were **Grace** (7 x grade 9, 5 x grade 8), **Michaela** (6 x grade 9, 4 x grade 8, 3 x grade 7 and 1 x grade 6), **Zaynah** (6 x grade 9, 4 x grade 8, 2 x grade 7), **Dasol** (6 x grade 9, 2 x grade 8, 2 x grade 7, 1 x grade 6), **Grace** (4 x grade 9, 6 x grade 8, 2 x grade 7), **Lucas** (3 x grade 9, 4 x grade 8, 5 x grade 7), **Holly** (3 x grade 9, 3 x grade 8, 3 x grade 7), **Evie** (3 x grade 9, 2 x grade 8, 3 x grade 7, 3 x grade 6), **Ryan** (2 x grade 9, 7 x grade 8, 2 x grade 7 and 1 x grade 6) **Chloe** (2 x grade 9, 6 x grade 8, 3 x grade 7) and **Maryam** (1 x grade 9, 7 x grade 8, 3 x grade 7).

Mr Kelly added: "The students have worked extremely hard, effectively supported by our highly-skilled and dedicated team of teaching and support staff and encouraged by their families/carers."

"Once again, Higham Lane School continues to excel. These results are very pleasing following the School's Outstanding inspection judgement by Ofsted back in May and our exciting plans to open a new free school in Weddington in 2022. It's a time to celebrate!"

• More GCSE results day celebration photographs can be found on the HLS website.





• **JUMPING FOR JOY!** Ten of the high-achieving GCSE students and Headteacher, Mr Kelly, celebrate results in the traditional Higham Lane School way!

## A-level students achieve 99% pass rate!

HIGHAM Lane Sixth Form was delighted to announce a sensational set of A-level results in the summer.

Students achieved an excellent 20% of grades at A\*-A and 47% at grades A\*-B. This demonstrates very strong attainment with many students meeting the entry requirements for the top universities in the UK or their chosen apprenticeships.

We are also delighted that our students achieved a 99% pass rate at A-level.

Among our strongest performers were Matthew (2 A\*, 2 A), Lauren (A\*, 2 A), Kelvin (A\*, 2 A, C), Elissa (3 A), Hamzah (3 A), and Armaan (3 A).

These students and many others have achieved their first choice university places.

Phil Kelly, Headteacher and Hanif Ladha, Head of Sixth Form, said: "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 the students every happiness and success in the future."

• **SKY'S THE LIMIT!** High-achieving Year 13 students celebrate their impressive A-level results.



# Sixth Form Open Evening 2019



## Students flock in their hundreds!

THREE-HUNDRED prospective students from across the area grasped the

opportunity to take a look behind the scenes when Higham Lane Sixth Form

threw open its doors on the evening of November 7.

The event, which attracted a record number of attendees, allowed visitors to witness first-hand the fantastic facilities and phenomenal post-16 education on offer and also meet the talented teaching staff.

All Subject Leaders were on-hand to answer any questions from the students and parents/carers, either in the Sixth Form centre classrooms or Sports Hall, where several universities were also represented, including Exeter, Loughborough and Warwick.

All subject and university stands proved extremely busy throughout the night, providing future Sixth Form students

with important information about selecting the right courses that will allow them to meet their aspirations.

Ensuring the event ran smoothly, volunteer guides and helpers were in attendance throughout the evening, looking very smart in their Higham Lane Sixth Form branded T-shirts.

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.

• More images can be found on the HLS website!







• **SIMPLY THE BEST!** The Higham Lane School students who won the 'Best School Overall' title at the 'Careers in Construction' event at NWSLC. Left to right: Yusuf, Yassine, Will, Lewis, Taylor, Liam, Rashik, Joe, Shubhes, Nathan and Trai.

## Foundations laid for a future career!

A GROUP of Higham Lane students have laid foundations for a successful building career following an industrious hands-on college taster day!

