



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 16TH MAY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a truly wonderful week here at Higham Lane School. The glorious weather for much of the week has provided a lovely backdrop to school life. It has been a pleasure to see our students making the most of the sunshine, whether it's a kickabout on the field at lunchtime, a friendly game of table tennis on the playground during breaks, or simply students sitting outside, chatting and socialising with their friends in the sunshine; these moments of connection and enjoyment are so important for well-being.

As you know, we received a phone call at the start of the week informing us of an upcoming Ofsted inspection, which has now concluded. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our students, staff, parents and governors who participated in the inspection process. The behaviour of our students was exemplary, and they created a truly lovely and positive atmosphere for our visitors. Whilst I am not yet permitted to share the outcome of the inspection, as we must wait for the official report, please be assured that we will share it with all stakeholders, including of course you as parents and carers, as soon as it becomes available. I also want to express my immense gratitude to our amazing staff, who work tirelessly day in and day out to support our fantastic students.

We are now fully immersed in the Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 A-level examination period. Once again, the conduct of our students has been exemplary, and we have experienced no issues whatsoever so far. I have had the opportunity to speak with many students personally, and the feedback I have received indicates that their exams have gone very well. They feel well-prepared and are extremely positive about their progress and are looking forward to their remaining examinations. I am personally present during almost every exam and find it a privilege to greet the students, offer my best wishes, and provide a reassuring presence. The latest trial exam data for both Year 11 and Year 13 suggests that we are on track for another set of fantastic results, and we eagerly anticipate celebrating their achievements with them in the summer. I would also like to thank all of the staff who have given up their time to offer additional revision classes, often in their own time to give students that last little boost before their exams. On speaking with students, numerous students have already commented that the nuggets that staff have shared have come in extremely useful in the exams and in some cases, our staff, due to their level of experience and with many staff being experienced examination board markers and so are vastly knowledgeable, have predicted questions; many students have commented that they are delighted as the questions that came up were the ones that they were hoping for!

A brief notice regarding Wednesday morning: the usual one-way system by Chine Hall will be temporarily suspended from the start of the school day until break time due to the French listening GCSE exam taking place there. Please do speak with your child and encourage them to be as quiet as possible as they move around the school during lesson changeovers to ensure they do not disturb any of the ongoing GCSE exams. If your child is in a younger year group, please remind them that there will come a time when they too will rely on the consideration of younger students during their own exams. Thank you for your support in ensuring a calm and focused environment for our Year 11 students

We also held our Year 12 Student Progress Evening (SPE) on Thursday night, and I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who attended the SPE to support their child and the school; your engagement is invaluable and a strong home-school relationship is the bedrock of success for our young people. Thank you also to our dedicated staff for their hard work in providing tailored feedback to the students, enabling them to continue to excel and progress academically. It has been a demanding week for our staff, with the Ofsted inspection at the beginning of the week, GCSE and A Level examinations taking place and all of the additional revision classes, followed by the SPE, in addition to normal workload; I am so proud of our staff and I am truly grateful for all that they do.

Dinner-money – could I please remind you to check your child's dinner account regularly and top up as needed to ensure they have sufficient funds.

Finally, we have had a couple of reported cases of head lice in school recently. While head lice are generally more of a nuisance than a serious health concern, it is important that children are checked weekly to allow for prompt treatment and to minimise the potential for spread. Please follow the simple routine outlined below:

- CHECK your child's hair once a week.
- Use a proper DETECTION COMB to trap head lice.
- If you find LIVE LICE, consult a pharmacist for treatment advice immediately.
- If head lice are spotted, take a close look at the hair of ALL THE FAMILY.

Please speak to your local chemist for advice on treatment and continue to check your child's hair regularly, on a weekly basis. For further information on head lice, please consult your pharmacist or visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>.

Importance of attendance on last week of half term:

As we approach the end of the first Summer half term, we would like to take the opportunity to thank parents/carers for supporting us with driving high attendance and expectations for all our students. The last week of a half term is vital for consolidating the knowledge and understanding your child has gained throughout this term. This period often includes final lessons, assessments and preparations for the upcoming term. Lessons will continue as normal and missing school during this time can hinder their learning and may result in gaps in understanding. Additionally, during the last week of term, students have several events to look forward to including House Quiz and Tug of war competitions and House Assemblies to reward and recognise the hard work and commitment of our incredible students.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. The weather forecast for next week looks promising once again, and we look forward to our students enjoying the new sporting equipment and having further opportunities to socialise and relax with friends during break and lunchtime.

Best wishes,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School

Year 11 and 12 Students

For students taking their A Level and GCSE Exams, the Exams Department has posted an infographic, "JCQ Information for Candidates" onto the students Google Classroom. This sheet has information around using Social media and examinations/assessments. It discusses the importance that students know not to buy exam papers online. Whether they're real or fake, they will not help them and could result in strict penalties. Please can your child look at this ahead of the exams.



Wishing all students best wishes for these exams.

Dates for your diary

Monday 26th – Friday 30th May 2025 – Half Term Holiday



118,422



112,375



112,050