

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th February 2022



Dear Parent/Carer,



I had a rare treat on Wednesday evening- I accompanied an English Department theatre trip to see a production of George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' at The Rep in Birmingham. Everyone attending enjoyed the superb production of this English classic in excellent seats near the front. The students observed theatre etiquette and were fantastic ambassadors for our school. I was also reminded of how important these activities are in developing our students' thinking. It was so enjoyable to listen in on the conversations where students were discussing the effectiveness of the puppetry and changes from the text. We agreed the ending was sudden and slightly disappointing, lacking the power of the original novel. Other discussions included whether the Communist utopia is always destined to end in failure. Of course, we also talked about more mundane matters such as whether Nuneaton is a better place to live in than Hinckley! All in all, it was a fantastic evening. Thanks to our English teacher, Mrs Thomas, for organising it.

A highlight of our school year is when Y11 students complete their practical work in Food Technology and Engineering. With the Food Tech, staff have the privilege of sampling an array of beautifully-presented savoury and sweet dishes and writing down our feedback. With the Engineering, we marvel at the superb products students have produced in the workshops. To see our learners at their very best as they use their skills and knowledge to produce high quality performances is very uplifting. The praise and congratulations they receive from staff and their peers also brings smiles to their faces.

News of my forthcoming departure as Headteacher has led to some very kind and pleasant messages from former students. Sometimes it is easy to forget to reflect upon all the many young people who have attended HLS and gone on to achieve happy and successful lives. On Tuesday, Azhar contacted me. He is currently working in London as a chef in a Michelin star restaurant in Mayfair! We are so proud of all he has gone on to achieve, just as we are of all our former students.

I note that the Six Nations is beginning this weekend which will please the rugby union fans. Our former student, Alfie Bell, has been selected for England's Under 20's, which is wonderful news! Whatever your weekend is filled with, I hope it is relaxing and enjoyable.

Best wishes,

Headteacher

Please note: details of all these items are on the Able & Ambitious Google Classroom pages and they will also be communicated through Sharepoint where necessary.

All competition entrants will be awarded House Points for entering as well as prizes for the winners.

**All Years:**

A meeting with both the Student House System Working Party and the Junior Leadership Team has taken place this week to see how we can improve the House System and make sure students are earning prizes they really care about. We will be approaching local businesses in the near future, asking for prizes they would be willing to donate in return for free publicity across our social media platforms, in this newsletter and to all our students. IF ANY OF YOU HAVE BUSINESSES THAT COULD HELP US OUT IN THIS WAY, please don't hesitate to contact me through [contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk) and mark it FAO: Ian Bottrill.

**Year 7:**

The Year 7 Maths Olympics is taking place next Wednesday after school in Chine. In this event, teams of 4 from each form compete by racing to get and answer questions with points being awarded for speed and correct answers. This has been run by the Maths Department several times before and the students always have a lot of fun as well as relishing the mathematical challenges.

**Year 11:**

Year 11 Summit Group students are really warming to the task of pushing themselves beyond their normal performance in and out of lessons in order to earn stickers and prizes.



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# BULLETIN BOARD

## All Years

**Warwickshire County Council Online SEND webinars** - To support our children, young people and families with SEND, Warwickshire County Council is hosting a series of online webinars. The next webinar on 9th February at 12-1pm will explore the 'Graduated Approach' to support children and young people with SEND.

To register please click here: <https://bit.ly/SENDwebinarFeb>

The December webinar was on Autism Support, please see the links below for more information:

- Parent Carer webinar - autism support (YouTube)
- Parent Carer webinar - autism support webinar presentation (PDF, 421KB)
- Parent Carer webinar - autism support Q&A (PDF, 251 KB)

## Year 7

**Police Workshop – Drugs** - Year 7 will be taking part in a police workshop on drugs on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th February. If your child is affected by the workshops, he/she will be able to see their form tutor, Progress Leader or member of the Safeguarding Team in school.

## Year 8

**Year 8 options** - I am delighted to inform you that we will shortly be launching our Year 8 options information on the school website. Please keep an eye out for a separate email, which will inform you of when this information has gone live. Mr Banks - Deputy Headteacher.

**Year 8 Spring Student Progress Report** - The Year 8 Spring Student Progress Report will be issued week commencing Monday 7th February via the My Ed app or via a link in an email if you do not have the app. You can download the app from the app store, follow any instructions and ensure notifications are allowed. If you have any problems viewing the report you may need to download a PDF reader (i.e. adobe). You will be notified when the report is available. Thank you.

## Year 9

**Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and Meningitis ACWY Vaccinations** - The Immunisation Team will be in school on Thursday 17th February and Friday 18th February to administer the above vaccinations to Year 9 students. The vaccination sessions will be held in the school library over the 2 days. An email was sent out this week to all parent/carers with children in Year 9 with information about these vaccinations. Consent needs to be given via the electronic consent link which is also detailed below. Please click on this link (or paste into your browser) to complete a consent form for your child.

<https://iv.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/form?identifier=a2c2c130-5140-4f06-af02-3f246d6508fa>

Please note that this link closes on 6th February. If you have any concerns or experience any problems with the consent link please let the school know.

## Year 11 and 13

**Revision Classes – Easter holidays** - We are excited to be offering revision classes in a range of subjects over the Easter holidays. You will shortly be receiving a separate email outlining what's on offer and how to go about booking a place for your son/daughter. Mr Banks - Deputy Headteacher.



Join the conversation as Warwickshire County Council hosts a new webinar: the graduated approach demystified - what SEND support should look like.

Parents and carers from across the county are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday 9 February, Microsoft Teams, 12pm - 1pm

**SEND webinar**

WARWICKSHIRE PARENT CARER VOICE  
NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Don't forget – all of our **Careers and Apprenticeship** information can be found on our website!

[Click here](#) to view more information on a variety of exciting opportunities!



### Dates for your diary

- Thursday 10th February - Year 8 Student Progress Evening
- School timings will be different on this day - [please click here for more information.](#)
- Thursday 17th & Friday 18th February - All Year 9 Td/IPV & Men ACWY Vaccines
- Friday 18th February - Last Day of This Half of Term
- Monday 21st February - HALF TERM HOLIDAYS START



## BOOK OF THE WEEK

'The Crossing' by Manjeet Mann

A teenage girl struggling with her mother's death and an Eritrean refugee find hope when fate throws them together. Natalie's world has turned upside down. She's lost her mum and her brother is descending further and further into anger and violence with a far-right gang who march the streets of Dover. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes is a step into the unknown - into a strange country and a hidden future. A twist of fate brings these two teens from opposite sides of the channel together, but will their journey end in hope or despair?

Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2021

More books bringing people from different lands together

