



Issue 44

April 2019



## Welcome To Our Cracking Easter Edition!

*DEAR Parents/Carers/Students,  
In this 'egg-citing' Easter edition of HLS Express, I know you will enjoy reading about one of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors securing a prestigious national role, remarkable reading*

*achievements, World Book Day, high-flying business students, continued sporting successes, plus much, much more!*

*We wish you all a Happy Easter!*

*PHIL KELLY, Headteacher*

# TOP-TIA APPOINTMENT!

**Dedicated Anti-Bullying Ambassador secures impressive national role!**

THE passion and drive shown by one of Higham Lane School's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors has been rewarded with an impressive place on The Diana Award National Youth Board for 2019-20!

Year 10 student, Tia, recently secured the prestigious role and teams-up with seven other students who will act as a voice for their peers by speaking on a nationwide level regarding anti-bullying issues, representing their respective schools and The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Programme.

A delighted Tia expressed: "I am very honoured to be given this amazing opportunity. I'm thrilled and can't wait to work with such a kind, caring and exciting organisation which is dedicated to raising awareness and tackling all types of bullying."

Tia's work on a national level will involve the following:

- Attending regular Youth Board meetings in London to share her ideas on how to

Please turn to P2



• **THRILLED! Tia is looking forward to working with The Diana Award National Youth Board.**



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● **STANDING UP TO THE BULLIES!** Tia (right) and Higham Lane School's Year 10 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors at one of The Diana Award training sessions. From left: Hannah, Izzy, Kim, Grace, Lisa, Calli, Esther and Tia.



# Beating the bullies!

**From P1**  
tackle bullying in schools and communities.

- Working closely with other Youth Board members and be a national voice for all anti-bullying ambassadors.

- Support The Diana Award as an organisation, helping them to keep up-to-date with current trends and issues that young people are facing in and out of school.

- Having the opportunity to travel and speak at various events. For example, visit Facebook's headquarters in Dublin and Google's hub in London, attend a debate at the European Parliament in Brussels and participate in a meeting at 10 Downing Street to help co-ordinate National Anti-Bullying Week.

- Interviewing very special guests.

- Helping recruit new staff members and adapt or change workshops and programmes to better support others.

- Being featured on The Diana Awards website, in newspapers, on the radio or even TV.

The School's Student Leadership Co-ordinator, Miss Arshad, said: "I'm absolutely delighted for Tia. She is a very ambitious, compassionate and positively headstrong young lady who always stands up for

what is right and supports her peers tirelessly."

Although Tia will lead on tackling racism and discrimination, she endeavours to raise awareness of all types of bullying — both within Higham Lane School and on a national level.

Tia pledges to work closely with her fellow Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to:

- Create awareness of racism and discrimination through drama performances which portray common stereotyping and discrimination which people face and accept on a daily basis. She would like to work with local youth clubs and organisations to put this together. In addition, she

would like to organise cultural events and festivals at our School.

- Explicitly create an ethos and culture which emphasises care, kindness and respect in every interaction. Moreover, she aims to empower students and staff with kind words and supportive gestures so they can be the best possible versions of themselves.

- Specifically focus on developing a knowledge-rich curriculum whereby students are educated on citizenship values and have the opportunity to learn about different cultures and communities more explicitly. Sometimes, teachers are so focussed on telling students

how to behave towards others and getting them to reflect on the impact their attitude and behaviour has on people, without actually giving them the opportunities to learn about different people, their values and ideologies, in meaningful ways.

- Give students the opportunity to talk about their heritage and background in a safe space as well as learn about others. It is important students are given similar messages in each lesson so that it becomes embedded into daily practice.

- Clarify misconceptions and establish clearer boundaries around what is acceptable and what isn't: sometimes bullying can be so subtle (it involves low level behaviours), it goes undetected or is labelled as 'harmless banter'. It becomes 'normalised' or escalates further down the line. In order for the School to create an environment where students speak-up, this needs to start by educating students.

Higham Lane is very proud of Tia and wish her all the very best during the The Diana Award National Youth Board assignment and with her invaluable Anti-Bullying work within School alongside fellow Ambassadors.

**MISS ARSHAD, Student Leadership Co-ordinator**



● **DREAM TEAM!** Higham Lane School's Year 10 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.



# How are we doing and where are we heading?

IN A recent address to staff regarding the future of Higham Lane School, Headteacher, Phil Kelly, answered the big questions on everyone's lips: How are we doing and where are we heading?

Mr Kelly was pleased to report the School is doing really well! With a Progress 8 score of 0.46, it places Higham Lane among the top 15% of schools nationally and eighth out of 55 schools with similar intakes nationally.

In addition, the Sixth Form chalked-up an impressive first set of A-level results in 2018 while its intake is growing year-on-year.

Attendance is significantly above the national average with persistent absence well below the nationwide figure.

An effective Behaviour for Learning Policy is in place with very low numbers of fixed term exclusions and zero permanent exclusions, while the School provides effective internal sanctions by way of internal exclusion, inclusion and detentions, and provides active on-call support every lesson.

Higham Lane also has an excellent reputation for work with Children Looked After and students with special needs and disabilities.

It is highly-regarded by parents/carers, prospective parents and the local community, resulting in every year group being over-subscribed.

