



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful first full week back it has been following the summer holidays! There is always something special about the beginning of a new academic year. The school buildings quickly come back to life, corridors once again fill with conversation and laughter, classrooms become places of curiosity and ambition, and we begin another chapter together as the Higham Lane School community.

Amazing students

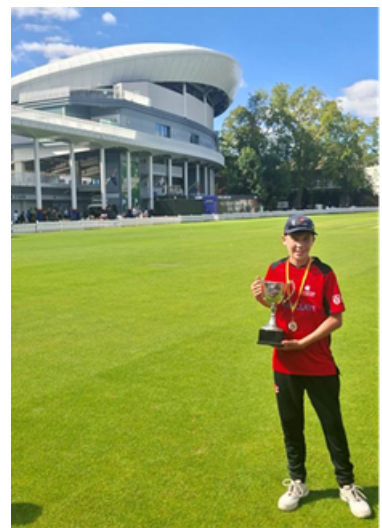
As Headteacher, I am in the incredibly privileged position of meeting remarkable young people every day. This week has been a particularly powerful reminder of the extraordinary talents, determination and ambition that exist within our student body. I was delighted to hear about the outstanding achievements of two of our students over the summer.

Jacson C has represented Higham Lane School and his county at the GB Aquatics Next Gen Summer Championships. Jacson produced an exceptional series of performances, becoming a double gold medallist in the 800m and 1500m freestyle events, while also winning silver medals in both the 400m and 200m freestyle. This is a remarkable achievement and reflects an enormous amount of dedication, resilience and hard work. We are incredibly proud of Jacson and all that he has achieved.



We have also been celebrating the success of Zach H, who represented Higham Lane School and his county in cricket at the national final at Lord's. Zach and his team overcame Sheffield by 38 runs to be crowned national champions. To compete at Lord's, one of the most iconic sporting venues in the world, is an experience that very few young people will ever have. To leave as a national champion makes the achievement even more special. Congratulations, Zach.

Jacson and Zach's stories are different, but they share something important: talent is only part of the story. Behind both achievements will have been countless hours of practice, commitment, support and determination. They are wonderful examples of what can be achieved when young people work hard, believe in themselves and take responsibility for pursuing their goals.



Year 11 Information Evening

On Tuesday evening, we welcomed Year 11 parents and carers to our Y11 Information Evening. Thank you to everyone who attended what is such an important event at this stage of a student's education. Leaders from Mathematics, English, Science and Modern Foreign Languages shared practical advice and top tips about how parents and carers can support their child as they work towards their GCSE examinations.

At Higham Lane School, we firmly believe that the relationship between home and school is vital. There is strong evidence to support this view. The Education Endowment Foundation's current Teaching and Learning Toolkit stresses the importance of positive parental engagement and leads to around four months' additional progress over the course of a year. Parents and carers can make a real difference by encouraging good routines e.g. sleep, diet and revision, discussing learning, supporting organisation and time management, celebrating success and maintaining high expectations. When school, students, parents and carers work together, we create the strongest possible foundation for young people to succeed.



Our House Assemblies: More Than the Classroom

This week, students have also taken part in our House Assemblies for Honestas, Luctamen and Spiritus; these assemblies have focused on the myriad of opportunities available to students beyond the classroom at HLS. We have discussed extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities, sporting events and the many different ways in which students can contribute to, support and become more involved in their school and House community. Higham Lane School is about much more than academic qualifications. We want our students to leave us with excellent outcomes, but we also want them to leave as confident, resilient, responsible and well-rounded young people. Many of the skills that will serve them throughout their lives are developed when they step forward, volunteer, represent their House, join a club, play for a team, take on a leadership role or simply try something new. The message shared with students is a simple one: The more you put into school, the more you get out of it. Please take some time to speak to your child about what they are doing beyond the classroom and encourage them to get involved. There really is something for everyone.

Keeping Our Students Safe

Safeguarding and student safety are, and will always remain, our highest priority. This week, all members of staff completed EpiPen training, ensuring that staff know how to respond appropriately if a student experiences a severe allergic reaction, including anaphylaxis. This training forms part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every member of our community is as prepared as possible to respond quickly and effectively should a medical emergency arise.

School Photographs

Monday was certainly a busy day! We also welcomed our school photographers to update photographs on our school systems. The students were brilliant throughout the process. Events such as these can create a little disruption to the normal school day, but our students approached the process sensibly and positively, helping everything to run smoothly.