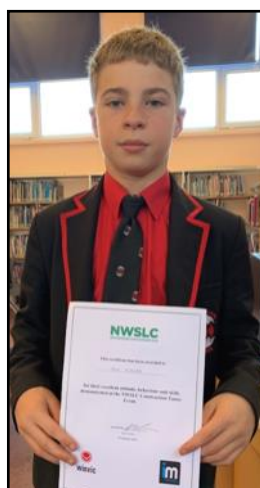
Eleven students attended the 'Careers in Construction' event at North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College's Harrowbrook site in Hinckley, where they received the accolade 'Best School Overall' after excelling at painting and decorating, woodworking and bricklaying.

In addition, Joe, of Year 9, won the 'Best Student of the Day' award, voted for by college lecturers at the site.

Joe received a £20 voucher for his efforts while the team was awarded a trophy and £100 contribution for the School's Careers Department from one of the event's sponsoring companies, IM Properties.

**MRS MITCHELL**

**Careers Department and Subject Leader for CPSHEED**



• **TOP JOB!** Joe, winner of the 'Best Student of the Day' award.



• **WELL DONE!** Watched by Headteacher, Mr Kelly, IM Properties representatives hand over the trophy and a cheque for £100 to members of the School's successful 'Careers in Construction' team.



## 'Tashes raise a stash of cash!

HIGHAM Lane Sixth Form students joined in with the Movember crusade on raising awareness of men's health by selling false moustaches. The simple idea helped raise £40, which

was added to the fabulous total of more than £800 raised by the School's Mo Laners — teachers and support staff who were pledged cash to 'Grow a Mo' during the month of November.

# Bridging the language gap!

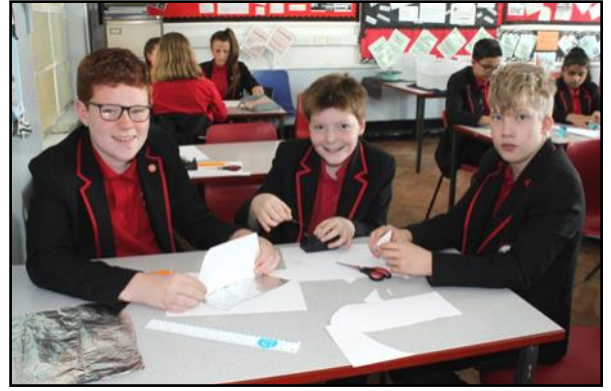
IT WAS a fantastic experience for Year 10 students of German and French (*pictured below*) who attended October's 'Mind The Language Gap' challenge at the University of Derby. Working in teams, the Higham Lane

contingent, joined by other schools from all over the country, used their language skills and creativity to develop innovative designs for the railway industry. The teams presented their designs, compiled in either French or

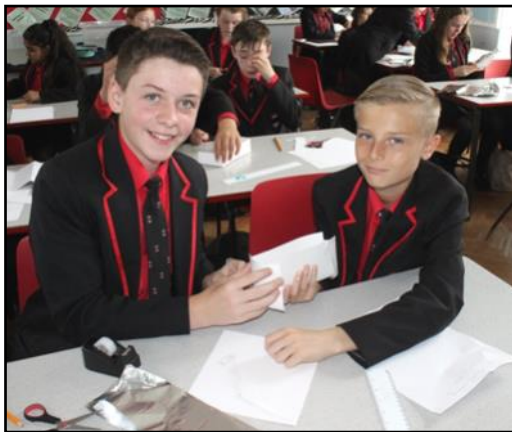
German, to a panel of judges comprising professional linguists and engineers employed by various railway companies.

**MRS FINLEY**  
Subject Leader for Modern Foreign Languages





# Engineering knowledge!



IN JULY, Year 7 students were involved in STEM workshops delivered by the Sea Cadets Marine Engineering Pathway.