The School offers excellent Continued



• **2020 VISION! Headteacher, Mr Kelly, was pleased to report that Higham Lane School is doing really well but will continue to make improvements for the benefit of students and staff alike.**

Professional Development to its staff, complemented by bespoke career stage training programmes for improving and outstanding teachers.

Higham Lane is also an Aspiring Teaching School, providing expertise in

teacher training, and has a partnership with 11 partner schools across both primary and secondary phases in collaboration with the University of Warwick.

Looking forward, the School is working on a curriculum review, further enhancing staff wellbeing and making improvements to its facilities and site.

However, schools in England are facing the first real-term cuts to their funding since the mid-1990s, a leading think tank has warned. Spending per student is to fall 6.5% by 2019-20, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS).

School funding must be increased by £5.7 billion if every child is to receive the education they deserve, says a new report from the Association of School and College Leaders.

Higham Lane is proud of its excellent curriculum but realises that changes need to be made to the taught curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities to cater for the needs and interests of all learners in an ever-changing student intake.

Changes being considered include courses for students struggling with GCSEs and more focus on 'soft skills' — teamwork, problem solving, interpersonal skills and resilience.

In a nutshell, the 2020 Vision for Higham Lane School is to continue to improve and make it an even greater place to be for students and staff alike.

## Staff farewells and new arrivals!

AT THIS time, we say farewell to several colleagues.

**Matt Lardner** has taught Maths on a temporary contract. We thank him and wish him every success in his next position.

**Rebecca Temple** has also assisted us in Maths. We are grateful for her positive contribution and wish her continued success in her teaching.

**Duncan Bailey** has worked hard as Assistant Subject Leader for Geography. We are grateful for his contribution and wish him every success in the future.

**Nirvana Plante** has helped us out in the MFL Department teaching French and Spanish. We are grateful for her fine teaching and wish her well.

Next term we welcome **Ian Mansell** as a teacher of Maths. We also welcome back from maternity leave **Natacha Finley** as Subject Leader for MFL.

We would like to thank **Amanda Hampton**, who has done a superb job as Acting Subject Leader.

**Sarah Beaumont**, Subject Leader for Art and Photography, will also be returning, but not until May half term. We are really grateful to **Stacey Holt** for doing such an excellent job as Acting Subject Leader.

### Changes of Role

**Shanice Moore** has done an excellent job as Subject Leader for Geography in terms of increasing the profile of the Department and enhancing the quality of its resources. She is now stepping down from this position to take up the Assistant Subject Leader post. **Craig Eddon** is taking up the reins of Subject Leader, having held this position previously at HLS very successfully. We wish Craig every success in his new role.

**MR KELLY, Headteacher**

## Music exam successes

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Higham Lane School Music students have recently passed their Associated Board Examinations.

<u>Grade 5</u>		
Alicia (10H2)	Clarinet	Pass
<u>Grade 4</u>		
Ruby (11H2)	Clarinet	Pass
<u>Grade 3</u>		
Milee (9H1)	Piano	Distinction
<u>Grade 2</u>		
Scarlett (9L1)	Flute	Merit
Mylo (8H1)	Clarinet	Merit
Adam (7S3)	Clarinet	Pass
Maisie (8L3)	Flute	Pass



# Celebration time for readers!



• **PAGE BOYS AND GIRLS! Proud Year 8 students (above) and Year 7 (below) show off the certificates awarded for consistently passing their Accelerated Reading tests.**

AVID readers who consistently pass their Accelerated Reading tests — collaboratively run by the English Department and Learning Resources Centre — have been rewarded with lunchtime meals as way of a celebration.

The two lunches — one for Year 8 students and a second for Year 7s — were hosted by the LRC on consecutive days in March.

Those invited along comprised students of all ability ranges, some of whom were very reluctant readers at the start of the

school year! Each reader was also presented with a certificate in recognition of their ongoing reading achievements.

Mrs Somel, Subject Leader for English, said: "Sincere thanks to the librarians, Mrs Turner and Mrs Gunn, and English teacher, Miss Aiello, for organising these events, which not only raise the profile of reading but are also a lovely way of acknowledging students' efforts."

**MRS SOMEL**  
Subject Leader for English







## News from the English Department/Learning Resources Centre



### Headteacher's reward for 'Word Millionaires'!

- **MAGICAL MILESTONE!** Headteacher, Mr Kelly, congratulates Year 7 and Year 8 students at the first-ever 'Hot Chocolate With The Head' event, held to honour the record-breaking number of early 'Word Millionaires'.

LITERARY-LOVING Year 7 and Year 8 book lovers have produced a record number of 'Word Millionaires' in quick fire time!

The students were set the Accelerated Reader task by the Learning Resources Centre in September, and no less than 17 managed to pass the magical milestone by March — a record number for the time of year.

Headteacher, Mr Kelly, was so impressed with the students' achievements that he hosted his first 'Hot Chocolate With The Head' event as a celebration.

In addition, the 'Word Millionaires' and other 'Star Readers' have their names emblazoned on a display outside Chine Hall for all the School to see!

**MRS SOMEL, Subject Leader for English**



- **HALL OF FAME!** The Accelerated Reader display in Chine foyer.





