

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 28th January 2022



Dear Parent/Carer,



As I was driving into work on Thursday on Holocaust Memorial Day I was listening to an item on the radio about this important topic and shocked to hear the results of a recent UK survey: 52% of all respondents did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered during the Holocaust and 9% believed the Holocaust was a myth. This week students have really benefited from Mr Goldstraw's excellent assembly on the Holocaust. This is an example of a History teacher communicating with the whole school on a hugely important topic. Schools have such an important role to play here. This isn't just about looking backwards to an event in history, but also considering what we can learn from such an event and how it influences the way we treat one another across the world.

Our students are being wowed by our Design and Technology Department's new Instagram accounts: hls_food and hls_engineering. These sites contain examples of students' amazing work and demonstrations of particular techniques by students. There is a real wow factor! Please do take a look. I am delighted to have examples of mosaics and wood products from this department on display in my office. Visitors have been very impressed. Of course, I tell them it's all my own work!

One of the many strengths of our school which parents/carers often tell us about and refer to as a reason why they chose Higham Lane for their child is our high expectations regarding students' behaviour, school uniform and personal appearance. All schools have to work really hard to repeatedly reinforce their expectations on these matters. This has been particularly the case since the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, following which the standards of some students have slipped. We are now looking at effective ways of reinforcing these expectations and further creating a positive mentality that celebrates the fact that most of our students display excellent standards. From Monday 31st January, at 8.45 am, Year 7, 8 and 9 students will briefly assemble with their year group on the playground within their form groups. Their Progress Leader and members of the Senior Leadership Team will say a few words to get the day off to a positive and focused start. Students will then make their way to their form room for their usual form-time activities. This will give us an opportunity to champion the overwhelming majority of students who do the right thing all day, every day.

I have heard there is a possibility of snow next week. A few years ago, before Covid times, as Headteacher I used to worry about school closures for snow days with some students complaining that you haven't closed the school and some parents complaining that you have! Now that all schools have remote learning in place, teachers can teach and set work, even when students cannot come into school. I'm not sure whether all students welcome this development however, making the 'snow day' a thing of the past!

Best wishes,

Headteacher

BULLETIN BOARD

All Years

BBC National Short Story Award - If any of you have a burning desire to write / publish a short story then you can apply for the BBC NSSA! The winning author gets £15,000 and the other four shortlisted authors receive £600 each. The stories will be broadcasted on Radio 4 and published in an anthology by Comma Press.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/XQfYy97KvBBdJpFdGxZlq7/2022-bbc-short-story-awards-open-for-entries>

Entries close at 9am on Monday 21st March 2022.

BBC Young Writers Award - The BBC Young Writers' Award with Cambridge University invites young people in the UK aged between 14 -18 years to submit short stories of up to 1,000 words. The writers shortlisted for the BBC Young Writers' Award have their stories narrated by an actor and recorded for a BBC podcast and published in an anthology.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/young-writers-award/z8p3m39>

Entries close at 9am on Monday 28th March 2022.

Time to Talk Day (3rd February) - Time to Talk Day focuses on creating supportive communities by having conversations about mental health. Our Time to Talk Day resource for schools is a compilation of useful information, websites and downloads that can be used to encourage young people to open up and start meaningful conversations on this day. It also contains details of websites and services for support with mental health.



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46173

Safer Internet Day (8th February) - This year, Safer Internet Day focuses on the theme of safety and respect in online gaming. Our resource includes links to educational materials for schools, such as lesson plans, assemblies and more, websites with advice on relevant topics, and details of where pupils and parents/carers can get help when they need it.

Resources available on our website - [Parents and Students - Health and Wellbeing Hub.](#)

Nasal Flu Vaccination - Any parents/guardians who did not submit their child's consent before the portal closed, or child missed the vaccination on the day due to refusal, absence or unwell, can attend a local clinic venue for the flu vaccination. Appointments can be booked via the Swiftqueue link <https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/userlogin.php>.

Any Students which were asked to attend session and did not come down, please feel free to use this link to book.

Covid 19 Vaccinations – 2nd dose - The Immunisation Team will be in school on Monday 28th February 2022 to administer the second dose of the Covid 19 vaccine for children aged 12-15.

Due to updated National guidance there is a new consent process and any previous consent decision is not carried forward. A letter and information regarding the consent process will be sent out to parents/carers of eligible students as soon as we receive this from the NHS. Please also note that this session is open to any student who has yet to receive their first dose of the this vaccine and is within the eligible age group. If you have any concerns or queries regarding these vaccinations, please let us know. Also, the Immunisation Team can be contacted on 024 76321550.

Year 9

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 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.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 10th February -
Year 8 Student Progress Evening
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

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:

Lego Building competition.

Story writing competition to win £15,000.

Year 11:

Passonbury Revision Support Event at Warwick University on 23rd and 24th February: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vc-6Ce9HZUSSZTVG8ur2vJL_V2mGnIBDnth4MuA3NrRURU9CVjUzTzRIM0VWUINMUUN

Opportunity for a scholarship with Nuneaton Borough and West Bromwich Albion for those wanting to pursue a career as a footballer: <https://www.etonecollege.co.uk/football/>

Year 12:

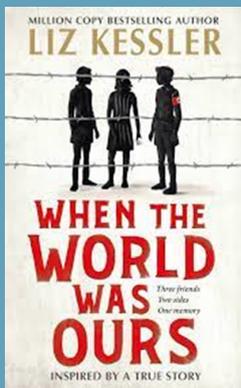
Expert-Delivered Lectures on a Variety of Subjects through Gresham College.

Sutton Trust Residential Summer Schools to study one of 40 subjects at a UK university: <https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/>

Year 13:

Passonbury Revision Support Event at Warwick Uni on 23rd and 24th February: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vc-6Ce9HZUSSZTVG8ur2vJL_V2mGnIBDnth4MuA3NrRURU9CVjUzTzRIM0VWUINMUUN

Expert-Delivered Lectures on a Variety of Subjects through Gresham College: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/schools>



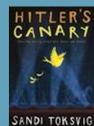
BOOK OF THE WEEK

When the World Was Ours by Liz Kessler (2021)

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January

1936, Vienna. Leo, Elsa and Max have been best friends for years. Since the day they met they've been a team of three. But then the Nazis come, and their lives, once so tightly woven together, take very different paths. Leo – must rely on the kindness of strangers to escape the rising threat to the Jewish people. Elsa – like Leo, is hated for simply being who she is. To be safe, she must run. Max – suddenly finds that he is the danger his friends are trying so desperately to escape as his father rises through the Nazi ranks. Inspired by a true story, this book is life-affirming and heart-breaking. It shows how the bonds of love, family and friendship allow glimmers of hope to flourish, even in the most hopeless of times.

More fiction which helps to explain and inform about the Holocaust. All these books can be found in the Library:



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