



Issue 40

December 2017



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

DEAR Parents/Carers/Students,
 In this bumper festive edition of HLS Express I know you will enjoy reading about Higham Lane's hot shot international footballer, a Silver award for the School, victory in the Great

Debate, Enrichment Week activities, 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

SHOOTING STAR!

Dynamic defender Asmita helps steer England through European qualifiers



• ASMITA ALE

HIGHAM Lane's very own shooting star is rapidly making her presence felt on the international football scene.

Asmita Ale, 11L1, who is on Aston Villa's books, is an integral part of the England Under-17 Women's team, and played in all

three games at the UEFA European Qualifying Tournament, held during October.

In the first fixture of the three-match competition, the dynamic central defender helped steer her side to an emphatic 10-0 victory over hosts, Latvia, captain Lauren James, of Arsenal, leading the way with four goals while York City's Jessica Park fired in a hat-trick. Hannah Griffin (FC Saarbrücken), Ebony Salmon (Aston Villa) and substitute Annabel Blanchard (Liverpool) added one apiece to complete the demolition job! However, following a solid performance, Asmita was given the 'player of the match' award!

During the one-sided game, contested in

PLEASE TURN TO P2

• **YOUNG LIONESS!** 'Player of the match' Asmita Ale (No. 12) in action for England Under-17s in their European Championship qualifier against Latvia.



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 Awards 2016
 Local Winner



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● **THREE LIONS ON HER SHIRT!** Asmita (fifth from left) lines up with the England Under-17 Women's team prior to the team's UEFA European Qualifying Tournament tie against Latvia.

Asmita has eyes on the World Cup!

FROM P1

the Latvian capital, Riga, the young Lionesses registered a quite remarkable 58 shots on target!

The next match saw the England starlets taking on Slovakia, and the talented team notched up a convincing 6-0 success thanks to two strikes each from Salmon and James plus singles by Griffin and Jhamat (Liverpool).

Unsurprisingly, the third and final tie of the tournament saw Asmita and her team-mates going into the game full of confidence against an unbeaten Scotland side, and once again kept a clean sheet as they triumphed 3-0 thanks to goals from Blanchard and Park (2).

The three victories placed England firmly at the top of the

group, having scored a total of 19 goals without conceding, which earned the team a coveted place in November's draw for the UEFA European Elite Round.

This resulted in the girls being drawn out of the hat in Group 5, alongside Switzerland, Slovenia and Norway, the latter country hosting the tournament between March 25-31 next year.

The top three finishers in the Elite finals will qualify for the 2018 FIFA Under-17 World Cup, to be held in Uruguay during November and December.

We wish Asmita continued success in her international football career and hope to see her in South America!

MRS DAVIES, PE Department



● **UNDEFEATED!** The victorious England Under-17 Women's football team who sailed through the qualifying stages without conceding a goal to reach the UEFA European Elite Round. Asmita is second from right on the back row.

School rises to The Challenge and receives Silver award!

HIGHAM Lane's continued work with The Challenge has resulted in the School receiving a Silver Award at organisation's 2017 presentation evening.

The Challenge is a major provider for the National Citizen Service, and acknowledged the fantastic input Higham Lane has had in inspiring students to greater achievements.

During the summer, a fifth of Year 11 students gave up two weeks of the holidays to work together with volunteers from other schools in Warwickshire and Birmingham to make improvements to the local community. As a result, 52 students graduated from NCS this year, making it the town's 'Champion School'.

Headteacher, Mr Kelly, attended November's presentation, held at the Jury's Inn in Birmingham, and proudly received the award on behalf of Nuneaton's top performing school.

Receiving praise was Mrs Mitchell, Subject Leader for CPSHEEd, who has worked tirelessly in promoting the ethos of The Challenge with students in recent years.

Her efforts were acknowledged in the award's accompanying speech:-

"The Challenge and this school in Nuneaton have had a long lasting partnership, beginning back in 2011. Emma Mitchell, Leader of CPSHE is well respected by staff and students alike and she has worked hard in support of NCS



● **CHAMPION SCHOOL!** Mrs Mitchell, Subject Leader for CPSHEEd, and Headteacher, Mr Kelly, proudly show off the Silver award certificate.

events within the school for the past two years. Such events include: an hour-long interactive NCS assembly, Aspiration themed PSHE sessions for the whole year group and a T-shirt handout event. This school was also selected for the

local social media competition, with students managing to get several likes on Facebook. All of these efforts led to 52 students going on to graduate from NCS in summer this year; making this the top performing school in Nuneaton."

Staff leavers and arrivals

NO STAFF are leaving us at the end of this term. Consequently, there are no new arrivals!

Mrs Watson began her maternity leave at half term. We are grateful for Mrs Fawcett who is covering this. Mrs Endlicher has also begun her maternity leave. This will be covered by Mrs Ling.

We welcome back Mrs Webb to the Geography department following her maternity leave. We are expecting Mr Todd to return as Subject Leader for Design and Technology and Mr Davis to return as PE teacher and Progress Leader for Year 9.

MR KELLY
Headteacher

Former Head Boy is guest speaker at Prizegiving

GUEST speaker at this year's Prizegiving was Matt Moss, a former Head Boy at Higham Lane School, now a successful Publicity Director for international film company Universal Pictures.

Matt (pictured right) was Head Boy in his final year, 1995-96, and went on to complete his A-Levels at King Edward VI College in the town.

He went on to study English and Drama at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and subsequently trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, gaining a Post-Graduate Diploma in Musical Theatre.

Following a short spell as an actor, Matt has spent the past 13 years working for Universal Pictures, where he is now an International Publicity Director.