## News from the English Department



# Character building for World Book Day!



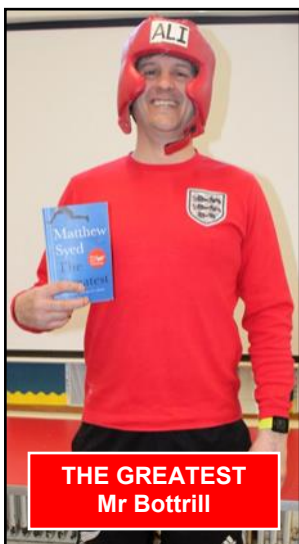
**LADY MACBETH**  
Ms Hadjistasi



**MOANING MYRTLE**  
Mrs Aiello



**THE HANDMAID'S  
TALE**  
Ms Tutt



**THE GREATEST**  
Mr Bottrill

THE 2019 World Book Day inspired several members of staff to dress up as their favourite literary characters from popular books through the ages.

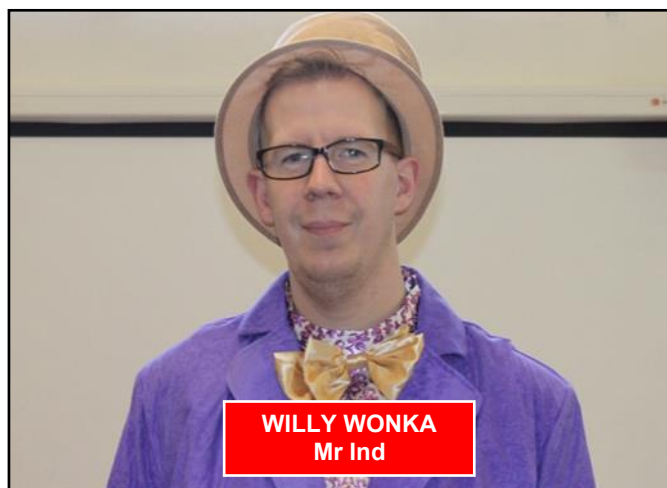
Their aim was to prompt discussion amongst students while also raising the profile of reading for pleasure.

Curiosity about the various characters — ranging from Lady Macbeth to Cruella De Vil — provoked lots of interest from students as teachers spent the first 10 minutes of every lesson explaining who they were and their particular book.

The day again proved to be a huge success, not only creating a real buzz around the School, but also communicating the message that reading is fun and key to high achievement.



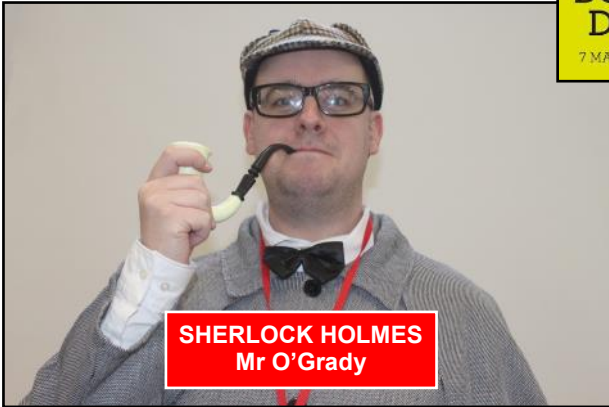
**ONE DALMATIAN and CRUELLA DE VIL**  
Miss Johnson and Mrs Blyth



**WILLY WONKA**  
Mr Ind



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
7 MARCH 2019



**SHERLOCK HOLMES**  
Mr O'Grady



**LADY MACBETH**  
Mrs Somel



**HOMELESS GIRL**  
'NO AND ME'  
Miss Hampton



**DEMON DENTIST**  
Dr Smith



**ALICE IN  
WONDERLAND**  
Miss Walmsley



**GANGSTA GRANNY**  
Ms Riley



**ANTONINA ZABINSKI**  
'THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE'  
Ms Lewis







STAFF dressing-up annually for World Book Day (see previous pages) has prompted HLS Express to raid the archives and find this delightful photograph dating back 70 years.

Dated 1949, the image features Higham Lane Junior School Headteacher, Miss

Sidwell, along with two further members of staff and a number of students dressed as various literary characters, ranging from Little Bo Peep to the Mad Hatter. Unfortunately, it is not known what occasion was being marked.

If you appear on the photo or can

provide any additional information and names, please put it in writing and post to: HLS Express, Higham Lane School, Shanklin Drive, Nuneaton, CV10 0BJ. Alternatively, please email to [contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk) FAO Steve Nikols.

## If you had to choose between buying sanitary wear or eating, which would you choose?

In August 2017, Plan International UK conducted a study among 14-21 year old girls and young women which found that:

More than a quarter of girls said they used a sanitary product for longer than its intended use because they couldn't afford a fresh one.

1 in 10  
have been  
**UNABLE TO  
AFFORD**  
sanitary protection

1 in 7 have  
struggled to  
afford sanitary  
protection

48% of girls in  
the UK are  
embarrassed by  
their periods

49% have missed an entire day of school because of their period; of which 59% have made up a lie or an alternate excuse.

Almost one-third (32%) have missed more than one day of school because of their period.

Whether it's period poverty, not being able to ask at home, or just being caught short, we want to let girls keep their dignity.



