



## Welcome to our biggest-ever issue!

*DEAR Parents/Carers/Students,  
Welcome to our first-ever 40-page HLS Express!  
I'm sure you will enjoy reading about our superb new Sixth Form Centre, which opens in September; success in*

*the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge; the latest news from the School's Departments, plus continued sporting achievements for all year groups.  
We wish you a wonderful summer!  
PHIL KELLY, Headteacher*

# SIXTH AMENDMENT!



HIGHAM Lane School was delighted to welcome prospective Year 12 students to the Sixth Form Induction Days on Monday and Tuesday, July 11/12.

Speakers from Oxford University, Warwick University and the Apprenticeship Hub provided information on post-18 destinations and presentations were also made on how to have the 'edge' when applying.

Lots of super-curricular opportunities were also shared with students, including the launch of the Sixth Form Student Union and Societies.

During the two days, students were able to use our Sixth Form Centre and participate in A-level taster lessons.

Information from our induction is available on the Higham Lane School website.

Please contact Mr Ladha at [sixthform@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:sixthform@highamlaneschool.co.uk) if you would like to find out more.

**Important dates:-**

**Thursday, August 25** — Enrolment at our Sixth Form Centre from 10am to 1pm.

**Wednesday, September 7** — Autumn term starts for Year 12 at 11am.

**Wednesday, September 14** — Year 12 Parents' Information Evening.

**MR LADHA, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form**

• Please turn to pages 2/3 for photographs of the HLS Sixth Form Centre and Induction Days.



• **GREETINGS!** Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form, Mr Ladha, welcomes Matthew, Sharifa and Isaac to the HLS Sixth Form Induction Day.



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# Welcome to Higham Lane Sixth Form!



• **SPACIOUS AND COMFORTABLE!** The conference room (above and left).



• **FUNCTIONAL PLANNING!** Above and left: All classrooms are equipped with Inter-active Smart screens while some have folding partitions that can be closed to create two smaller classes if required.

• **A WARM WELCOME!** Below: Assistant Headteacher and Head of Higham Lane School's Sixth Form, Mr Ladha, addresses students at their induction day.





• **SITTING OF THE HOUSE!** Above, Sixth Form students enjoy a taster lesson in Government & Politics with Mr Ireland.



• **BONJOUR!** French teacher, Miss Hampton, welcomes Charlie and Jess (right).



• **GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS!** Below, Mr Vora welcomes students to his Sixth Form taster lesson.



# Hello and Farewells

**Nathan Morland** has secured an Assistant Headteacher post at a Teaching School in Burton. Nathan was originally appointed as Subject Leader for Geography in 2009 and was then promoted to Assistant Headteacher Teaching and Learning. He has made a huge contribution to further developing the quality of teaching and learning at Higham Lane School, particularly his excellent Monday Briefings and follow-up HLS Direct guidance, as well as introducing Research Lesson Study and Follow On Tasks. We know he will miss HLS greatly but he won't miss his two hour commute each day! We wish Nathan all the very best at his new school.

**Di McNamara** is stepping down from her High Level Teaching Assistant post, having made a superb contribution to students in the Support for Learning Department over many years. Her kindness and care to students has been notable, as has her excellent work at transition. We are delighted that Di will continue to work with us in providing some Pupil Premium support to Looked After Children.

**Joy Alton** completed her NQT year at HLS as a teacher of Maths last year, having worked as a Teaching Assistant previously. She has worked particularly effectively with students who have found Maths challenging. We wish her every success in her new post.

**Jo Tutt** successfully completed her NQT year at Higham Lane in 2015 and has been a committed English teacher and Acting Assistant Subject Leader. She is relocating to Nottingham and we wish her every success in her next post.

**Marcus Harris** has taught GCSE Drama for us since January on a temporary basis. We thank him for his input.

**Aravinder Parnandi** has done an excellent job as a temporary teacher of Science. We thank her and wish her well in her next post.

**Elaine Witham** has formed strong relationships with her students and brought some excellent GCSE experience on her arrival in 2013. She is going travelling, so we look forward to some postcards!

**Kim Catling** has successfully completed her NQT year as a teacher of Modern Ethics and Health & Social Care. We wish her every success in her new post.

**Stuart Saunders** is returning to a Subject Leader role in Leicestershire, where he lives, after two years at HLS. Stuart's permanent cheerfulness and enthusiasm will be greatly missed, as well as his great height (even taller than the Headteacher!) and contributions to talent contests and the school musical!

**Jeff White** has been an absolute stalwart in his 10 years at the School, having joined us as an NQT. As well as being a very effective Maths teacher and caring form tutor, Jeff was a Staff Governor at the time the School converted to an academy and his calm, common sense approach really helped at that time. We wish him well in his new post in Leicestershire.