Matt has worked on the international publicity campaigns for a wide variety of films from Bridget Jones' Baby, Mamma Mia! and Les Miserables to The Danish Girl, The Fast and Furious films and the Despicable Me franchise.

No stranger to the international film festivals of Cannes and Berlin, Matt most recently launched the publicity campaign for Victoria & Abdul at the Venice Film Festival,



fulfilling a lifetime's dream of working with Dame Judi Dench.

His career has taken him all over the world, working as far afield as Los Angeles, New York and Rio de Janeiro, plus numerous world tours including Australia, Japan and Europe.

As a tonic to the glitz and glamour of the red carpet, Matt is a keen member of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and can regularly be found in his garden trying to emulate the skills of Monty Don!

He is also a keen runner, and proudly ran the London Marathon for Oxfam, raising over £2,500 in the process.

While Matt's life is now based primarily in London, he still has friends and family in Nuneaton and visits the area frequently.



• **LEST WE FORGET!** Students pay their respects to the country's fallen and injured service men and women during the School's two minutes' silence.

We will remember them . . !



THIS year's Armistice Day commemorations (November 11) fell on a Saturday, while a School Inset day, scheduled for the previous day, resulted in Higham Lane paying its deepest respects to the fallen and injured two days in advance.

At the 11th hour, of the 9th day, of the 11th month, the School was hushed for two minutes' silence in honour of the heroic service men and women who have laid down their lives for our great country.

Silence descended on corridors and a cloak of quietness replaced the usual hustle and bustle of the playground at break time as students and staff remembered the gallant

soldiers, sailors and airmen who have paid the ultimate sacrifice over the years. Then, on the following Sunday, a poppy wreath was laid at the War Memorial in Riversley Park during Nuneaton's Remembrance Service commemorations.

Representing the School was Headteacher, Mr Kelly, who was joined by Head Boy and Head Girl, Tommy and Anna, along with Sixth Form representatives Max and Jack.

As in recent years, the event was blessed with bright early winter sunshine as the Higham Lane contingent joined other schools, organisations and businesses in saluting our country's heroes for their bravery through the years.



• **TIME TO REFLECT!** The School's playground fell silent as students and staff remembered our country's heroes.

There's no debating that Jack is great!



• **IT'S GOOD TO TALK!** Higham Lane Sixth Form's Great Debate duo, Jack Gunn (back row, second from left) and Abigail Edmonds (far right), with fellow contestants and the three judges.

TWO Higham Lane Sixth Form students represented the school in the North Warwickshire round of the Great Debate against two other schools from the area — Nuneaton's King Edward VI College and Leicester Grammar School.

Hosted by the Nuneaton branch of the Historical Society, the title of the debate — 'Was the 1918 extension of the vote to women the most significant moment in British democratic history?' — proved to be a huge topic which contained several big issues.

The quality of the debating was superb and the two HL6 students were in excellent form. Abigail Edmonds impressed the judges with the high quality of her argument, and also her confidence to argue with one of the judges — Alex Begbie, a retired headteacher from Kenilworth!

Jack Gunn was magnificent and also engaged with the audience and three judges — Mr Begbie, Shirley Robinson (one of the Historical Society organisers) and Rob Tromans (Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire). His argument was well-researched, well-argued and, above all, powerful.

Both students were fantastic! It was really pleasing to see the confidence, and it was no surprise that Jack was crowned the winner

He will now go on to represent the

region in the National Finals at the House of Commons in March 2018, a special venue to mark the centenary of the important Parliamentary Act of 1918 that gave votes to women for the first time and also all adult men.

I would like to express my thanks and admiration for these two students who

represented Higham Lane School so superbly.

The competition is an annual event, and hopefully two more budding public speakers will be inspired to take part next year.

Well done!

MR GOLDSTRAW, History Department



• **HOUSE OF COMMONS HERE I COME!** Winner of the Great Debate, Jack Gunn (left) is congratulated by runner-up Rahul Patel from Leicester Grammar School.



Sixth Form Open Evening draws record attendance

HIGHAM Lane was very pleased to welcome a record number of people to visit our superb Sixth Form at the Open Evening, held on November 9.

The Sixth Form presentations provided lots of information, advice and guidance, while several universities were also in attendance.

All subject stands were busy throughout the night, allowing students to gain lots of important information about selecting the right courses that would allow them to meet their aspirations.

Prospective students can visit 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 if you have any questions.

MR LADHA
Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher

• More images can be found on the HLS website!







News from the Music Department

Readers

Tommy
Simon
Alex
Anna
Jack



Sounds
of the
Season

School Choir and Orchestra

Amy
Ruby
Isabella
Maicie
Catherine
Rebecca
Lucy
Lily
Scarlett
Bethany
Megan
Milee
Megan
Kyra
Ellis
Josiah
Turaya
Annaliese
Demi
Grace
Grace
Emi-Leigh
Simon
Sophie
Leah
Katie
Kacey
Millie
May
Lilly
Lauren
Kaitlin
Chloe
Rhea
Olivia
Aaron
Alice
Jaden
Alexandra
Katie
Maisie
Erin
Mankaran
Eiman

Veritable feast of festive sounds!

ST NICOLAS Parish Church reverberated to a feast of festive sounds as Higham Lane School's annual Carol Service got the Christmas period off to a cracking start for students, their families, and staff!

Musically-minded students from all year groups entertained the large congregation packed into the Nuneaton church with resounding carol singing from the School Choir and a note-perfect Orchestra.

Following a warm welcome to everyone from Dr John Hitchcock, the service opened with 'Once In Royal David's City', soloists Alice and Olivia singing the first verse, followed by the reading of John 1: vs 1-14, eloquently delivered by Headteacher, Mr Kelly.