Year 7

Our Year 7 students have now completed their first full week at Higham Lane School, and I am delighted to say that their transition has gone brilliantly. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone; there are new buildings to navigate, new teachers to get to know, new subjects to explore, new routines to learn and, of course, many new friendships to develop. Our newest members of the Higham Lane School family have approached this challenge brilliantly. We have been incredibly impressed by how quickly they have settled into school life, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow with each passing week. We are very proud of them and look forward to seeing all that they will achieve during their time with us.

Investing in Our Staff to Support Every Student

Every Wednesday morning, our staff take part in professional development and training. Sometimes this training is led by our own highly skilled and experienced colleagues, while on other occasions we welcome external specialists to support our continued development. This Wednesday, our focus was on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Staff continued to develop their knowledge and understanding of how we can best support students who may need that additional help to succeed.

Remembering 11 September

Today marks 25 years since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States. It was a day that changed the world and had a profound impact on international relations and global events for many years afterwards. Today, we remember all those who lost their lives, including school-aged children as well as the 67 British victims. It is important that, while we remember the victims of such events, we also continue to educate our young people about the values that help us to build strong, safe and respectful communities. Through our Higham Lane School Personal Development programme—including assemblies, tutor sessions, Personal Development lessons and many other aspects of our wider curriculum—we continue to promote the importance of British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These principles align closely with our own school values and our expectations of every student. At Higham Lane School, we ask our students to:

Work hard.

Be kind.

Take responsibility.

These are simple words, but they are powerful values. If our students can carry these principles with them into the classroom, into their friendships, into their families and eventually into the wider world, they will be well-prepared not only for academic success but for life beyond Higham Lane School.

Academic success

I was also privileged this week to attend a meeting in Warwick in my capacity as the appointed Chair of the group of Headteachers and College Leaders for the Nuneaton and Bedworth area. It is a privilege to represent our local area and to work collaboratively with other school and college leaders. During the meeting, the Local Authority presented countywide and national data from this summer's GCSE results. I felt immensely proud when I saw how well our Year 11 HLS students had performed. Their achievements are the result of a huge collective effort: the hard work and determination of our students, the commitment of our staff and, crucially, the support provided by parents and carers throughout their educational journey.

Sixth Form

It is also wonderful that so many of our HLS students have chosen to continue their education with us and are now part of our thriving Sixth Form community. Early indications from the county and national A-level data are also extremely encouraging. Following the **best A Level results in the school's history** last year, we are optimistic that our Sixth Form will once again be recognised among the strongest-performing providers in Warwickshire. Our Sixth Form has grown significantly in recent years and is now massively oversubscribed—a reflection of its growing reputation, the quality of education provided and the outstanding achievements of our students.

Looking Ahead

As we look towards next week, I would like to wish all of our Year 13 students the very best of luck as their trial examinations begin on Monday. These examinations provide an important opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned so far, identify areas for further development and continue building towards the final examinations next summer. I know that our students will approach this period with the same determination and resilience that we see throughout the school.

We also look forward to welcoming Year 12 parents and carers to our Year 12 Information Evening and Work Experience Launch on Wednesday. As with our Year 11 Information Evening this week, these occasions are an important opportunity for us to work together, share information and ensure that our students receive the support and guidance they need as they take the next steps in their education and prepare for the world beyond school.

I look forward to delivering assemblies next week on the importance of literacy; I will use OECD data that shows that whilst qualifications are extremely important for many careers, literacy, including oracy, is equally important and in some jobs even more important than grades and can make a big difference to lifetime earning potential.

Finally

As I reflect on our first full week back, I am reminded once again what a special community Higham Lane School is.

From national sporting success and outstanding academic achievement, to the enthusiasm of our new Year 7 students, the commitment of our staff, the support of our parents and carers and the willingness of our young people to get involved in the wider life of the school—there is so much to celebrate. A successful school is not simply a collection of classrooms and buildings. It is a community of people working together towards a shared purpose.

At Higham Lane School, that purpose is clear: we want every student to have the opportunity to become the very best version of themselves. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to another busy and successful week ahead.

Best wishes,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School



Key Dates:

Wednesday 16th September – Year 12 Information Evening & Work Experience Launch

Tuesday 29th September – Year 10 Information Evening (including Work Experience Launch) – 5:30–6:15pm