**Amy Harrison** has been an outstanding Art and Photography teacher since joining us in her NQT year in 2011. The

standard of the work students in her care have produced has been excellent. Amy is moving nearer home in South Warwickshire. We wish her well.

**Jennifer Hearn** successfully completed her NQT year last year as a teacher of Design and Technology, specialising in Catering. Her cheerfulness and enthusiasm have been evident at all times and her classroom displays are something to behold! We wish her every success in her promotion to a leadership role in North Warwickshire.

**Sara MacCallum**, Cover Officer and Educational Visits Coordinator, left the School at the end of the spring term having done an excellent job in both of these roles. She has been replaced by **Lydia Brookfield**.

**Jayne Hales** is stepping down having done an absolutely outstanding job as Subject Leader for Maths. Jayne is meticulously organised and highly conscientious. The Department has really flourished under her leadership in terms of student outcomes and the quality of teaching and marking. She is also an excellent communicator with parents, who have really enjoyed her humorous and practical input into the Raising Achievement Evenings. We are delighted that Jayne will remain with us as an excellent Maths teacher and will be Acting Assistant Subject Leader for the first half of the autumn term as the new Subject Leader, **Matthew Bell**, takes up his position.

We are delighted to have appointed **Kirstie Robinson** as Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning. She has done an excellent job as Subject Leader for English, significantly developing the quality of the curriculum, assessment and teaching and learning and this has really paid dividends in the results the Department has achieved. We are indeed fortunate to have someone of Kirstie's quality to take on this key role within the School. We have appointed Assistant Subject Leader, **Kally Somel**, as the new Subject Leader for English. Kally has been an excellent Assistant Subject Leader and is an integral part of the English Department's success.

We look forward to welcoming back **Natacha Finley** (Modern Foreign Languages), **Laura Thomas** (English), **Ruth Aiello** (English) and **Abbie Lees**, Admin Apprentice, as they return from maternity leave.

Next term, we welcome a large number of new faces, mainly because of the introduction of our Sixth Form. The following staff will be joining HLS: **Richard Howell**, Teacher in Charge of Drama, **Stacey Goss**, Art, **Eddie Evans**, Science, **Shaun Walters**, Maths, **Rebecca Smith**, Law and Maths, **Susie Cullen**, English and Media, **Laura McGee**, Science, **Steven Miller**, Science, **Amanda Johnson**, ICT, **Joanna Miller**, Assistant Subject Leader for English, **Alex Ireland**, History and Politics, **Natalie Charnell**, Assistant Subject Leader for Maths, **Chloe Badham**, ICT, **Paula Moore**, Psychology, **Matthew Bell**, Subject Leader for Maths, **Vishal Vora**, Business, **Nicole Hemmings**, Health and Social Care, **Claire Lynch**, Modern Ethics, **Chandni Patel**, Science, **Laura Lewis**, English, **Madeline Mesias**, Design & Technology, **Daniel Lassam-Jones**, Art and Photography and **Rashmi Chohan**, Maths.

**MR KELLY**  
Headteacher



• **FIRST IN WARWICKSHIRE!** CEO and founder of Educate & Celebrate, Elly Barnes MBE, hands over the Best Practice Award to Miss Fern and Mrs Mitchell at the charity's presentation evening.

# School takes pride in Best Practice Award!



HIGHAM Lane School has received a 'Best Practice Award' for its work on promoting social justice and treating everyone equally and fairly.

The school is the first in Warwickshire to work with the charity 'Educate & Celebrate', who are experts in transforming schools and organisations into Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) and friendly places.

This creates a safe environment for staff and students to thrive and achieve, enabling everyone to be themselves without fear of discrimination.

The charity was founded seven years ago by Elly Barnes MBE, following her ground-breaking work in London schools.

The award, supported by the Government Equalities Office and Department for Education, is a result of activities led by Mrs Mitchell, Subject Leader for CPSHEE (Citizenship, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), which include staff training sessions and assemblies, as well as work carried out by students in CPSHEE lessons.

Mrs Mitchell, along with Assistant Headteacher Miss Fern, were presented with the award at the Educate & Celebrate Awards Evening, held in Birmingham on July 11.



• **CELEBRATION TIME!** Miss Fern says a big thank you on behalf of Higham Lane School after receiving the Best Practice Award.

# 2011-2016



## Fond farewell to Year 11s

IT WAS a day of mixed emotions for the departing Year 11s as they broke up for GCSE study leave at the start of May's Whitsun holiday.

After studying for five years at Higham Lane, it was the very last time the cohort would be all together before going their separate ways in the big wide world.