The congregation then raised the rafters with 'Ding Dong Merrily on High', prior to Head Boy, Tommy, reading an excerpt from the Gospel according to St Luke.

Popular carols 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'While Shepherds Watched' then resonated around the church, interspersed by a reading of the script 'While Shepherds Watch' by Simon and Alex.

The next reading, from Matthew 2: vs 1-12, came courtesy of Head Girl, Anna, which was followed by an Address from Dr Hitchcock.

Year 13 student, Jack, then read 'Winter's Journey', followed by 'O Holy Night', a delightful duet by songstresses Mille and Sophie.

Deputy Headteacher, Mr Banks, took the lectern for the evening's fifth and final reading — 'Opportunity Knocks' — succeeded by Prayers and a Blessing from Dr Hitchcock.

Culminating a stirring service, everyone joined in a rousing rendition of 'O Come All Ye Faithful', leaving one-and-all filled with the spirit of Christmas! Afterwards, the congregation was able to sample delicious

festive fair, organised by Miss Charles and Mr Froggett.

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.

MRS DAVENPORT

Subject Leader for Music

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



Music exam successes

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

| | | |
|------------------|----------|-------------|
| Grade 6 | | |
| Amy (10L2) | Clarinet | Distinction |
| Grade 5 | | |
| Dasol (10S1) | Flute | Merit |
| Isabella (10L2) | Cello | Merit |
| Grade 4 | | |
| Bethany (8S2) | Flute | Pass |
| Megan (8S3) | Flute | Merit |
| Caroline (9S1) | Viola | Merit |
| Catherine (10S1) | Viola | Merit |
| Ruby (10H2) | Clarinet | Pass |
| Grade 3 | | |
| Rebecca (10L3) | Flute | Merit |
| Sade (11H3) | Clarinet | Merit |

Congratulations also to former students Abby and Shaan who both received Distinctions for their Grade 8s in Clarinet and Flute respectively.



News from the Music Department





News from the History Department



Titanic effort!

SOME fantastic work has been completed by our Year 8 historians as a result of their first Home Learning Project on the significance of the sinking of the Titanic.

Students were given seven weeks to research the sinking of the Titanic and the opportunity present their findings from a range of options from timelines,

newspapers and diaries, to board games and models to film reviews, and even prosecution case notes on who was to blame!

We were absolutely astounded by the creativity and quality of much of the work completed and definitely by the scale of the models produced. Clearly a great deal of effort, time and dedication went

into their creations, as can be seen by the accompanying photographs.

Wow, Year 8! Keep up the excellent work, we look forward to your next projects on the 'Days that shook the world' in January.

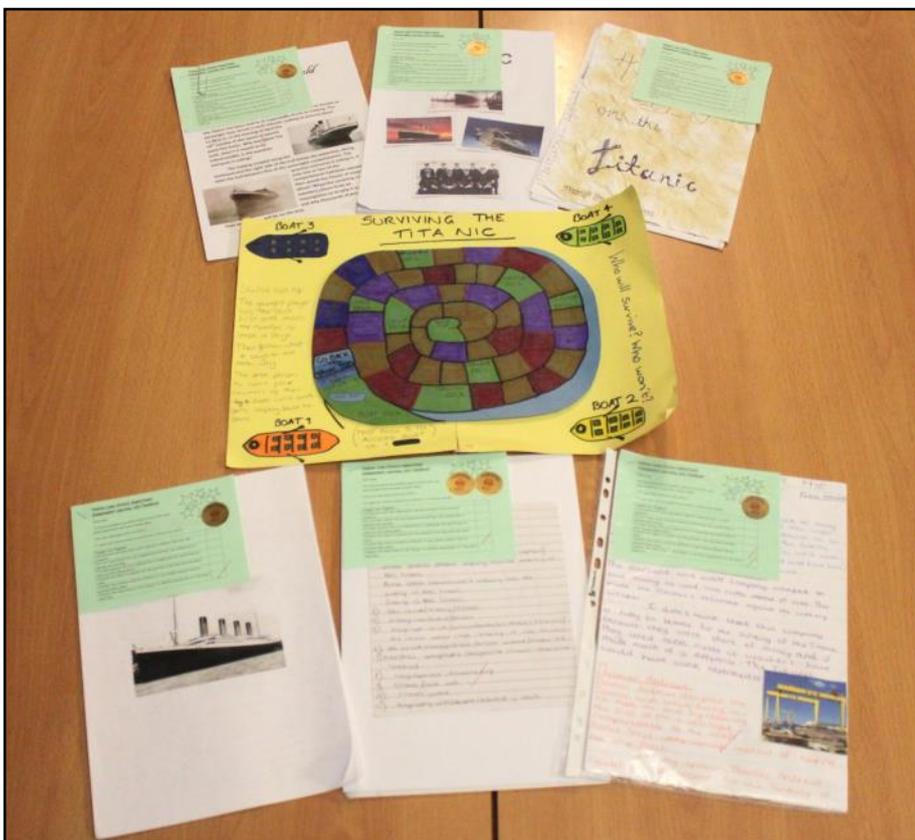
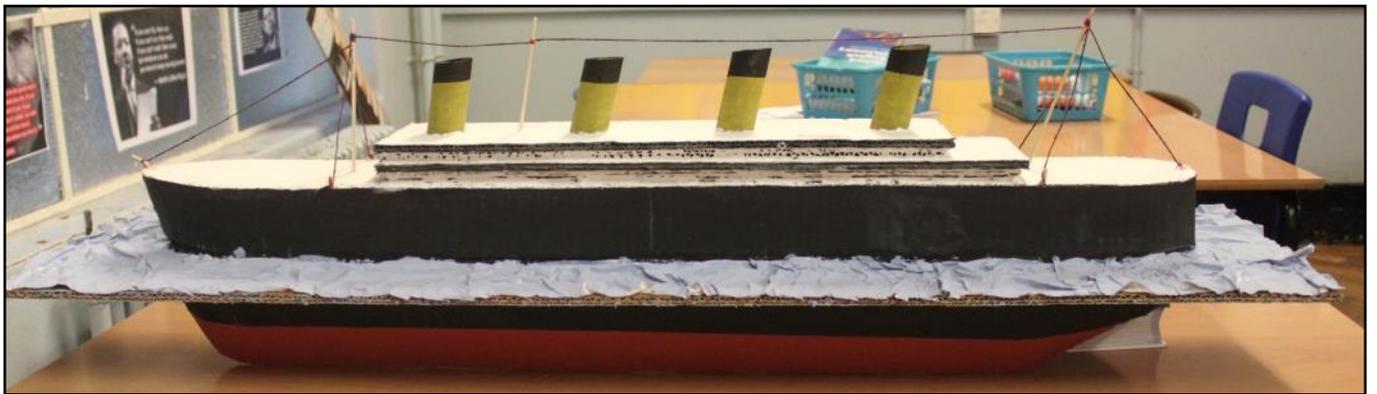
MISS GIBBS