The Red Box Project

## Red Box Project

HIGHAM Lane School's Red Box Project scheme, described opposite, is now in operation.

The Red Box is housed in the Library office, where girls can collect items from 8am until 4.15pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday and 8am-3.30pm on a Wednesday.

We hope that students will not feel embarrassed to ask for the Red Box. This is a free and confidential service and staff will be discreet when students ask to use it.

If students aren't comfortable asking the librarians out loud, then a written note can be discreetly passed.

We will also be looking for donations for the other Red Boxes, which are currently located in schools and community areas within the borough, so any items you can donate would be greatly received by the librarians or myself, who will then forward the items to the Red Box Project.

**MRS MITCHELL**

Subject Leader for CPSHEEd





**GIFTS GALORE!** Above and below, members of the Junior Leadership Team and Year Ambassadors with the wide array of everyday items donated by Higham Lane School's generous students.

## Act of kindness from caring students!

THE caring nature of Higham Lane School's charitable students was shown earlier this term when they were invited to bring in a series of everyday items to help make up Kindness Kits.

A Kindness Kit is a box filled with brand new essentials which are then sent to needy children, aged 10-13, in less privileged countries such as Romania, Syria, Iraq and parts of Africa.

Containing stationery, toiletries and small items of clothing, the kits are really simple but, for someone who doesn't own many possessions, they are an amazing gift. It also shows that people in other countries can be caring, generous and compassionate.

Over a three-week period, the School's Junior Leadership Team, along with Year Ambassadors, asked fellow students to bring in useful items such as exercise books, pencils, soap and socks.

Thanks to an overwhelming response from students, a total of 53 Kindness Kits were

put together before running out of bags!

These were collected together by Mrs Bowers and

delivered to the charity 'Feed the Hungry', who distributed the Kindness Kits to their local partners working on the

ground in several countries around the globe.

**MISS ARSHAD, Student Leadership Co-ordinator**







News from the English Department

# Junior reporters make the news!



AROUND 90 Year 8 Higham Lane students took part in the 2019 BBC Young Reporter event, previously known as BBC News School Report Day.

The national competition, which involves group project work, invites students to write, film and broadcast their own news stories.

In the weeks leading up to the event, students worked in small groups to complete their films.

This year's topic was 'Positivity', and groups reported on sport, charities in the local area, whether social media can have a positive influence and people overcoming adversity.

Then, on the big day itself, Thursday, March 6, the newshounds came off timetable to become cub reporters.

Their task, presented by the BBC in the morning, was to produce a one-minute bulletin on either National Women's Day or Commonwealth Day.

All the students worked exceedingly hard on their reports and enjoyed being able to look back at the finished products at the end of the day.

**MRS AIELLO, English Department**







## News from the English Department







## News from the Business Department



• Mrs McKernan's team 1.



• Mrs McKernan's team 2.



• Mr Naisbitt's team.



• Ms Singh's team.



• Mr Vora's team.

THE inaugural Year 9 Apprentice Airline Advertisement Competition event took place early in the spring term.

Inspired by Episode 6, Series 14, of BBC's 'The Apprentice', students were given a brief to

develop a marketing campaign for a new budget airline. Their task was to create a brand; film, edit and produce a 60-second television advert; design the airline's uniform and prepare a five-minute pitch.

The students were organised

into teams and allocated a number of lessons to prepare their finished product.

The first round involved all Business students and they had to pitch their campaign to a group of Sixth Form students who were responsible for

choosing the best marketing strategy from each class, leaving five remarkable groups.

We then arranged a final and drafted in three of the toughest judges in the school:

Headteacher, Mr Kelly, Mrs Davies and Miss Hemmings.

It was a difficult decision for the panel but, following much deliberation, the 'Universal Airline' team was announced as the 2019 winners, and received a £50 cash prize donated by a Coventry-based home improvement business.

The judges and the Business Department alike were astonished with the level of work and commitment demonstrated by all the finalists.

It was a wonderful event that gave the Business students a real opportunity to put what they had learned, during lessons, into practice.

**MS SINGH**  
Business Department



• **HIRERS AND FIRERS!** The three judges — Miss Hemmings, Mrs Davies and Mr Kelly.





## News from the Business Department



• **YOU'RE HIRED!** The 2019 Apprentice Airline Advertisement Competition winners — Ms Singh's 'Universal Airline' team of Kamyar, Sienna, Ben and Thomas.



• **WE'RE IN THE MONEY!** The judges present the winning team with their cash prize of £50, courtesy of a Coventry-based home improvement company.



• **TRAIL BLAZERS!** The five teams of budding entrepreneurs who competed in the final of Higham Lane School's inaugural Apprentice Airline Advertisement Competition.



# Year 11 — Your exams are almost here . . !



THERE'S not long left now until your exams. Have you started revising? The answer should be YES!

If you haven't already done so, you need to start revising NOW – **DO NOT LEAVE IT TOO LATE!**

Planning ahead will help you achieve your goal.

## When are your exams?

- Start by making a list showing the order they come in so you can plan your revision accordingly. If Maths is one of your first exams, make sure it is one of the first subjects you start revising.

- Prioritise the subjects that may need more attention than others.