As always, the School provided the leavers with a memorable send-off, the students taking with them many fond memories to last a lifetime.

At morning break, everyone

congregated in Coombe Hall for the writing of farewell messages and signing of school shirts by teachers and fellow students.

At lunchtime, they all met up again on the front field to bid further fond farewells to friends and staff prior to returning to the hall during Periods 4 and 5 for their eagerly-anticipated Leavers' Assembly.

Organised and hosted by Year 11 Progress Leader, Mr Morris, proceedings began with successful students and tutor groups receiving their achievement

accolades. The ensuing entertainment, provided by teachers and students, proved to be a massive hit, while the traditional farewell videos went down a storm!

All-too-soon the celebrations were over and students, many in tears, said their last goodbyes before departing, taking with them precious memories of their tremendous time together at Higham Lane.

• More photographs can be found on the HLS website!



# Higham Lane School is doing extremely well — but we aim to be even better!



## Kirkland Rowell Survey Feedback

Feedback from students and parents is a very important part of our work at HLS. We are delighted with the overall findings!

They have indicated what students and parents/carers feel we do well and also provided us with ideas for a few aspects of our school that could be even better.

## Student Feedback

- Excellent overall performance score: 77%. (2014 survey: 74%).
- 45% of Year 8-11 said the School had improved over the last year; 19% thought the School's performance was worse, the remainder felt it was the same or did not know.
- 91% of students said they would recommend this school to another student.
- 75% agree beginning GCSEs in Year 9 is helpful.
- Outstanding ratings based on the proportion of students who said they were making good progress were indicated for the following subjects: Computer Science, Sociology, GCSE PE/ BTEC Sport, BTEC Business, Applied Business, Catering, ICT and Science Double Award.
- Good ratings were received for: Photography, Design & Technology, Key Stage 3 Science, Resistant Materials, Art, Textiles, Health and Social Care, Product Design, PE, Cambridge National in Sport, History, Maths, Music, English, German, Geography, Drama and Spanish.
- Outstanding ratings were received for: school communication, availability of resources, school discipline, computer access, truancy control, quality of teaching, control of bullying, regular marking of work, promoting racial harmony, e-safety, treating students fairly and equally and local community activity.
- Good ratings were received for: explaining to parents how to help their child, listening to students' views, students' attitudes to learning, the School looking after students, teaching of special needs, students' response to feedback, ensuring students do their best and make good progress, information on different types of bullying, tailoring workload to different abilities, appropriate challenge in homework, celebrating and rewarding achievement and appropriateness of student targets.
- There has been a significant improvement in the ratings for regular marking of work, local community activity and the School explaining to parents how to help their child.
- Students' top priorities for improvement are school facilities and out of school activities.
- 82% of students know what to do if being bullied.
- 83% of students said the School teaches them about safe use of the internet.

## Parental Feedback

- Excellent overall performance score: 85% (2014 survey: 80%).
- 27% of Year 8-11 parents said the School had improved over the last year; 5% thought it was worse; the remainder felt it was the same or did not know.
- 32% of Year 7 parents felt the School was better than they had expected; 8% felt the School had not lived up to expectations; the remainder felt it had lived up to their expectations.
- Outstanding ratings were recorded for: BTEC Business, ICT, Sociology, Applied Business, Double Science, Textiles, Computing, French and Art.
- Good ratings were recorded for: Maths, Geography, GCSE PE, Design & Technology, Biology, Health & Social Care, History, Product Design, Resistant Materials, English, Spanish, Key Stage 3 Science, Chemistry, PE, German, Music, Photography, Drama, CPSHEE, Physics, Catering and Modern Ethics.
- Outstanding ratings were recorded for: discipline, communication, developing moral values, homework, school security, exam results, control of bullying, choice of subjects, developing potential, availability of resources, teaching quality, careers advice, explaining to parents how to help their children, regular marking of work, sharing information on different types of bullying, community activity, promoting racial harmony and students' attitudes to learning.
- Good ratings were recorded for: social and health education, developing confidence in students, the happiness of students, computer access, caring teachers, school facilities, community spirit, treating students fairly and equally, ensuring students do their best and make good progress, teaching of special needs, appropriateness of students' targets, tailoring workload to students' ability, extra curricular activities, students' response to feedback, e safety, listening to and encouraging students' views, appropriate levels of challenge in homework and rewarding and celebrating students' achievements.
- The following areas have shown significantly higher scores than in the last survey: developing moral values, levels of homework, exam results, truancy control, developing students' potential, teaching quality, social and health education and school facilities.
- 62% of parents agree that allowing students to begin studying GCSEs in Year 9 is helpful. 7% disagree. Others were unsure.
- 66% of parents/carers agree that the Marking and Feedback Policy helps their child to improve work and make progress. 6% disagree. Others were unsure.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this exercise.

