



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another incredibly busy and successful week at Higham Lane School. As the weather turns colder, it is a privilege to reflect on the warmth and dedication shown by our students and staff.

Supporting Our Students Through Winter

I am delighted to announce that we have opened a free Breakfast Club each Friday as a trial to provide a warm and safe space for our students before lessons begin. We know that many families are currently facing immense challenges due to the cost-of-living crisis, and we want to offer a small, but meaningful, token of support.

Students are welcome to relax, chat with friends, and enjoy free hot chocolate and toast. This initiative is particularly aimed at supporting our most vulnerable students, ensuring they start the day warm, nourished, and ready to learn.

It has gone down exceptionally well and provides a comforting, warm treat for students chatting with friends.



A note on winter uniform: Please ensure your child has a suitable, warm, and waterproof winter coat. If your family is experiencing financial hardship and you are unable to purchase a coat, please do not hesitate to contact the school in confidence so we can discuss how we may be able to support you.

Inspiring Trips and Enrichment

Art Trip to York: A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their time to run the museum trip to York. It was a great success, and the students who attended thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained a great deal of inspiration.



Year 9 Visit to MIRA: Our Year 9 students had an amazing opportunity to visit the world-renowned MIRA Technological Institute on the A5 to look at Artificial Intelligence (AI). This was a fantastic chance for them to see the future of automation and technology and understand how to prepare for this evolving world. I was particularly proud that our HLS students reached Level 7 on an AI code-breaking activity—the highest level achieved by any school that day, putting us in the top 8% overall! Well done! We were also proud to be the local champions beating a neighbouring school!



Inclusivity and Collaboration within CEAT

Our students continue to collaborate brilliantly across the Central England Academy Trust (CEAT). A group of HLS students joined students from other CEAT schools, including our two special schools, to form the CEAT Choir. They sang a Christmas song together, learning the sign language for the piece, and created a wonderful, touching, and truly inclusive music video that will be shown in school.

Wellbeing and Development

Anti-Bullying Production: Following on from our Anti-Bullying Week, we were delighted to welcome the Loudmouthuk Theatre Co to deliver their bespoke anti-bullying production, 'A Step Too Far', for our Year 7 students.



ASPIRE Talk

We were privileged to host HLS alumni James Carpenter for our latest ASPIRE talk, where he shared his wealth of knowledge on radio, TV, and podcast production. He was particularly impressed to hear about our new, student-run MFL podcast!



Charity and Community

We are thrilled to announce that our non-uniform day raised an incredible £1002 for BBC Children in Need! Thank you to all parents, carers, and children for your generosity. Our core values, including being Kind and Taking Responsibility, underpin our vision of being the best you can be, and by supporting charity, we are actively developing these key life habits and making a real difference to those less fortunate.

Changes to Student Services and Reception

Student Services will now be the Attendance Hub: We have appointed a new member of staff with extensive experience to further improve support for our vulnerable families struggling with attendance.

One Reception Point: To manage our extremely tight budgets, we will now only be running one reception – the Main Reception accessed via Shanklin Drive. The previous Student Services area is now the Attendance Hub and will no longer function as a second reception. Please only report to the Main Reception if you need to visit the school.

Focusing on the Future

Year 11 Student Progress Evening: Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 11 Student Progress Evening last night. We are incredibly proud of the hard work our Year 11s are putting in, which currently places them on track for another potentially record-breaking set of GCSE results. Please ensure your child has a revision plan in place and a quiet, distraction-free space away from mobile phones for effective revision.

Year 11 Exams and Opportunities: Good luck to our Year 11 students involved in the speaking exams starting today – Bonne chance! They have also received valuable presentations from various educational providers regarding apprenticeships and college courses. HLS Sixth Form: Mr. Sears, our Head of Sixth Form, delivered a presentation on our outstanding, Ofsted-graded Sixth Form, which boasts the best A-Level results in the local area, enabling access to the country's best universities. We hope the students found the presentations useful in their planning for next year.

MFL Student Podcast Success: Our MFL student podcasters—Dayyan M (Y9), Isaac M (Y8), Sofia M (Y12), Annie P (Y9), Sanjana S (Y9), Jasmine E (Y9), George G (Y9), and Haania T (Y11)—have been working incredibly hard on the second episode of the HLS Modern Foreign Language podcast! This entirely student-led initiative is a source of immense pride. Please support them by watching/listening:

https://m.youtube.com/@Le_Micro_Français.

Upcoming Dates and Reminders

Christmas Carol Service: Next Tuesday at Saint Nicholas Church.

Year 11 & 13 Trips: Good luck to the Year 11 students on the North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College trip and to the Year 13 students visiting the Houses of Parliament.

Year 12 SPR: Next Thursday.

HLS Challenge Award: Well done to all those working hard on this. It is not too late to get involved! Challenges include attending ASPIRE talks, running a charity event, or taking on a student leadership role. Please see Mrs. Mitchell if interested.

End of Term: School will break up for the Christmas holidays on Friday, 19th December. Students will be dismissed between 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm.

Crucial Reminder: Mobile Phones

Students are not permitted to use mobile phones during the school day. Please do not contact your child directly via their mobile phone during school hours. If they use the phone, they will be breaking a school rule. If you need to contact your child, please call the Main Reception who will assist you. Your support in enforcing this rule is vital.

I wish all families a wonderful weekend and thank you, as always, for your continued support of Higham Lane School.

Thank You

Best wishes,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 9th December 2025 - Christmas Carol Service at St Nicolas Church

Wednesday 17th December 2025 - Christmas Concert

Friday 19th December 2025 - Final day before the Christmas break



51,266



50,905



47,547