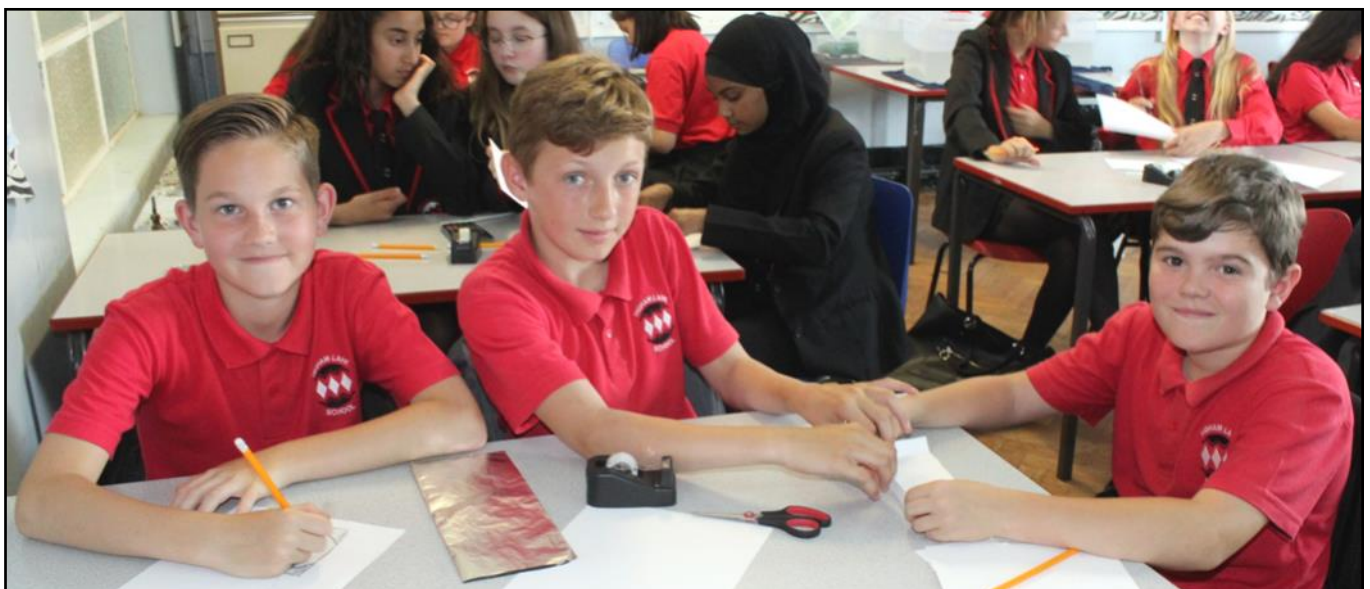
The Sea Cadets are passionate about inspiring young people to engage with STEM subjects and highlight the career opportunities in Marine Engineering.

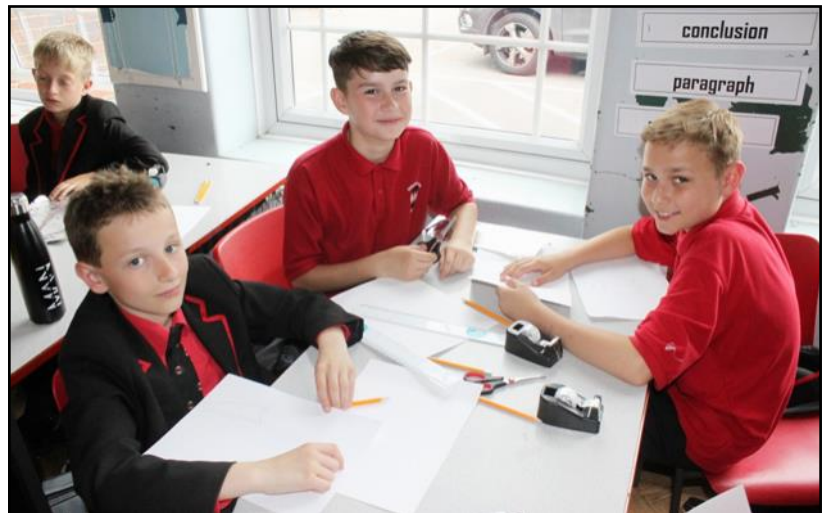
Each workshop linked to the KS3 Science and CPSHEED curricula.

The workshops were engaging, hands-on sessions aimed at teaching students about the fundamentals of engineering, including Newton's Third Law and Archimedes Displacement Principle.

Students worked in small teams to design and create an engineering solution based around real-life marine scenarios. It was learning and fun at the same time!