**MR KELLY**  
Headteacher



# Golden performance by Jake, Ryan and Scott

ON THURSDAY, April 28, 59 Year 8 students from both set 1's sets in Mathematics took part in a national competition called the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

The challenge involved a variety of questions aimed at challenging their mathematical skills and requiring them to apply their mathematical knowledge to solve some difficult problems in a one-hour time limit.

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school students.

Each challenge leads into a follow-on Olympiad round and UKMT run mentoring schemes and summer schools for high performing students.

The top 40% of students nationally receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate. Around 1,200 of the highest scorers are invited to participate in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad.

Following a successful pilot in 2015, a further several thousand pupils will be invited to sit the Junior Kangaroo paper.

Over the past year, Mr Crowther and Mrs Carter have set aside one lesson a month to help students acquire the skills that would help them achieve the best mark possible. This has involved a range of activities in class, as well as a team-based competition in February to allow students to develop their enterprising skills as part of the challenge.

A few weeks later, and the results arrived to reveal another great performance by the students of Higham Lane. Out of the 59 students that took part, 35 of them received a Gold, Silver or Bronze award. The group's overall average of 53.8 marks compared to the national average of 50 marks also shows how well they performed compared to the rest of the country!

This year's challenge results produced three standout performances from Jake Harris, Ryan Sullivan and Scott Allen. All three students received the Gold award for the challenge.

On top of this, Jake managed to achieve 115 marks out of a total of 135, which was a score good enough to qualify for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. Ryan and Scott scored 101 marks and 95 marks respectively, which qualified them for the Junior Kangaroo.

This is a fine achievement for these students who have demonstrated outstanding mathematical qualities and have achieved beyond the potential of so many students, not just in this school, but around the country as well.

At time of writing, these three students are waiting for the results of the additional challenge.

All of the participants in this year's challenge can be extremely proud of the effort they have made in preparing for this year's event and have excelled themselves beyond their potential.

This continues to show how Higham Lane are producing mathematicians of the highest standard, in preparation for what lies ahead in the future.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, and especially those who achieved an award for their inspiring efforts and commitment over the past year.

**MR CROWTHER and MRS CARTER**  
Mathematics Department

## Calling all keen mathematicians!

We are looking for four enthusiastic students (two Year 8s and two Year 9s in 2016/17) to take part in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge.



If you are interested, please see Mr Crowther. More details soon!

## How well would you do?

HERE are two questions. One question is from the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge that the Year 8s completed. The other question is from the UKMT Junior Mathematical Olympiad that Jake qualified for. Can you answer either of these two questions? If so, write down your workings and solutions for the questions and hand it in to Mr Crowther when we return to school in September. A prize will be awarded to students who get the correct answer for either question!

### UKMT Junior Maths Challenge 2016

Q. The musical *Rent* contains a song that starts 'Five hundred and twenty five thousand six hundred minutes'. Which of the following is closest to this length of time?

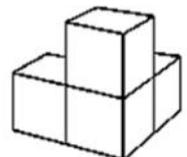
A. a week B. a year C. a decade D. a century E. a millennium

### UKMT Junior Mathematical Olympiad 2014

Q. Sam has four cubes all the same size: one blue, one red, one white and one yellow. She wants to glue the four cubes together to make the solid shape shown.

How many differently-coloured shapes can Sam make?

(Two shapes are considered to be the same if one can be picked up and turned around so that it looks identical to the other).





## News from the Mathematics Department



• **GOLDEN BOYS!** Ace mathematicians Jake (front), Ryan and Scott all struck Gold in this year's UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

## Junior Maths Challenge Successes 2016

STUDENTS at Higham Lane School achieved three Golds, nine Silvers and 23 Bronzes in this year's UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

Over 250,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge, with roughly the top 7% receiving a Gold certificate, the next 13% Silver, and the next 20% Bronze.

Around 1,200 of the top students are invited to sit the follow-on competition, the Junior Mathematical Olympiad, while the next 5,500 UK high scorers take the Junior Kangaroo.

**Gold  $\geq 81$  Silver  $\geq 65$  Bronze  $\geq 51$**

**Best in School:** Jake (8H3) Gold Award — 115 marks

**Gold Award Winners:** Jake 115, Ryan (8H3) 101, Scott (8H3) 95.

**Silver Award Winners:** Joseph (8H2) 79, Grace (8L1) 76, Yasmin (8H2) 72, Grace (8H1) 71, Zaynah (8L3) 70, Oliver (8L3) 67, Lauren (8H3) 66, Timothy (8S3) 66, lizzie (8H2) 65.