Assistant Subject Leader for History





News from the History Department



Term dates and holidays

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22
Break-up for Christmas and the New Year.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8
Spring Term Commences.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Break-up for half-term.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26
Spring term recommences.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Break-up for Easter holidays.

A comprehensive list of calendar dates can be found on the School's website — www.highamlaneschool.co.uk



Valiant volunteers!



HIGHAM Lane School threw open its doors on October 4, offering prospective students, their parents and carers, an ideal opportunity to take a peek behind the scenes.

The 2017 Open Day and Evening once again attracted large crowds, allowing visitors to witness the excellent education and meet the talented teachers who work at the School.

During the morning, student tour guides were available to help chaperone visitors around the site, allowing them to see live lessons in progress.

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

Visitors were also able to tour the superb Sixth Form Centre and witness the fantastic facilities available for students opting to continue with Post-16 education at the School.

Nevertheless, it was Higham Lane's sensational students who stole the show once again, the eager volunteer helpers and tour guides demonstrating great enthusiasm and commitment throughout the long day.

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





A big thank you to William, 11L1, for his photographic contributions!





Open Day & Evening — For full story and more photographs please see P12/13



Theatrical way to help prevent CSE and grooming!

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) and grooming.

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

In addition to the play, 'Working For Marcus', 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 the importance of healthy relationships and where to go if they need help.

MRS MITCHELL
Subject Leader for CPSHEEd



Spotlight on Enrichment Week 2017

Learning outside the classroom!



Globe Theatre, London



Bramcote Driving Range



Social Sciences

Spotlight on Enrichment Week 2017



Golf Soccer

THE thinking behind Enrichment Week was to engage our students away from the classroom by giving them a variety of learning experiences, the likes of which are not normally available during the school week . . . and boy did we deliver!

Students followed their chosen programmes throughout the week, with trips to Cadbury's World, the Science Museum, the Globe Theatre, St George's Park, Kingsbury Water Park and Bramcote Golf Centre. There were even three trips to Paris! Business Studies visited

Manchester United and Leicester Tigers as part of their programme while Design & Technology included a trip to Jaguar Land Rover in relation to their studies.

Students also followed programmes in school with Social Sciences, Mathematics, Music and English all providing enriching opportunities for our students to experience.

The Humanimal programme proved a big hit with all involved, including some of our support staff!

MRS MITCHELL

Subject Leader for CPSHEEd



St George's Park, Burton



Birds of Prey



More photos on P18/19 →

Spotlight on Enrichment Week 2017

Ski Centre, Swadlincote



Birmingham Dogs Home



Drama Department



Birds of Prey



Spotlight on Enrichment Week 2017

Music Department



Kingsbury Water Park



Table Tennis



Mathematics Department



● **MOMENT OF TRUTH!** Higham Lane School's high-achieving students open their GCSE results envelopes.



● **ON YOUR MARKS!** Above — students analyse their grades.

Higham Lane School

Making the grade!

AS IN recent years, Higham Lane School chalked up a strong set of GCSE examination results in 2017.

Following last year's exceptional performance, which placed Higham Lane in the top 100 non-selective schools in the country, this year 77% of students achieved five or more passes at Grade C or above, including at least Grade 4 in the new English and Mathematics qualifications.

88% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in English, 80% in Maths, 77% in both English and Maths, and 77% in at least two Sciences. A quarter of students achieved five or more A*-A or 7-9 grades. Students, across all abilities, continue to make above national average progress at Higham Lane School.

Among the School's top performers were Matthew Chadaway (1x grade 9, 9x A*, 1x 8, 1x7); Mohammed-Hamzah Hafejee (3x 9, 5x A*, 4x A); Lauren Gurr (7x A*, 2x A, 2x 8, 1x 7); Aaminah Mulla (2x 9, 5x A*, 4x A, 1x 7); Davit Kim (2x 9, 4x A*,

1x 8 and 5x A); Armaanjot Shergill (1x 9, 5x A*, 2x 8, 3x A, 1x B); Rebecca Goddard (1x 9, 2x A*, 7x A, 2x 6, 1x B); Victoria Ingrams (1x 9, 2x A*, 2x 8, 6x A, 1x B); Elissa Allen (4x A*, 2x 8, 3x A, 1x 7, 2x B); Eleni-Rae Mann (1x 9, 1x A*, 2x 8, 6x A, 2x B); Caitlin Griffiths (1x 9, 3x A*, 2x 8, 4x A, 1x B) and Sajal Rana (1x 9, 3x A*, 1x 8, 4x A, 1x 7 and 2x B).