**MRS MITCHELL**  
Subject Leader for  
CPSHEED







## News from the Physical Education Department

# Battle of the year groups!



• **VALIANT VICTORY!**  
Higham Lane's Year 10 Basketball team.

THE Battle of the year groups ensued when Higham Lane's Year 10 and Year 11 basketball teams competed in the District basketball tournament, held in the School's sports hall.

The two year groups faced off against each other in the first game and, after a valiantly fought match, the Year 10s narrowly claimed the victory 8-5.

Both our 10s and 11s played some great basketball against the other teams from Twycross and Nicolas Chamberlaine, with both claiming notable victories.

For the Year 11s, Will and Harry played some excellent basketball, scoring several baskets each and really making the team tick. The stars of the show for the 10s were Rashik, Durlav and Ryan, who all regularly hone their skills by training with the Nuneaton Predators.

Special mention goes to Charlie for his tireless work for the team.

When all the games had been played, there was supposed to be a final between the top two teams to see who went through to the regional round, which would've meant that our Year 10s would've played Nicholas Chamberlaine's Year 11 A team.

Unfortunately, there wasn't time for the final which meant that the 10s very narrowly missed out — they'll definitely look to put that right next year and deserve to go at least one better due to all their hard work and quality play.

A great effort from everyone and a really enjoyable experience.

**MR BOTTRILL, PE Department**



• **NARROWLY DEFEATED!** The Year 11 Basketball team.

## Cross country runners make great strides!



• **IMPRESSIVE!** Sam and Evie.

TWO Higham Lane students have made excellent achievements in cross country this term. Sam, of Year 10 and Evie, in Year 7, have enjoyed success at both District and County level.

In the District competitions, held at the Pingles in September, both Sam and Evie finished first in their respective races and therefore qualified to represent the District in the County Championships, held in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Sam produced a superb run to finish 6th overall against runners a year older than him, and Evie finished in a very impressive 9th position.

These achievements meant they were both selected to represent Warwickshire in the National Cross

County Cup. The event was held on Saturday, November 16, in Lilleshall, Shropshire, with over 500 runners coming from all over the country.

In very muddy and cold conditions, they both ran extremely well with Sam finishing 64th and Evie 74th against the 100+ runners in their race.

In the new year, Sam and Evie will be running in the County Championships to try and qualify for the 2020 National Championships which are being held in Liverpool.

If any other Higham Lane cross country runners would like to compete in January's race, please see Mr Wilson for more details.

**MR WILSON**  
Assistant Subject Leader for PE



## News from the Physical Education Department

# Dream come true!

**Asmita signs professional  
contract with Aston Villa**



• **PROFESSIONAL  
FOOTBALLER!**  
*Asmita puts pen to  
paper and becomes  
a paid Villa player.*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Higham Lane's very own shooting star, Asmita Ale, who has signed her first professional contract with Aston Villa Women.

Having joined the club at the age of eight, the 18-year-old has become an integral member of the Villa squad after making her way up through the youth ranks.

The Year 13 student, who is already an established England international and a regular member of the Lionesses Under-19 set-up, signed a senior professional contract with the Birmingham-based club in November and is now a fully paid player.

Asmita said: "It's been a dream of mine to play football as my job, and I'm delighted that it's at this club. It's given me a lot of confidence knowing that Aston Villa

and the staff want to keep me here for the foreseeable future."

The defender has impressed fans, players and management since she broke into the first team during the 2017-18 season.

She has made over 30 senior appearances so far, and Head Coach, Gemma Davies, believes she'll continue to be a big contributor for the team: "Asmita's proven what she's capable of. She's only at the very start of her career and I think it's very exciting the potential and prospects that she has."

The Villains are currently top of the English Women's Championship and the composed ball-playing full-back is determined to help the club secure the 2019-20 title.

## Boys' badminton teams undefeated

THE Centre Parcs Badminton National Tournament has started at District level with Higham Lane once again progressing very well in the competition.

The Key Stage 3 boys' team won their tournament, beating Polesworth, St Thomas More, Twycross and Nicholas Chamberlaine, while the Key Stage 4 boys' teams won 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 beaten Hartshill, Twycross and George Eliot and drawn with St Thomas More.