**Bronze Award Winners:** Ciaran (8L3) 64, Lucas (8S3) 64, Rohini (8H1) 63, Charlie (8S3) 62, Bethany (8H2) 61, Ruby (8H2) 61, Amy (8L2) 56, Chloe (8H1) 56, Holly (8H3) 56, Isabella (8L2) 56, Catherine (8S1) 55, William (8H3) 55, Jess (8L1) 60, Will (8L1) 60, Hannah (8L3) 59, Joe (8L3) 57, Ria (8L2) 57, Alfie (8L1) 56, Ava (8L2) 54, Anish (8S3) 52, Denim (8S2) 52, Lexie (8H2) 51, Thomas (8S3) 51.

## Warwickshire Youth Parliament members meet a Baroness!

IN APRIL, Higham Lane student Hassan (8S2) joined fellow Warwickshire Youth Parliament members Karampreet, Penny-Lea, Curtis, Declan and James at the 'Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioners — Living with Difference Conference' at the Dunchurch Park Hotel, Rugby.

Guest speakers included Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Ball, Cllr John Horner, Warwickshire Police Chief Constable Martin Jelley, and the Keynote speaker — The Rt Hon Baroness Butler Sloss GBE — who spoke about her contributions to the Living with Difference report which she recently contributed.

Over lunch, the Baroness took time to meet the young people and have her photograph taken with them.

Warwickshire Youth Parliament's main campaign for this year is Tackling Racism and Religious Discrimination, particularly against people who are Muslim or Jewish, so the content of the conference was very relevant.

For more information about



• **MAKING THE COUNTY A BETTER PLACE!** Hassan (third from right) and fellow Warwickshire Youth Parliament members with dignitaries at the 'Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissions — Living With A Difference Conference'.

Warwickshire Youth Parliament, please visit their website at [www.warwickshirevoice4youth.org.uk](http://www.warwickshirevoice4youth.org.uk) or contact Cheryl Jones at

[cheryljones@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cheryljones@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
Youth Parliament is managed and supported by Targeted Services for Young People (TS4YP).

• **REAL TEAM EFFORT!** Celebrating the receipt of a special letter from the Minister of State for Schools is Headteacher, Phil Kelly, and Deputy Headteacher, Peter Banks, who are joined by the new Junior Leadership Team consisting of (left to right) Ellie (Assistant Head Girl), Max (Assistant Head Boy), Sam (Head Boy), Lauren (Head Girl), Yagnesh (Assistant Head Boy) and Holly (Assistant Head Girl).



# Very high standard recognised!

HIGH standards have once again been recognised at Higham Lane after the School was personally congratulated by the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb MP.

The Government chief put pen to paper to praise the school for its 'very high standard of achievement in the GCSE exams in 2015'.

The letter recognises that 'the school is one of the top 100 performing non-selective state funded schools in England' and congratulates the staff and pupils for their 'hard work and professionalism'.

Delighted Headteacher, Phil Kelly, commented that the success was a 'real team effort' with governors and parents and carers also contributing, alongside the staff and pupils.

