



Higham Lane School

Helping Learners Succeed

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WEEKLY EMAIL BULLETIN FOR WEEK ENDING:

26th March 2021

WHOLE SCHOOL

Reading Recommendations for Young People

Usually we are able to run reading groups to read, celebrate and debate the latest fiction for young people. However, this is not possible at the moment, but we wanted to signpost the latest awards shortlists to parents and carers so you can see what's impressing the different book awards this year. Books will be available to borrow soon.

- The Carnegie Medal – the most prestigious award for children's fiction – find the shortlist at <https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk>
- Warwickshire Secondary Book Award 2021 – our local book award – find the shortlist at <https://sls.warwickshire.gov.uk/september-2020/book-awards/warwickshire-secondary-book-award-2021-shortlist-announced>
- The British Book Awards – <https://www.thebookseller.com/british-book-awards/book-of-the-year>
- YA Book Prize – www.thebookseller.com/ya-book-prize-2021
- Empathy Lab – books to build empathy - to celebrate Empathy Day on 10th June 2021 – booklist at www.empathylab.uk

Mrs Turner – Library Manager

News from the Computer Science and ICT Department

As an integral part of the Higham Lane community you will already know that we pride our self on providing an outstanding educational experience for the students in our care. For example, we provide a variety of extracurricular club opportunities for students to participate in. As you can imagine though, with lockdown and social distancing, this has been difficult. Despite these challenges, within the Computer Science and ICT Department we've recently run two extracurricular activities using Google Classroom and Zoom.

I am delighted to share with you some brilliant news regarding one such activity, namely the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, iDEA for short. This award aims to develop digital, enterprise and employability skills, targeting Year 7 and 8 students. Looking ahead we're looking to open this up to the whole school, nevertheless this activity has really taken off and is going from strength to strength.

What is iDEA?

It's a series of online challenges where students can win career-enhancing badges, unlock new opportunities and potentially gain industry-recognised awards that can help students stand out from the crowd! For more information please go to <https://idea.org.uk/> . Three of our students have already earned their bronze badge award.

Success!

On Friday 19th March a team of Year 8 girls entered the nationwide Cyber Security competition. Going by the name of 'Code Crackers' the girls won through to the semi-final. It was an excellent achievement and

we're so proud of them! The girls demonstrated excellent team skills and initiative given the fact most of their work was done remotely.

Thank you in support of your child, particularly over lockdown. We know that they would have gained invaluable experience which, no doubt, will serve them well in the future.

If your son/daughter would like to learn about cyber security, computer networks and problem solving please encourage them to go to the following link <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberfirst/courses> and register for **CyberFirst Defenders** (14-15yrs), **Futures** (15-16yrs) and **Advanced** (16-17yrs). Free summer courses will be available for booking from 29th April 2021 on their website.

Newsletter from Warwickshire's Family Information Service

Please follow the link for this week's newsletter from the Family Information Service, with lots of information and resources to help support families: <https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/family-information-service-newsletter-1195447>

SIXTH FORM / YEAR 11 / YEAR 10

Virtual Work Experience Opportunity for Year 10, 11, 12 & 13

Each year, Jacobs hosts work experience students throughout their offices in the UK to encourage them to pursue a career in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) fields. This presents a great opportunity for students to learn from the wide range of projects that Jacobs is involved in. For further information please see the flyer on the school website at <https://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/schoolcommunication> (Weekly Bulletins, Weekly Email Bulletin for week ending: 26th March 2021)

YEAR 8

Year 8 Options Deadline Today

A reminder please to Year 8 parents and carers that today (Friday 26th March) is the deadline for returning your son/daughter's option choices. Please follow the instructions in the email sent out on Tuesday which contains a link to an electronic form for you to complete.

Please can I also remind you that where students wish to choose a vocational subject as part of their options that they can only choose a maximum of two vocational subjects (i.e. a maximum of two from NCFE Technical Award in Business, Cambridge Nationals in Engineering, Cambridge Nationals in Health and Social Care, Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia and Cambridge Nationals in Sport).

Thank you to those parents/carers who have already returned their son/daughter's options choices.

Dates for Your Diary 2020-21

Please note that these dates are subject to any future government announcements

18th March – 1st April	Year 11 Trial Exams
Thursday 31st March	Year 13 Student Progress Evening
Friday 2nd April	Good Friday – no school
5th – 16th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 19th April	INSET day – no school
20th – 30th April	Year 12 Exams

Thursday 29th April	Year 7 Student Progress Evening
Monday 3rd May	May Bank Holiday – no school
4th – 14th May	Year 10 Trial Exams
17th May	Year 11 School Photos
17th – 21st May	Year 12 Assessment Week
17th – 28th May	Year 9 Exams
24th – 28th May	Year 11 D&T Practical Exams
24th – 28th May	Year 11 Practical Exams
Thursday 27th May	Year 12 Student Progress Evening
31st May – 4th June	May Half-term
7th – 18th June	Year 7 & 8 Exams
Thursday 17th June	Year 10 Student Progress Evening
Thursday 1st July	Year 9 Student Progress Evening
5th – 9th July	Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 Assessment Week
Thursday 22nd July	Summer Holidays begin