Headteacher, Phil Kelly, commented: "This is our first set of results involving the new-style GCSEs in some subjects which have more challenging content and a different assessment system. The students have worked exceptionally hard and risen to the challenge, effectively supported by a highly-skilled and dedicated team of staff and encouraged by their families/carers. "There are so many excellent individual performances to celebrate. It is evident from these results that, even in an ever-changing educational climate, Higham Lane School delivers excellent outcomes which give all students the opportunity to succeed."



● **JUMPING FOR JOY!** Proud students celebrate their sensational GCSE results.



Celebration time for students on GCSE results day!





• **LEGAL EAGLE!** Ben (11H1) at the reception desk of LDJ Solicitors in Nuneaton.



• **PAGE BOY!** Alex (11H1) checks out one of the books at Nuneaton Library.



• **ANIMAL MAGIC!** Philippa (11H1) and Laura (11H1) thoroughly enjoyed their Work Experience at Nuneaton's Pets at Home store.

Working class!

YEAR 10 students enjoyed a very successful Work Experience week in 2017.

Work Experience week took place between July 17-19 when, from a year group of 249 students, 239 went out on 187 different placements.

Most placements were in the Coventry and Warwickshire area, however, out-of-area placements included Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Birmingham, Solihull, Walsall, Manchester and London.

Ten students did not go on Work Experience. One of these completed Work Experience with the Support for Learning department – the rest caught up with their schoolwork, helped with events such as sports days, and received two employability sessions run by a Job Centre representative.

MRS ALLRED, Work Experience Co-ordinator

• To see what employers thought, please turn to P24



• **HUNDREDS OF TITLES!** Owen (11S1) stocks the shelves at K&R News in St Nicolas Park Drive, Nuneaton.



• **HELLO, CAN I HELP?** — George (11S1) answers a query at Alan Cooper Estate Agents in Nuneaton.



● **WORKING UP A SWEAT!** Natasha (11H1) tries out a cross trainer at the Fitness Centre in Nuneaton.



● **DELIVERY DUE!** Will (11L2) loads up a van at Nuneaton stationers, W. Cawthorne & Son.



● **FANCY FOOTWEAR!** Assistant Head Boy, George (11H2), shows off the latest football boots at Cannon Sports, Nuneaton.



● **PERFECT VISION!** Pavi (11S3) sets up a display of spectacles at St Nicolas Park Eye Clinic in Nuneaton.



● **VERY RELAXING!** A customer receives treatment from Lauren (11S2) at Nuneaton's Exclusively Yours Hair & Beauty salon.



● **CHARITY WORKERS** — Aneli (11L2) and Asmita (11L1) check out the bargains at Cancer Research UK's shop in Stratford Street, Nuneaton.



● **FOLLOWERS OF FASHION!** Shahil (11S1) and Talhah (11S3) spent their week at Blue Inc in the Ropewalk, Nuneaton.

He is an able and enthusiastic student, he picks up techniques and codes very quickly. The teams he has worked with have passed on lots of compliments about his work ethic and ability. With commitment and direction, he can go very far in the IT industry.

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

- A very bright and astute young lady/a friendly young lady, bright and able to follow instructions well.
- An intelligent, helpful young man.
- Exceptionally punctual/arrived early every day/exemplary time keeping.
- Always asked questions to have a proper understanding of the task she was being given to complete.
- Looks very professional/very smart – a good reflection on the school/a credit to the school and family.
- Smart, willing to listen and work.
- A pleasure to have him/her on Work Experience/a pleasure to work with.
- Polite well-spoken and courteous.
- Considerate, polite and friendly – keen to learn and works well with others.
- Took care with everything he did – completed any task asked of him.
- Trustworthy, punctual and a fantastic member of the team.
- Encouraged to apply for a job in the store once he is old enough/so impressed with her that talked of her taking a part-time job once she is 16/may be able to offer a summer job. One student has been given a part-time job at her placement already.
- Very open, polite lad who mixed well, very grown up for his age.
- An independent thinker – able to see things that needed doing without being told.
- Enthusiastic, friendly, not afraid to ask questions, very eager to learn.
- Very articulate, quick to pick things up, very diligent, polite.
- A well rounded young man, well behaved and well mannered.
- Inquisitive and eager to learn.
- Had a positive input during the placement.
- Brilliant/fantastic/wonderful/superb.
- Follows instructions to the letter.
- Mature, confident.
- Send us more students like him.

She is a polite, courteous and helpful person and has integrated well into the team in the short space of time she has been with us. She has acted with professionalism and a maturity that does her credit. Her work has been completed to a high standard.

Particular comments of note are:

- She worked extremely well with the Teaching Assistants, respecting their position and the experience they have in the school. She showed excellent communication skills, seeking advice whenever necessary and expressing her thoughts clearly when appropriate. We would welcome her back any time.
- He is a smart, intelligent young man with a positive attitude towards the workplace and future potential this has for him.
- It has been a pleasure to host her on her Work Experience Placement. She is a confident and inquisitive young lady, skills which will help her achieve her aspirations in the future.
- It has been a real pleasure working with him this week. He shows great aptitude and is a very intelligent young man. He also showed a wonderful ability to work more efficiently as he learned tasks.
- She has proven herself to be hardworking and conscientious, and has fitted in extremely well (something very difficult in a largely male environment).