The Key Stage 3 boys' team have also beaten George Eliot in their one and only league fixture.

**MR WILSON, Assistant Subject Leader for PE**



• **THE KEY STAGE 3 BADMINTON TEAM.**



• **THE KEY STAGE 4 BADMINTON TEAM.**



# Fabulous footballers!

YEAR 7 football has proven to be very popular this term with 40+ students attending training each week.

The boys have played several matches, including two National Cup fixtures, two league games and friendlies against Etone and Queen Elizabeth.

In the National Cup, they played superbly to defeat Finham Park 6-1 in the first round and then put in an excellent first half performance to go in 1-0 up at the break, but unfortunately just lost out to a very competitive Northampton Academy 2-1.

League fixtures have been poorly attended by other schools and Higham has further matches to come in March and April. They currently sit second in the league having played two and won two.

Selecting eight players for a 5-a-side tournament was a very difficult task. The players won the qualifying tournament, beating Polesworth and Nuneaton Academy, with the finals due to be held at Higham Lane on December 18.

More matches will hopefully be arranged against Nuneaton Academy, Queen Elizabeth and Etone on the latter's Astroturf pitch in the new year.

The Year 8 football squad has continued to impress. They are currently second in the league having won all their games against Queen Elizabeth, Nicholas Chamberlaine, Hartshill and Nuneaton Academy.

Hopefully they can continue this form in the District 6-a-side tournament which will be held in the new year.

The Year 9 football squad has made a

great start to the season and are currently top of a very tough league.

The boys have played five matches, winning four and narrowly losing one.

They are now looking forward to competing in the District 6-a-side tournament in the new year.

The Year 10 footballers have produced some excellent team performances this term. In the league, they have won six and lost two and are currently top of the standings.

They seem 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 third in the District League. In the six games played they have won two, drawn two and lost two. In the two games lost the boys were narrowly defeated 1-0 by the teams finishing first and second.

The Year 12/13 football team has made another fine start in the District League. They have played two fixtures, beating Polesworth and Nicholas Chamberlaine, both by a narrow 1-0 scoreline.

Unfortunately, in the National Cup, the boys were knocked out in the second round. Having fought back to draw the game 3-3 and then not being awarded a stonewall penalty in extra time, Higham went out of the competition following a spot-kick shoot-out.

The next game is a friendly against Bablake School with several players scheduled to make their debut for the School.



• THE YEAR 7 9-A-SIDE IN LEAGUE ACTION.

**MR WILSON**  
Assistant Subject Leader for PE



• YEAR 7 v ETONE.



## News from the Physical Education Department



• THE YEAR 7 9-A-SIDE TEAM IN THE NATIONAL CUP.

## Girls show great effort, ability and attitude!

HIGHAM Lane School's Year 8 girls' football team has proved to be very popular.

In the 9-a-side National Cup, the girls played amazingly in the first round, convincingly winning 10-0 against RSA Sandwell.

In the second round they played a very impressive Thomas Estley School from Leicester but, despite putting in a gritty performance, unfortunately lost 4-0.

In the Nuneaton & District 6-a-side tournament, held on Etone's Astroturf pitch, the team was again in fine form, beating Polesworth, St Thomas More, Queen Elizabeth, Etone, Nicholas Chamberlaine and Twycross.

In their eight games, the team has scored an impressive 19 goals while conceding none. The effort, ability and attitude of the players has been excellent throughout.

MR WILSON  
Assistant Subject Leader for PE



• THE YEAR 8 GIRLS' 9-A-SIDE NATIONAL FOOTBALL SQUAD.



• THE YEAR 8 GIRLS' 6-A-SIDE FOOTBALL SQUAD.



## News from the Physical Education Department



• **THE YEAR 11 NETBALL SQUAD** — Finished a creditable third place in the County netball tournament.



• **THE KEY STAGE 3 AND KEY STAGE 4 GIRLS' BADMINTON TEAMS.**

### Key Stage 4 girls lift badminton title!

HIGHAM Lane entered three teams into the Key Stage 4 girls' badminton tournament — one from Year 11 and two from Year 10.