- Ask for help and attend any catch-up classes that are on offer. You cannot revise something that you do not fully understand.

## Make a space for yourself

- Revise somewhere that you won't be distracted.

- Make it comfortable.

- Keep the space tidy and when you take a break, move away from your revision space.

- Turn your phone off while you revise – no social networking! Leave it in another room if you can't trust yourself.

- If you feel silence would help you work better, let others around you know that you are working.

- If silence doesn't help, try playing background music instead, or use some headphones to reduce the risk of outside distractions.

## Technique

By now, you should know what revision techniques are out there. The important thing to remember is to use whatever works best for you, regardless of what works best for your friends. These are **YOUR** exams!

Think about using the following:-

- Summary notes.
- Reading out loud when memorising.

- Creating posters and mind maps.
- Highlighting key words for each topic.
- Making revision cards.
- Looking at past exam papers.
- Using different colours (paper/pens).

- Test yourself regularly. This is important. It will help to identify your weak areas and build your confidence as your strengths increase.

## Do not work all the time!

It is important to work for around 40 minutes before taking a short break. If you work for too long in one go, your brain will get tired, making it harder to remember all the information.

## Eat and sleep well

- Do something in your break. You could call a friend or have something to eat. Use these things as a reward for your hard work before moving on to another topic.

- Get into good habits – go to bed at a reasonable time and make sure you always have breakfast. You cannot

function properly if you haven't had enough food or sleep so make sure you take it seriously.

- Make sure you stay hydrated and drink plenty of water. Stay away from energy drinks. They can give you a boost to begin with, but then make you tired.

- Take time to relax.

## Think about yourself

- Focus on what you need to do and not what other people are doing. Everyone is different and you must do what is best for YOU.

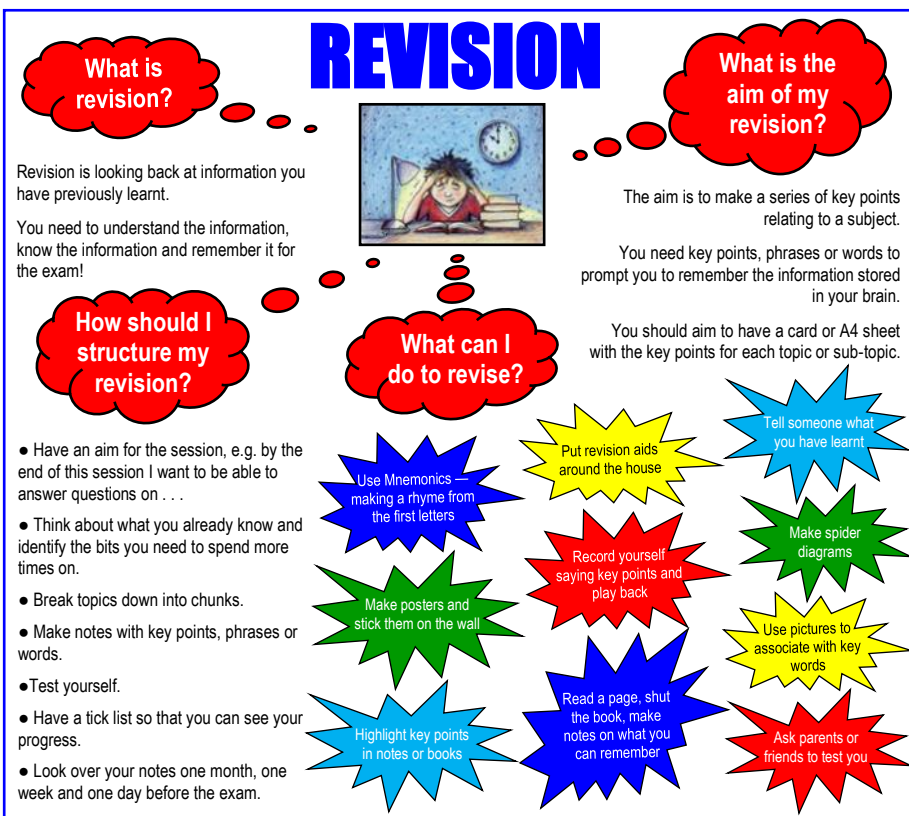
- Don't be afraid to ask for help. See your teachers, Progress Leader, Learning Mentor, parents/carers or friends.

- Remember that this period of hard work and stress will not last forever!

- Preparing for your exams may seem like a lot of work, but the more prepared you are, the more you will achieve. Your goal is in sight. Strive to achieve your best!

I wish you every success!

MISS AYLIFF, Learning Mentor







## Developing skills!

IN MARCH, the School was lucky enough to receive a STEM day, delivered by the Smallpeice Trust on behalf of MTC Coventry, for our Year 9 and Year 10 students.

The STEM day offered students the opportunity to put their creativity and problem-solving skills to work with others on a fun design-and-make project based around a music speaker.



STEM Day activities are designed to complement the National Curriculum in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics by demonstrating the link between what is taught in the classroom with the wider world.

In addition to students receiving information about future career and HE/FE (Higher Education/Further Education), along with apprenticeship options, they were also able to put their creative thinking into action and learn time management, team work, problem-solving, enterprise, personal and social skills.