- A very likeable lad, easy to talk to. He was not afraid to get stuck in and no job fazed him. The engineer who coached him wished he had got longer with him.
- She has proven herself to be punctual, reliable and professional. An independent thinker, talented and hard-working.
- He was committed to executing each job thoroughly even though the shop was, at times, very hot and busy.
- It has been a genuine pleasure to have him.
- Our Director was very impressed with her work ethic and the attention to detail.
- He understood that this was a different environment to being in school and acted appropriately at all times.
- He got a lot out of the week because he put a lot in to the week!
- Showed a very mature approach to Work Experience, being polite and conscientious to other staff and disciplines within the office, has shown integrity and a keen attitude towards learning.
- Reliable in all tasks – once given instructions, had the ability to work without constant supervision.

It has been a genuine pleasure to have him working with us this week. I wish him all the very best for the future and, if all your pupils are like him, would not hesitate to have more students from Higham Lane working with us in the future. He has been a credit to you.

- A polite young lady, very willing to listen and learn.
- He will do well if he continues with his positive attitude.
- Bright, engaging, quick, accurate and prompt in working to and meeting all deadlines. He would be welcome here again.
- Confident, smart, proactive, fast learner, personable, very open to learning as much about the different areas as possible. Goes above and beyond what he is asked to do.
- He has been an absolute pleasure to have with us. If you have any students in the future who are as good as him, we would be more than happy to accommodate them.
- He is a very polite young man who has shown an exceptional work ethic. He has been a great help this week – he is a credit to himself and the school.
- She evidenced that she can work well with minimal supervision when assigned with a particular task. Friendly, mature, intelligent, keen to learn.
- She has excellent communication skills, she sought advice when necessary and expressed her thoughts clearly when appropriate.
- It has been a pleasure to work with her this week - she has demonstrated her ability to undertake a wide range of tasks with enthusiasm and using her own initiative, meeting different people and taking in a lot of information about the way we work, our partnerships and processes.
- Everyone she has worked with has commented that she has been a pleasure to work with; she's taken instructions well and has completed her tasks quickly and accurately . . . she has not been in the same place each day so has adapted really well to new people and surroundings. She has been a credit to her school.
- She came to the company with an open mind and willing to try anything that was given to her. She has made every effort to interact with other team members and has been very successful in all aspects of her role.
- He is so keen that he has not taken his full lunch break. Better than some staff, a dream, wish they were all like him.

He is a credit to the School. He has undertaken his project with great maturity, working well under his own steam but engaging with the team – a daunting task for someone so young. I would be delighted to have him work with me again.



Hands-on sessions in how to deliver CPR!

WORKING in conjunction with Warwickshire Fire & Rescue, all our Year 8 and Year 9 students are trained in how to deliver lifesaving Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation to potential heart attack victims.

As part of the training, they learnt how to use a defibrillator and where they can find these in the local community.

MRS MITCHELL, Subject Leader for CPSHEEd



Cut out knives and weapons!

ALL Year 10 students have taken part in 'Knives & Weapons' workshops, delivered by the Police, on the impact they can have on our lives.

The workshops focused on using interactive resources where students made decisions on behalf of an individual to see what the outcomes on his life might be as a result of the decisions he has made.

MRS MITCHELL
Subject Leader for CPSHEEd



• **HARD-HITTING LESSON!** Above and below: Year 10 students learn about the impact that knives and weapons can have on people's lives during workshops held in October.

Raising awareness of drugs

YEAR 9 have also enjoyed workshops on drug awareness from the Youth Engagement Police teams.

The focus in these sessions was on the legal/criminal implications of drug taking.

This moves on from the drugs talks they had in Year 8 from the charity Street Aware, where the focus was more on what types of drugs are out there and the effects of peer pressure and resilience.

MRS MITCHELL
Subject Leader for CPSHEEd





News from the Physical Education Department

Basketball players make great strides!



• **PROGRESS** — The Higham Lane Key Stage 4 basketball squad.

HIGHAM Lane School hosted the Key Stage 4 District Basketball Tournament on Monday, December 4.

The boys had been practising every Friday lunchtime in the gym for half a term and progress had been very good.

Four schools entered the tournament: Higham Lane, Polesworth, Nicholas Chamberlaine and defending champions Twycross House.

In their first game, against Nicholas Chamberlaine, the fact the team had never played a competitive match

together showed as they went 4-0 down early on.

However, they showed good character to draw back level and had several chances to win the match, but unfortunately just lost out by one basket.

In their second fixture they played Polesworth and, despite conceding some early baskets, played very well to win comfortably.

In the final game, against Twycross, the team got off to a great start and were level just before half-time. Higham then

had a great chance to take the lead but Twycross defended well and went up the other end to score.

In the second half, Higham again missed some good opportunities to score but Twycross extended their lead, experience paying off as they went on to win the tournament.

Well done to all the boys involved, who started the tournament as individuals but finished as an impressive passing team!

MR WILSON

Subject Leader for PE



Players are buzzing following selection for Wasps' squads!

CONGRATULATIONS to four Higham Lane netball players whose skills on court have been recognised by Wasps.

Elliemae and Eleanor (pictured left), who joined the Sixth Form from other schools, were an integral part of the Higham Under-19 team's 'double' (see back page) and have now been selected for the Wasps' Under-17 Coventry Hub squad.

Also catching the selectors' eyes were Year 11 students Leah and Kristen (right), who are now part of the Wasps' Rugby Hub squad. Kristen recently attended a trial in Walsall and was duly selected to play in a Wasps' Under-17 game during December.

MRS DAVIES, PE Department





News from the Physical Education Department



• **FLYING HIGH!** Georgia in action for the Wasps Under-19 team.

Georgia is fast making a name for herself!

HIGHAM Lane Sixth Form student, Georgia's, netball career can only be described as 'on the up and up'!

