

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 21st January 2022



Dear Parent/Carer,

It was excellent last Friday evening to pay tribute to our class of 2021, the Year 11s who completed their GCSEs last year, with our first-ever Virtual Prize Giving Evening. We were delighted to have some very special celebrities announcing award winners, including several former Higham Lane students such as Hasnain Khan, a trainee Medical student who was awarded the British Empire Medal for services during the pandemic and Charlotte Bailey who won Dragon's Den with her partner and has set up Rheel Superfoods. We've now shared the video link with all of our year groups' parents/carers as we had such a positive response to it and thought you would like to see it. The real stars of the show though were all of the students in that year group, whether they won awards or not. They did so well in coping with the whole Covid situation and remaining focused and enthusiastic. We are so proud of them.

This week, Assistant Headteacher, Mr Naisbitt has been talking to the students in special assemblies about making the right choices when it comes to behaviour and uniform, personal appearance and following the school's rules. He has reminded students of our expectations as a school and of the benefits of doing the right thing. The students listened really well. The overwhelming majority of our students make the right choices every day and impress us so much.

Our Covid-19 figures as a school remain quite low for students and staff. This is pleasing and gives us confidence that we are managing things well. On Wednesday evening, the government informed us that students would not have to wear face coverings in lessons from Thursday, 20th January and this would apply to all other communal areas from Thursday, 27th January. This is as a result of the situation improving nationally in terms of a fall in the number of people testing positive for Covid. The only exception to this will be if Public Health become worried about the Covid figures in the school and/or local area. The news of students and staff not having to wear face coverings in school will be welcomed by most people I imagine. We will continue to apply other health and safety measures in school, such as the regular washing of hands with hand sanitiser. We are hoping we can run the School as normal for the time-being with typical school activities such as assemblies and our many extra-curricular activities.

You will have seen the slight change in the guidance regarding Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) last week, meaning that a positive LFT means that a PCR test does not need to be taken to confirm – you must simply isolate for the allotted period of time. Accordingly, it is vital that students are taking their two LFTs each week, so that we can do our best to support staff and students in the school.

Year 10 students begin two weeks of trial exams next Monday. These opportunities to practise their skills and test their knowledge are so important, particularly after the time we have lost because of the pandemic. We wish them well and know they will revise hard and fully prepare, so the exams are a genuine test of what they know.

Recently we advertised for some new Parent Governors and I was delighted with the response. It was wonderful to welcome these colleagues to our virtual Full Governors meeting back in December and they are attending their first sub-committee meetings this term. At Higham, we have a diverse, inclusive, friendly governing body who work hard to help our school continue to improve and celebrate our successes.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend with your family. I am hoping that Chelsea's form improves but not holding my breath. At least I won't have to watch the English cricket team losing to the Aussies anymore!

Best wishes

Headteacher



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BULLETIN BOARD

All Years

Match Fit Kit *SALE* - From 17th January until 12th February 2022 there will be 20% discount on all orders over £25, online or instore. For more information regarding this please go to the school website at www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/schoolcommunication



Year 7

Knife Crime Workshop - There are police workshops on knife crime on Monday & Tuesday next week for Year 7. The students will miss one lesson to attend the workshop. Your child's Progress Leader and the Safeguarding Team are available to your son/daughter should they be affected by the workshop.

Years 7,8,9 & 11

GCSEPod - During registration next week we will be introducing students to an exciting new resource called GCSEPod.

In order to get the most out of the session, students will need a wired (not wireless) set of headphones to plug into the School computer in order to listen to the pods. If possible, please can you provide your son/daughter with a wired set of headphones to bring in to school with them next week. If you still have the box for an older mobile phone, you may discover a pair in there! Further details about what GCSEPod offers will be sent to you once students have been shown how to use it).

Thank you. Mr Banks, Deputy Headteacher

Year 11

Tempest Photographs - School photographs have been distributed to students during form time this morning.

Revision and catch-up sessions - Please find below a link to the lunchtime and after school revision and catch-up classes which are currently being offered by your son's/daughter's Year 11 teachers. This is a live document (which can also be found on the School website under Teaching & Learning->Examinations and Revision) and so will be added to as we get nearer to the exams. Please encourage your son/daughter to attend as many of these classes as they are able to.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10KHH7BXtC1-RlkXJPLQosl01q33K1eZPsvDJltonICE/edit>

Years 10 - 13

ThinkHigher presents Rainbow Day - This event is open to all students from our ThinkHigher schools from Years 10-13. This event is an opportunity to join a safe, welcoming, and confidential space for anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+ or are an ally and supporter – you're also welcome to bring a friend. Meet people from the community and hear about their experience at school, 6th form, college, university and beyond. The day will include talks, activities, arts, and crafts and lots of fun – lunch is also provided. We can also help with transport if you need it.

Date: Tuesday 22 February Time: 10am – 3.30pm Location: Coventry University

To sign up, please complete this form https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vc-6Ce9HZUSSZTVG8ur2vJl_V2mGnIBDnth4MuA3NrRUNUHEREhMTERFSVlzQ0ITNzlwUEtQSlGOSQlQCNPWcu

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday 16 February. This information has also been placed on your child's year group Google Classroom stream.

Year 13

All year 13 will be participating in an 'Ace your Exams' workshop organised by Elevate on Wednesday 26th January. This workshop will equip students with how to prepare for and perform in exams. Our Yr 13 students will leave with ideas and techniques so that they all 'Ace' their Trial Exams in February and their forthcoming Summer exams.

For further information please use this link: <https://uk.elevateeducation.com/programs/senior>

Dates for your diary

- Monday 24th January - Year 10 Trial Exams (Two Weeks)
- Monday 24th January - Year 8 Assessment Week
- 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



BOOK OF THE WEEK



When Shadows Fall by Sita Brahmachari (2021)

Kai, Orla and Zak grew up together, their days spent on the patch of wilderness in between their homes. Music, laughter and friendship bind them together and they have big plans for their futures – until Kai's family suffers a huge loss.

Struggling to cope with his own grief, while watching his family fall apart, Kai is drawn into a new and more dangerous territory. Excluded from school and retreating from his loved ones, it seems as though his path is set, his story foretold. Orla, Zak and new classmate Om are determined to help Kai find his way back. But are they too late?

A poignant and hopeful story, exploring the importance of friendship, care and community – and what we can do when shadows fall.

Other titles from the author that are available in the Library:

