

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th May 2022



Dear Parent/Carer,



I hope you and your family had a pleasant Bank Holiday weekend.

This week and next week I am leading an assembly about protected characteristics and the Equality Act. I begin by asking students what prejudice means and whether a local gym saying Mr Kelly could not use their premises because he is old, would be breaking the law. I then explain the eight protected characteristics and ask students to consider examples applying to race, religion, gender-reassignment, pay based on gender and so on. This assembly isn't just about developing students' knowledge and understanding of a key piece of UK legislation; I go on to address hate crime and the need for us all to treat each other with respect and never say anything that is upsetting to others, particularly with reference to the eight protected characteristics, for example, addressing the fact that racist and homophobic comments are unacceptable at school, in the workplace and anywhere. My conclusion is: treat other people the way you would like to be treated, be kind and stay within the law, including when using social media. I know you will actively support these important messages, as parents/carers.

Another important message we communicate as a school concerns violence. We are currently giving the following reminders to students: "If you feel wound up because someone is annoying you, let a member of staff know. If you are aware there is tension between students, let a member of staff know. Students who choose to fight are making the wrong choices and will face serious sanctions. These will be recorded on their school record". Thankfully, the overwhelming majority of students at HLS make the right choices when it comes to fighting and the use of violence. They are kind, caring and quick to let us know if they have a concern.

Last Friday morning the whole of our school gathered for our first whole-school photograph since 1989 (which was the School's 50th anniversary). Because we are a very large school in terms of our number of students and staff, it took a while to get the photograph completed and the students had to wait patiently in position on the tiered stands. I'd like to thank Mrs Woodall for her excellent planning and organisation of this whole-school photograph and the students and staff for their patience. The company organising the event commented on the excellent behaviour of the students and tight organisation. It says a huge amount about our school that things ran so smoothly. We are all looking forward to seeing the final photograph!

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes,

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Friday 6th May – Sunday 8th May
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Weekend

Thursday 26th May
Year 12 Student Progress Evening

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June
Half Term Holiday

Thursday 9th June
Year 9 Student Progress Evening

Saturday 18th June – Sunday 19th June
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Weekend

Wednesday 22nd June – Friday 24th June
Year 12 Work Experience



BULLETIN BOARD

All Years

Information Evening - Central England Academy Trust Proposed Merger

We emailed parents/carers recently regarding the proposed merger with the Central England Academy Trust. We are now able to confirm that an information sharing event will be held regarding this at 6p.m. in Chine Hall on Monday 16 May.
Ben Elliott - Director of Corporate Services

Lost Coats and Boot Bags

We have numerous coats and boot bags in Student Services which have been misplaced. If you son/daughter has lost any of these items could you please ask them to come to Student Services.

Years 7-10

Uniform Consultation

Parents/carers of children in Years 7-10 should have received a message about this earlier this week. The deadline for responses is Friday 20th May. Thank you.
Mr Kelly, Headteacher

Year 11 and 13

You should have received an email yesterday regarding May half term revision classes. Please can you discuss with your son/daughter which classes they wish to attend and return the electronic reply slip by 3.15pm next Thursday (12 May).

Thank you,
Mr Banks, Deputy 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:

There will be a Nuneaton's Got Talent competition held in Riversley Park in the town centre on July 21st. We will be choosing students to put through to this final by holding our own talent competition after half-term. We are still waiting on details of both the school and town competitions (details will be communicated to students, parents and carers as soon as we have them), but I'm informing you now so that students can begin to prepare their act, whether it's singing, dancing, acting, stand-up comedy, magic, or anything else you might see on shows like Britain's Got Talent. More details to follow.

Lecture Programme:

- Professor Michael Duncan delivered a fascinating sports science lecture to our students on Thursday 28th April that enraptured them from start to finish. He has very kindly said he will come in again so any students who didn't manage to see him will have another opportunity.
- Marcus Jones MP will be coming in to deliver a talk on life as a politician on Thursday 26th May straight after school in Chine Hall. This is open to any students from Y7-13, but will be particularly relevant to those interested in Politics, History and Business (he worked in the private sector before becoming a MP).



NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

Y10 Rugby Match v Polesworth

Nuneaton Old Eds very kindly let us use their first team pitch for an 11-a-side rugby match against Polesworth on Wednesday. After a very dramatic and eventful match, Higham Lane won 7-5 with all 7 points being scored by Alfie M. The boys played some fantastic rugby against a very competitive Polesworth side and probably just about deserved to win. Well done lads!
Mr Bottrill



BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Light in Everything by Katya Balen

When Tom's mum and Zofia's dad announce they are having a baby and moving in together, the polar opposite children struggle to cope with the situation.

Tom is still quiet and timid, even though his dad has been gone for nearly two years now. Zofia is the opposite. Inside her there's a raging storm that makes her want to fight the whole world until she gets what she wants. And what she wants is for scaredy-cat Tom to get out of her life. Tom hates loud, unpredictable Zofia just as much, but he's moving into Zofia's house. Because his mum and Zofia's dad are in love... and they're having a baby. Tom and Zofia both wish the stupid baby had never happened. But then Tom's mum gets ill, and it begins to look horribly like their wish might come true...
A story of learning to trust, trying to let go and diving into the unknown with hope in your heart.

More from Katya Balen