Following more than six highly-successful years representing Higham on the courts, the nimble-footed netballer is fast making a name for herself as an Under-19 Wasps player.

However, in addition to her talent, Georgia's dedication to the sport is second to none as she has to juggle her studies with the tough Wasps training schedule and regular matches

against other top teams around the country.

She attends training every Tuesday evening, which includes strength and conditioning work, while appearances in the National Performance League require travelling to games all around the country.

Last year, Georgia helped her Wasps team to a third place finish, a feat she is determined to better when the 2018 NPL season begins after Christmas.

MRS DAVIES, PE Department

Passion drives them on!

TWO Higham Lane rugby players are hoping their passion for the game will take them all the way to the top after being selected for the Wasps' Under-16 Rugby Academy.

Jack and Sam (pictured below) attend training once a week at

the Wasps' Broad Street ground, which includes fitness, nutrition and strength and conditioning.

After Christmas the duo are looking forward to competing in a series of games against other academies.

MRS DAVIES, PE Department

Girls' football proves popular



FOLLOWING the introduction of a girls' football club to the PE extra-curricular timetable, we proudly entered two teams, made up of Year 7 and 8 students into the Nuneaton & District League, which took place over three weeks in November.

This gave students who currently play football outside school a chance to showcase their skills, as well as the opportunity for other students to compete in a sport for the first time.

Both A and B teams put in some excellent effort and performances, in good standard matches with the A team eventually being crowned all-round runners-up.

Year 7 and 8 girls' football club will continue throughout the spring term on a Tuesday lunch in the sports hall.

MISS BLUNT
Assistant Subject Leader for PE





News from the Physical Education Department



Sensational start by Year 7 netballers

SPORTING Year 7 girls have made a sensational start to their netball careers at Higham Lane School.

An incredible turnout of more than 40 students have regularly attended training after lessons on Friday afternoons, which has benefited them greatly and enabled the School to enter three teams in the local league.

All the practice sessions certainly paid dividends as the

A, B and C teams finished first, second and third respectively, which stands them in good stead for their remaining years playing netball at the School.

Delighted coach, Mrs Davies, commented: "Thanks to all the girls who regularly attend the training sessions and congratulations on making a superb start with Higham Lane netball."

MRS DAVIES, PE Department

Excellent results by runners

HIGHAM Lane produced some excellent team and individual results at the Nuneaton & District cross country events this term.

Two races took place at the Pingles in Nuneaton during September: The Year 7 girls finished runners-up in the Team Championship, Katie and Bethany being the stand-out runners by finishing second and third respectively in both races.

The Year 7 boys also finished second in the Team Championship. In the first race,

Ben finished 6th, Harry 7th and Mason 9th. In the second race, Mason improved to finish 6th and Harry again came 7th.

Two students from Year 8 ran in the Year 9 race with Sam finishing 3rd in the boys' race and Olivia 6th in the girls' race. A great achievement by both students!

Our Year 9 students also performed superbly in their races. Daniel finished 2nd in the boys' race while, in the girls' race, Eve finished 4th, Lilly 7th, Lily 12th, Gabrielle 15th and Summer 19th finished runners-up in the team event.

Eleven students were then selected to run for the District in the County Championships on Saturday, October 14. This is a fantastic achievement and they all performed extremely well against the best runners in the entire county.

Congratulations to Katie, Bethany, Ben, Harry and Mason in Year 7, Sam and Olivia from year 8, and Year 9's Lilly, Lily, Eve and Daniel.

Following on from the District race, Sam was again selected to run for the County — an amazing achievement considering he is in Year 8 and is running against boys who are in Year 9. Well done Sam and good luck in all your races this season.

If any student would like to represent the school in the Warwickshire Schools' Cross Country Championships on Saturday, January 20, please see Mr Wilson for details.

MR WILSON
Subject Leader for PE



● **IMPRESSIVE!** Higham Lane's cross country squad produced a string of top class performances during the autumn term. Sam, re-selected by the County, is fourth from left on the back row.



Badminton teams are all making great progress!



● **KEY STAGE 4 BOYS' BADMINTON TEAM** — Chris, Jake, Jack and Nick.



● **YEAR 9 GIRLS' BADMINTON TEAM** — Esther, Tia, Lilly and Lily.



● **KEY STAGE 3 BOYS' BADMINTON TEAM** — Lewis, Jack, Alex and Ryan.



● **YEAR 10/11 GIRLS' BADMINTON TEAM** — Catherine, Asmita, Beth and Hannah.

BOYS

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

The Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 boys' teams won their tournaments, held at Polesworth, again easily winning all their games and now advance to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire finals held in February.

In the league the Key Stage 4 boys have won their first four fixtures beating, Hartshill 5-3, George Eliot 8-0, St Thomas More 7-1 and Nicholas Chamberlaine 8-0.

The Key Stage 3 boys' team have played three fixtures, beating George Eliot 7-1 and drawing with St Thomas More and Hartshill 4-4.

GIRLS

The Higham Lane girls' teams also made great progress in the Centre Parcs Badminton National Tournament at district level.

The Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 boys' teams won their tournaments held at Polesworth, again easily winning all their games and qualify for the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals being held in February.

In the league, the Key Stage 3 girls have played two fixtures, drawing 4-4 with both Hartshill and Nicholas Chamberlaine.

The Key Stage 4 girls' team have seen one fixture conceded by Nicholas Chamberlaine and unfortunately very few schools have entered teams this season.

MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE



News from the Physical Education Department



● **IMPRESSIVE** — The jubilant Year 7 County Cup team celebrating after beating Avon Valley 8-0.



● **MIDLANDS FINALISTS** — The Year 7 5-a-side squad.