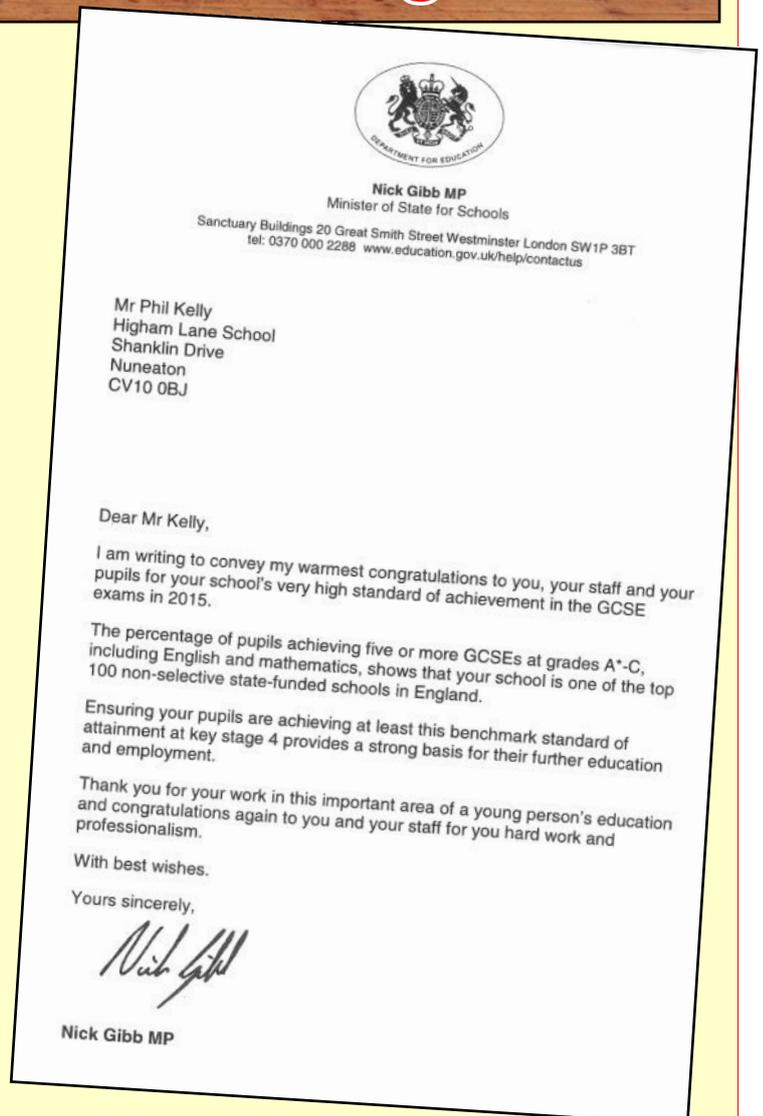
He said: "It is wonderful to receive this letter of congratulations from the Education Minister. It is great to feel that our performance is being noted and appreciated. "It is a real team effort with students, staff, parents/carers and governors working effectively together."

The letter came less than a month after the School received a Pupil Premium Award from the Department for Education.

That time Higham Lane received a letter from Sam Gyimah MP, Minister for Childcare and Education, congratulating the School on winning a Local Award in the Key Stage 4 category in recognition of its work with students who are in care, in receipt of free school meals, or who have parents in the Armed Forces.

The award recognised consistently high attainment in the percentage of students in these groups achieving A\* to C in English and mathematics between 2013 and 2015 and an above average percentage of students in these groups achieving the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in 2015.

Schools winning the Local Award must also have a high value added score for students in these groups, sustained high or non-declining attainment for students overall and be judged good or outstanding by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).





• **MOVING ASSEMBLIES** — Jack (9S3), Jack (9H1) and Laura (9H1) raised awareness of the problems faced by people with Asperger's Syndrome.

## Hard-hitting message from Jack and friends!

TO BE born with a condition that will stay with you for the rest of your life is difficult to handle. To stand up in front of a hall full of fellow students and talk about it takes a lot of courage!

Jack (9S3) has Asperger's Syndrome, which causes him to act in different ways to 'the norm'.

He wanted to tell the rest of his year group about the condition, and how they could accept him for who he is despite his idiosyncrasies.

After recruiting the help of friends, Laura and Jack, he hosted an assembly on Asperger's Syndrome, which visibly moved everyone in Coombe Hall that day.

The response was so positive that the trio was asked to repeat the same assembly for Years 7, 8 and 10, who were again astounded by Jack's frankness and description of the condition.

Many thanks are extended to Jack for raising the awareness of Asperger's Syndrome to other students — and staff — in the school, many of whom have since commented it was the most moving assembly they had ever witnessed.

**MRS DAVIES, Year 9 Progress Leader**



• **GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS** — Jack explains his condition to fellow students.



## News from the English Department



● **GREAT EVENT!** The popular author's visit receives a big thumbs-up from these boys.



● **PUTTING PEN TO PAPER** — A group of girls tackle one of the writing tasks set by the author.

# Inspiring visit by author

ON WEDNESDAY, March 16, Carnegie Medal winning author, Tanya Landman, joined us at Higham Lane School for our World Book Day celebrations.

As part of her visit, Mrs Landman led a superb Creative Writing workshop, and talk, with a group of 40 Year 7 and Year 8 students.

The author began the session with amusing and gripping anecdotes exemplifying her utter disappointment and reaction to missing out on prestigious book awards, time and again, despite being shortlisted.

Nevertheless, Mrs Landman's dedication to her craft and perseverance in pursuit of her dream gained her various

accolades, proving a great source of inspiration to the students.

The Creative Writing workshop involved students writing a celebrity murder mystery, loosely based on 'Poirot'. All students thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Indeed, the author's expert advice and guidance will continue to help students to express themselves with greater craft and creativity.

The afternoon came to a delightful end with Mrs Landman signing copies of her most anticipated books for our aspiring writers.

**MISS ARSHAD, Acting Literacy Co-ordinator**



● **EXPERT ADVICE** — Checking out one of the stories.