The Year 10 teams finished third and fifth out of the six teams entered while the Year 11 team won every game to finish tournament winners and therefore progress to the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals held in February.

The Key Stage 3 girls came up against

some very strong opposition to finish third overall in their tournament.

In the league, the Key Stage 3 girls defeated George Eliot 7-1 and then just lost out to tournament winners Twycross 5-3.

The Key Stage 4 girls team have played two fixtures, beating both George Eliot and Hartshill 8-0.

MR WILSON  
Assistant Subject Leader for PE

## Successful time on the netball courts

HIGHAM Lane School's netball teams have enjoyed a successful time on the courts during the autumn term.

Despite playing exceptionally well, the Year 11 team finished a creditable third at the County netball tournament and narrowly missed out on progressing through to the next round.

Squad: Maisie, Hannah, Lilly, Chloe, Freya, Prapti, Lily, Keira and Daisy.

The Year 9a team finished first in the Nuneaton Netball League with the 9B side in runners-up spot.

The 9a team also finished a creditable sixth at the County netball tournament.

The Year 10a team are unbeaten so far this season with victories against Princethorpe and Bablake.

Last, but not least, the Year 8a team remain undefeated after drawing with Princethorpe and beating Bilton Grange.

MISS CHINN  
Subject Leader for PE



• **INJURY BLOW** — An X-ray reveals Jacob's broken tibia.



• **LIFE IN THE FAST LANE!** Above and below: Jacob shows off his speedway skills.

#### From P40

as a babe-in-arms at a mere two-months-old!

Speedway bikes have a maximum capacity of 500cc, use methanol as fuel and are exceedingly fast. They can accelerate quicker than a Formula 1 racing car, reaching 60 mph in just 2.5 seconds!

Drive is by way of a single fixed gear and there are no brakes!

Jacob said: "I started my racing career on a motocross bike at the age of 10 before transferring to speedway via the short track circuit when I was 14.

"I have been riding for Birmingham Ductair Bulls in the 2019 season and will be continuing with them next year.

"I will also be hoping for guest rides and, possibly, a team place in the National League for next season."

To help Jacob continue his rise up the speedway ladder, he is currently searching sponsorship for the 2020 season.

If any business or organisation would like to sponsor Jacob in any way, he can be contacted via the School on 024 7638 8123.



• **MEAN MACHINE!** Jacob with his bike.



• **TITLE WINNER!** Jacob shows off the 2019 Midland & Southern Development League trophy.

# HLS Express Sport

## BULLS EYE!



Jacob helps steer  
Birmingham's junior  
speedway riders to  
league title!



• **SPEEDWAY STAR!**  
Jacob in action.

A HIGHAM Lane Sixth Form student is fast making a big name for himself in the wonderful world of speedway!

Jacob, a Beta tutor group member, rides for the Birmingham Ductair Bulls Under-19 team, who secured this season's Midland & Southern Development League title after defeating Milton Keynes Knights in early September.

Unfortunately, Jacob wasn't able to participate in that particular meeting following an injury sustained while racing on the Isle of Wight in late August.

During Heat 3 of the clash with the Wight Wizards, Jacob chased into the third bend a little too fast, slid off his bike onto the cinder track, and was unavoidably hit by the following rider.

This resulted in a broken tibia and two days' hospitalisation followed where an operation was carried out to fit a metal plate on his fractured leg bone.

However, despite being on two crutches, Jacob was in attendance for the title-clinching fixture against Milton Keynes at Perry Barr Stadium to celebrate the trophy success with his fellow riders.

Boss of the Birmingham Brummies' junior team, Laurence Rogers, said: "It's a terrific achievement for the Bulls who have worked so hard all season long.

"It's been great to see them develop as the year has progressed and they fully deserved to win the league."

A love of speedway racing runs in Jacob's family. His parents and grandparents are all lifelong fans and took him to his first meeting



• **CHAMPIONS!** Despite being on crutches, Jacob was able to celebrate winning the Midland & Southern Development League title with his Birmingham Ductair Bulls Under-19 team-mates.

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# THANK YOU

## MR NIKOLS

### HLS EXPRESS

#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

#### 2008-2019