Footballers in fine form!

THE Year 7 football squad has made a very impressive start at Higham Lane.

Training each week has been very popular with 40+ students regularly attending.

They have also played numerous games this year, including two County Cup fixtures, one league fixture, two 5-a-side tournaments and two friendly matches.

This means 30 different Year 7 students have represented the School this year already. In the County Cup, they beat Avon Valley 8-0 in the first round and St Thomas More 5-1 in the quarter-final. They will play against Ash Green in the semi-final in March.

In their first league fixture they beat Queen Elizabeth 6-0 and have three more league matches in the spring.

Selecting eight players for a 5-a-side tournament was a very difficult task. The selected players won the qualifying tournament beating Etone, George Eliot and Queen Elizabeth.

In the District finals they defeated Nicholas Chamberlaine 5-1, Ash Green 3-0 and Etone 3-0 to progress through to the Midlands finals, to be played in February.

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

More friendly matches have been arranged against Etone, Nuneaton Academy and Queen Elizabeth.

The Year 8, 9 and 10 football squads have had a mixed season so far. Unfortunately, results have not gone their way, with the Year 9 squad beaten in the County Cup and the Year 10 losing their league fixtures by one goal each time.

The Year 8 squad have played well in the league but lost two games and are yet to play their County Cup quarter-final against Princethorpe.

The Year 11 football squad has continued to dominate district football and are looking very strong in the Warwickshire Cup.

In the league, they have beaten Polesworth 4-3, Kingsbury 1-0 and Kingsbury 2-1. They have still to play Twycross but, if they win or draw, it will mean they have won the league for a very impressive five years in a row.

In the Warwickshire Cup they always seem to be drawn away, but despite this they

beat Myton 2-0 in the first round and then Stratford 2-1 in the quarter-final.

Well done to all players involved and good luck in the semi-final away to Harris in March.

Three students from Year 11 have been selected to represent Warwickshire at football. This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to congratulate them all. Well done to Aaron, Elliot and Jamie.

MR WILSON
Subject Leader for PE



● **THE YEAR 11 FOOTBALL SQUAD** — Dominated district football.



News from the Physical Education Department



• **DOUBLE-UP!** The School's Under-19 and Under-16 netball squads who won their respective Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire Tournaments this year.

FROM BACK PAGE

round robin competition, leaving a deciding match against their nemesis.

As five years' hard work came to fruition, the girls annihilated King's High 13-4 to clinch the County title and earn a coveted place in the Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire Tournament.

Also qualifying for the competition was King's High, courtesy of their runners-up position, joined by the cream of the area's other teams — King Henry VIII and Bablake from Coventry, along with Solihull's Langley and St Martin's.

Once again, Higham turned on the style and were in pole position after winning their first four games, the fifth match seeing them up against the familiar faces of King's High, who were also unbeaten on the day.

Full of confidence from their victory in the County final, Higham played fantastically well to ease home 11-7 and, as champions, were rewarded with at

place in the West Midlands Finals at the end of January.



For the first time, Higham Lane entered an Under-19 Sixth Form team into the County competition, which saw them pitted against teams a year older.

However, after attending numerous training sessions beforehand, the girls were confident they could put in a good performance . . . and they were right! After seeing off the opposition in the first three games, they faced a crunch final section match against the 2016 champions, Rugby School.

An exciting goal-for-goal spectacle ensued and, following dogged defending throughout, broke away in the final minute to score and secure a 10-9 victory.

This propelled Higham into the semi-finals where they faced a very strong and successful King's High team, who had played together since Year 7.

Yet again, the girls were involved in a tantalising tussle in which they triumphed by the odd goal, 9-8, to reach the final.

Here, they faced Rugby once again and, following yet another nail-biting match, unbelievably clinched the County crown thanks to a 12-11 victory.

As a result, both Higham and Rugby progressed into the Under-19 Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire Tournament, where they faced each other in the first game.

Another close battle ensued, with Higham edging home 7-6 following a tough and testing game.

The team then coasted through the remaining fixtures, beating Solihull School 12-4, Tudor Grange 10-6, King Henry's 17-4 and Bablake 13-4 to finish as champions and, like their Under-16 Higham counterparts, qualified for January's West Midlands Finals.

MRS DAVIES
PE Department

Girls selected for County academy

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to four Higham Lane netballers who have been specially selected for the Warwickshire County Academy.

Year 9 students Chloe and Emma, along with Hannah and Freya from Year 8, have done exceedingly well to gain places at the Academy, being selected from approximately 200 girls from all around the country, including private schools.

Freya has especially caught the selectors' eyes as she will be playing 'up' at Under-16 level while the others are in the Under-14 category.

MRS DAVIES, PE Department

• **SPECIALLY SELECTED** — Hannah, Chloe, Freya and Emma.





DOUBLE DOUBLE!



TWO of Higham Lane School's netball teams are flying high after scooping four major titles so far this season. The Under-16 and Under-19 girls have landed a remarkable 'double double' after both sides triumphed in their respective County and Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire tournaments. The first success came at Warwickshire Under-16 level when the squad travelled to North Leamington School, determined to

- **WARWICKSHIRE'S FINEST!** Higham Lane School's Under-16 netball team (above) and Under-19 team (below) celebrate their County successes.

Under-19 and Under-16 netball teams both crowned County champions and Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire Tournament winners!

go one step better than last year, having narrowly lost in the final by a solitary goal to King's High, from Warwick. That made it four heart-breaking final defeats in as many years to the netball powerhouse, so the girls were really determined to secure the County crown during their last season playing together. The other teams involved were Rugby School and Kingsley, who Higham brushed aside 16-4 and 8-5 respectively in the