**MRS MITCHELL, Subject Leader for CPSHEEd**







IN KEEPING with tradition, Higham Lane School's magnificent musicians guaranteed the Yuletide period got off to a superb start courtesy of three cracking Christmas concerts.

Igniting the festive celebrations was the annual Carol Concert, held as usual at Nuneaton's St Nicolas Parish Church.

Then, as in recent years, during the week leading up to the Christmas holiday, students were invited to play a matinee performance at Reg Hadden Court, situated opposite the School in Shanklin Drive, where residents and staff thoroughly enjoyed a feast of festive tunes.

This was followed, two days later, by a Christmas Concert at the School, a large audience packing into Coombe Hall for a magical evening of musical entertainment.

Under the directorship of Mrs Davenport and Mrs Watson, the

school orchestra, flute and string ensembles, school choir, African drummers and guitarists played an assortment of songs, ably supported by several other performers with their interpretations of traditional carols, popular festive songs and compositions.

Subject Leader for Music, Mrs Davenport, commented: "A big thank-you is extended to all the fantastic musicians for their hard work and dedication which provides us with such wonderful concerts year after year.

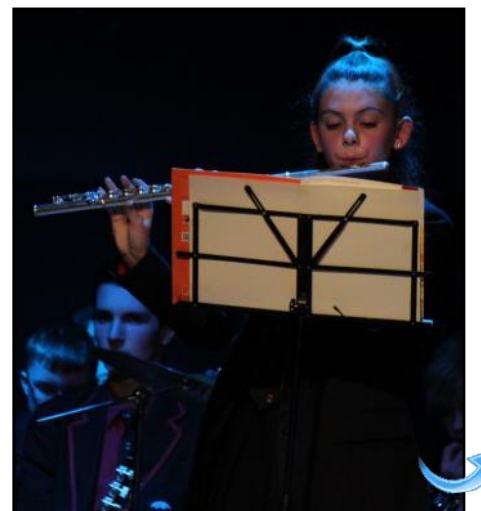
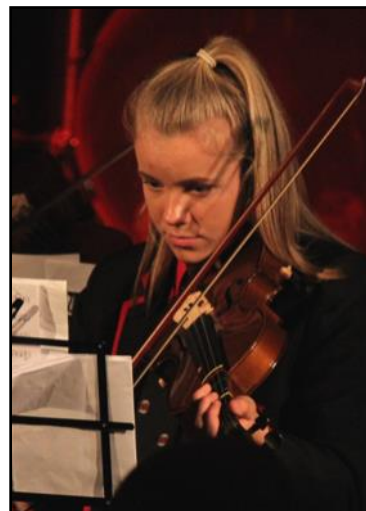
"Many thanks also to the parents and carers of students involved for their continued support, encouragement and ferrying to practice sessions and concerts!"

**MRS DAVENPORT, Subject Leader for Music**

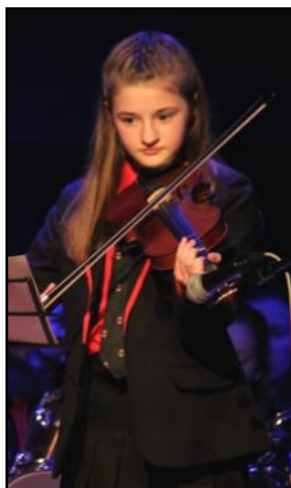
• More photographs can be found on the HLS website!















• **OWZAT?** Player of the Tournament in the 2018 Cricketer Village Cup competition, Mr Sayed, is presented with a commemorative hand made bat by Gunn & Moore's Tom Coffey (left) and Glamorgan all-rounder Craig Meschede.

# Mr Sayed bowled over with cricketing award!

AN OUTSTANDING all-round cricketing display for his team has earned Higham Lane School Science teacher, Ahsan Sayed, top accolade in the 2018 Gunn & Moore-sponsored Cricketer Village Cup awards.

In January, GM hosted the CVC 'Performance of the Round' competition when Mr Sayed was vying with three other nominees for the prestigious 'Performance of the Tournament' title.

Mr Sayed was delighted when he was announced as the recipient, courtesy of a truly talismanic display in Fillongley's round five victory over Hagley.

The Worcestershire side batted first and, thanks to a century from one of their openers, were off to a flying start. However, fine bowling figures of 4-45 from Mr Sayed pegged back their innings to 279 all out.

"We were behind from ball one. Their

opener was fantastic for his 121 but he ended up playing a couple of false shots, got out and then I had my way with them," reflected Mr Sayed.

He followed up his bowling stint by hitting an unbeaten 97 to help his North Warwickshire outfit to chase down the 280 target in the final over of the game, to which he humbly added: "I don't think I'll play a better knock than that!"

As winner of the 'Performance of the Tournament' award, Mr Sayed received a bag of GM kit and a hand-made cricket bat.

The awards were presented by Tom Coffey, GM's Marketing Manager, along with Glamorgan's South African all-rounder and GM ambassador, Craig Meschede.

Looking forward to the 2019 Cricketer Village Cup, which GM is once again sponsoring, Mr Sayed said: "It's a

fantastic tournament which is great for a small club like ours. We're away from any big cricket clubs and it's hard to attract players, so this is a really important way of bringing players to the club. It gets our name in the papers so we can attract local talent."