● **LEARNING FROM THE BEST!** These girls are engrossed in the advice being offered by Tanya Landman.



● **THREE GOOD READS!** A choice selection of the author's books.



● **WHO'S IT TO?** After the lesson in literacy, students were able to purchase signed copies of the author's books.



## News from the English Department



• **POPULAR AUTHOR** — Tanya Landman fans queue to get her signature in their books.



• **WRITE-ON!** The young authors join event organiser, Miss Arshad, in thanking Tanya Landman for a great afternoon.



## News from the English Department

# Turning over a new leaf!

A NOVEL way to redistribute unwanted reading books was hosted by the English Department during the spring term.

Higham Lane School's 'Book Swap' involved students, parents and teachers, who donated any surplus books they had lying around the house.

On Tuesday, March 15, students crammed into EN7 where they were invited to help themselves to one of the books, completely free of charge.

The response was overwhelming, with a substantial number of books being recycled during the lunchtime event.

In addition to recycling unwanted books, 'Book Swap' proved to be a real success story by helping raise the profile of reading, while also providing new and exciting material!

**MRS THOMAS, Literacy Co-ordinator**



• **SWAP SHOP!** Above and below, some of the students who took advantage of Book Swap.

## Highly impressive theatre production

ON JANUARY 28, 43 Year 11 students went to Leicester's Curve Theatre to Oscar-nominated, Stephen Daldry's, adaptation of 'An Inspector Calls'.

Set in the middle of the Birling family's living room, the audience were captivated by the outstanding scenery. A house that opened was positioned centre stage.

The calm atmosphere was soon interrupted by the arrival of the Inspector, who dominated the stage from then on.

With lots of stunning visuals and a fantastic cast, students and staff were highly impressed with the production.

The ending had us literally out of our seats! Students found watching the play incredibly useful, 'An Inspector Calls' being a GCSE text. Thanks to all that came.

**MISS TUTT**

Assistant Subject Leader for English





## News from the English Department

# Live Lesson for Shakespeare's 400th birthday bash!



TO CELEBRATE 400 years of Shakespeare, 40 Year 7 students took part in an interactive lesson hosted by the BBC, in conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company, to extend their knowledge and really get to grips with Shakespeare's unique approach to language and word play.

Students had the opportunity to watch RSC-trained performers re-enact selected parts of a play, take part in movement exercises to understand the language in a memorable way, and even send their comments and questions into the live studio to explore further.

The students explored language on a very challenging level, evaluating using terminology not too dissimilar to that of A-level study!

Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed themselves and shared their thoughts during the final evaluations:

*"It was amazing that we could expand our knowledge of Shakespeare as he died 400 years ago and we can still be entertained by his writing."* **Saarah (7S2)**

*"I found the Live Lesson fun and memorable. I learned about antithesis which I had never heard of before."* **Jessica (7S2)**

*"To be honest, I found this Live Lesson very helpful in terms of revision . . . as it included the sort of techniques Shakespeare used."* **Will (7L1)**

*"I liked all of it because it was action-packed, detailed and really interesting."* **Grace (7H2)**

*"I thought it was fabulous because I got to learn more about Shakespeare and how amazing he was."* **Aine (7S1)**

*"It was good because they included activities and writing to make it make sense."* **Saad (7S1)**

For more information about the Shakespeare Live Lesson or to have a look to help your own understanding of Shakespeare, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4LG57pZjttxrKKfQT3qrJ2y/shakespeare-text-detectives-live-lesson>

**MISS HOWARD, Assistant Subject Leader for English**





## News from the History Department

# Conquering castle construction!

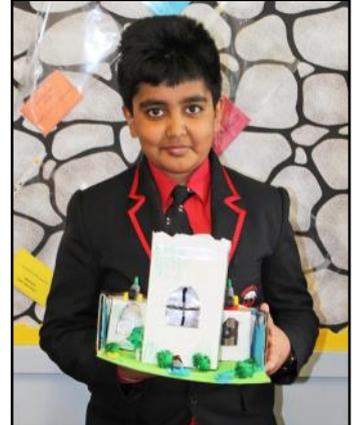
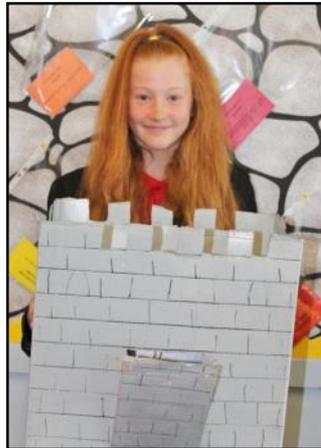
THIS term, students in 7/1/2 and 7/1/3 participated in a castle building project to put their learning of William the Conqueror's methods of control into practice.