The four nominees were also treated to a tour of the company's Nottingham factory, giving them the opportunity to see how GM's bats are hand-crafted on site, and the players also received a commemorative bat with details of their performances etched onto the face.

Mr Sayed concluded: "I want to thank Gunn & Moore for the fantastic tour. It's been eye-opening to find out how we get from the point where the wood is sourced to the point where the bat is made, along with an inside look at all the fantastic people with all their great skills."





## News from the Physical Education Department

# Players pitch in with an impressive season!



• **SENSATIONAL START! The Year 7 football squad.**

THE **Year 7** football squad players have continued their impressive start at Higham Lane School. The team has now played numerous league fixtures and friendly matches, meaning no less than 25 Year 7 students have represented the School this year!

The friendlies against Etone, on their Astroturf pitch, was an excellent chance for the boys to obtain match practice together during the winter period. Each time the boys were divided into seven-a-side teams and played a number of games in very cold conditions. Overall, the boys enjoyed a great deal of success, winning several games.

In the District League, they eventually finished top and progressed through to the league finals where they faced St Thomas More. Higham played superbly well, under the management of Mr Caputo, to win 3-1 and are now through to the County Cup semi-final against Kenilworth School.

The **Year 7 girls'** football team have, unfortunately, not experienced much game time this term as no fixtures could be arranged with other schools in the area. Hopefully, a number of friendly

matches can be sorted for the summer term.

After winning the District five-a-side tournament, the girls qualified for February's West Midlands finals. In a very competitive tournament, the eight-strong squad played superbly well to win their first four group games against The Priory, Idsall, Telford Park and Thomas Estley.

In their final fixture they lost to Leasowes School, the eventual winners, but still progressed through to the semi-finals. Unfortunately, the girls lost 2-1 to Sandwell Academy, which meant they finished fourth overall in the West Midlands area. An amazing achievement. Well done girls!

After the **Year 8** football squad's success in the National Cup, they continued to produce some excellent football to eventually finish top of the table and progress through to the league finals against Nicholas Chamberlaine and Kingsbury.

Nicholas Chamberlaine could only field six players so it was left to Higham Lane and Kingsbury to battle it out for honours. The boys played extremely well

against a very physical Kingsbury team but went down 6-3 in the end to finish league runners-up.

The **Year 9** football squad has experienced a mixed season, eventually finishing fourth in the league.

The Under-14 District League was very competitive with six teams qualifying for the league finals. In Higham's group of three schools they beat Etone 1-0, but lost out 1-0 to Nicholas Chamberlaine courtesy of a fluke goal.

Nevertheless, a great improvement on results from last year and hopefully the progress can continue into Year 10.

It has also been a mixed season for the **Year 10** football squad who chalked-up four wins, four draws and four losses to finish fourth overall in the league. The team seem to play better against more difficult opposition and their effort and attitude has been excellent in all fixtures this season.

The **Year 11** football squad finished top of the District League and played against Polesworth in the league final. They performed superbly well to win 6-1 and are now through to the County Cup semi-final against Aylesford School.

The **Year 12/13** football team has produced an impressive inaugural year of football. They finished unbeaten in the league to win the first-ever Under-18 District competition by five points.

In the National Cup, the boys progressed through to the last 32 colleges in the country where they faced an away trip to Thomas Telford School, who won the competition last year. In a very tough match the boys played extremely well but eventually lost 4-2. Still, a very impressive achievement to be in the top 32 colleges in the country!

Performance tables:-

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Dif	Pt	Pos
<b>Year 7:</b>	9	5	2	2	11	7	+4	17	1st
<b>Year 8:</b>	10	7	1	2	28	13	+15	23	2nd
<b>Year 9:</b>	9	3	2	4	14	11	+3	13	4th
<b>Year 10:</b>	12	4	4	4	10	6	+4	16	4th
<b>Year 11:</b>	7	5	1	1	18	3	+15	16	1st
<b>Year 12/13:</b>	4	3	0	1	7	3	+4	10	1st

MR WILSON

Assistant Subject Leader for PE



• **AMAZING! The Year 7 Girls' football team.**





# Badminton bonanza!

## Key Stage 3 Girls

The Year 9 girls' badminton team has shown good improvement over the season.

In November, they finished runners-up in the District tournament and since then they have won two league fixtures, drawn one and only lost one game — 6-2 to the eventual winners. This means the girls finish the season as league runners-up.

## Key Stage 3 Boys

The Year 8 and 9 boys' badminton team has enjoyed a fantastic season on court.

In November, they won the District tournament and performed convincingly in all five league fixtures to top the District League.

In the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals they beat Park Hall 5-0, Westwood 5-0 and Ernesford 5-0 to easily win their group. This meant the team progressed through to the final where they played

Myton, who they beat — again winning 5-0 — to finish tournament winners. A fantastic team performance. Well done boys!

## Key Stage 4 Girls

The Year 10 and 11 girls' badminton team has played superbly well this year, romping home in the District tournament and winning their three league matches to retain the crown.

In the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals the boys played some excellent badminton to win their first two games against Stoke Park and Tudor Grange.

Unfortunately, they were then defeated by a very strong Arden School team, who have previously won the National tournament, meaning the girls finished third overall in the competition.

## Key Stage 4 Boys

The Year 10 and 11 boys' badminton team has also



• THE KEY STAGE 3 BOYS' BADMINTON TEAM.

performed exceptionally well this year. They easily won the District tournament and in the league they won five matches and drew one, with eight boys representing the School, to finish league winners again.

In the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals they won their first game 3-2 against Alcester, won their next game 5-0 against Harris and won their final game 3-2 against North Leamington, who had an England player in their team.

This meant the boys progressed through to the final where they faced a very impressive Arden School, who took the title.

However, finishing runners-up in the tournament is a superb achievement for the team. Well done boys!

## DISTRICT LEAGUE

### Key Stage 3 Girls —

**Runners-up:** Beat George Eliot 1-0 and Polesworth 6-2; drew 4-4 with Twycross and lost 6-2 to Nicholas Chamberlaine.

### Key Stage 3 Boys —

**Winners:** Beat George Eliot 8-0 Hartshill 7-1, Twycross 7-1, Polesworth 7-1 and St Thomas More 8-0.

### Key Stage 4 Girls —

**Winners:** Beat George Eliot 8-0, Hartshill 8-0 and Polesworth 6-2.

### Key Stage 4 Boys —

**Winners:** Beat George Eliot 8-0, Hartshill 5-3, Twycross 6-2, Polesworth 8-0 and Nicholas Chamberlaine 7-1; drew 4-4 with St Thomas More.

**MR WILSON, Assistant Subject Leader for PE**



• THE KEY STAGE 4 BOYS' BADMINTON TEAM.

# Fine displays from indoor athletes

THE Year 7 indoor athletics girls' team (Lexi, Libby, Anisa, Alex, Nikola, Chloe, Becca and Bryony) were in fine form while winning the Nuneaton indoor athletics competition.

Stand out performances came from Libby in the four-lap and six-lap races while the relay teams were victorious in both their events. The team progressed through to the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire competition, representing North Warwickshire, where they finished fifth overall.

All the Higham girls were fantastic and a credit to the School, putting in maximum effort in all events, particularly Bryony who finished second in her six-lap race.

The Year 7 boys' team (James, Duncan, Harry, Alfie,

Luke, Ryan and Ty) came a close second in the town competition.

The Year 8 girls' team (Beth, Alice, Lucia, Gracie, Maddie, Katie, Lily and Millie) finished joint first with Polesworth in the Nuneaton competition.

Pick of the individual performances was Beth, who triumphed in her six-lap race, while both relay teams won their respective events.

Unfortunately, following a count back of the number of first placings, it was Polesworth who progressed through to the next round.

The Year 8 boys' team (Jack, George, Will, Dan, Mason, Jay and Miles) also finished as runners-up following spirited displays from all the runners.

**MISS CHINN, Subject Leader for PE**





## News from the Physical Education Department







## News from the Physical Education Department



**Year 10 Netball Squad**



**Year 11 Netball Squad**



**Year 12/13 Netball Squad**



# HLS Express Sport



## THE SHOW GOES ON!



• **TONS OF TALENT!** Higham Lane School's netball teams have enjoyed another outstanding season on the courts.

THE Higham Lane School netball juggernaut thunders on as another sensational season has resulted in the Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 teams all being crowned Nuneaton & District champions! Remarkably, all four sides boast a 100% success rate in this competition, having triumphed every year while attending the School!

In addition, following a string of impressive performances on court, the Year 8 and Year 9 teams finished as league champions (*with Year 7 still to be decided*). The competition is not open to Years 10 and 11.

**Year 12/13** started their campaign in style back in October at the Warwickshire competition where they beat Rugby School, Princethorpe, Alcester Grammar, Stratford and old rivals King's High on their way to the title.

Following this success, the girls went on to secure the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire title for the second year in succession, beating King Henry VII, Bablake, Tudor Grange and King's High School.

The team progressed and represented the area in January's West Midlands finals. Once again, the girls performed superbly well but unfortunately missed out on a semi-final place after finishing a very creditable third in their section.

## Another superb season for Higham's mighty netball teams!

**Year 11** won the Nuneaton & District tournament comfortably, beating St Thomas More, Nicholas Chamberlaine and Hartshill on the way to make it five wins in five years in the competition, while **Year 10** secured their town title

following victories over Twycross, Polesworth, Nuneaton Academy and Nicholas Chamberlaine.

In addition to romping to the Nuneaton & District title, where they scored an impressive 95 goals while only conceding two, the **Year 9** team clinched runners-up spot in the County competition and third place in the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire tournament. The girls also finished as league champions for the third year on the bounce.

Last, but not least, the **Year 8** team was crowned Nuneaton & District victors and league champions while **Year 7** are also District winners and still on-track to top the league standings.

Among the talented Higham Lane teams, the School has helped nurture a number of fantastic individual athletes who are playing at an elite level at their sport.

These include HLS Sixth Form players Megan, Eli Mae and Eleanor, who are all turning out for Wasps' Hub teams, while Georgia has the accolade of being Wasps' Under-19 captain.

Chloe, Hannah, Beth and Freya are County players in their own right, the latter also appearing on court for Loughborough Lightning.

**MRS DAVIES, PE Department**

• For individual team photographs please turn to P22/23.