A variety of building materials were resourcefully and creatively used — from cardboard, papier-mâché and tin foil to LEGO and even cake!

Special commendation is given to Matthew (7L3), Tia (7H1), Victoria (7L3), Randall (7L2), Molly (7H1), Esther (7L3), Freya (7L3), Phoebe (7H2), Lilly (7H1), Shaun (7S2), Vikram (7S2) and Amarah (7S3) for their creative, historically accurate and well-labelled creations.

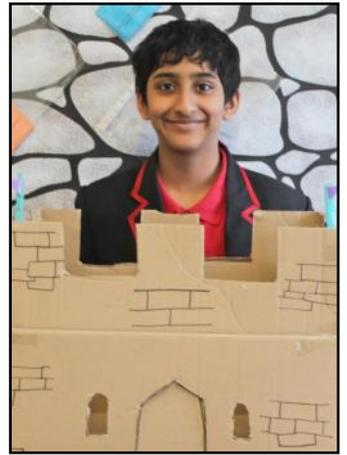
Well done to all who took part and don't forget to collect your merits. King William would be extremely impressed with all of your efforts!

**MISS GIBBS, Assistant Subject Leader for History**



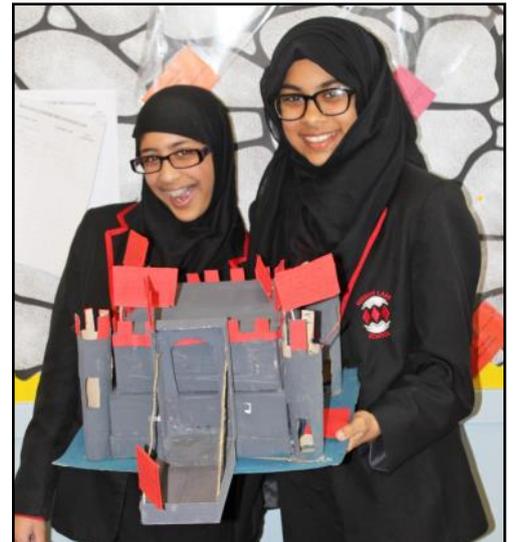
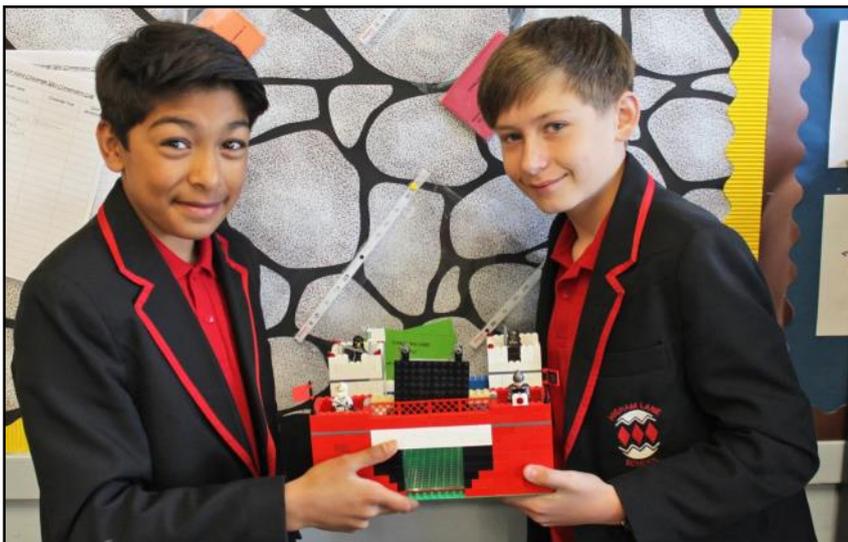


# News from the History Department





# News from the History Department





## News from the History Department

- **A DATE WITH HISTORY!** A selection of the First World War scrapbooks produced by Year 7 students.



# A-Z of the Great War

IT HAS been 100 years since the height of the First World War.

To help commemorate this, the History Department organised a competition to create a memento of the Great War as part of the work on remembering the events of 1914-18. This has been an absolute pleasure for me.

The students in Year 7 were set a challenge to create an A-Z scrapbook of the First World War — and many volunteered to get involved.

It was a competition that would involve effort, independence, resilience and imagination.

All of the entries showed this — and the judges were really impressed with the quality of the work. The students have shown an amazing amount of effort, and many of the ideas are a delight.

This will be on display in the autumn term to hopefully inspire others to get involved in various events that are being planned for next year.

Well done to all involved. The students who entered the competition will all receive merits and certificates of appreciation are: Madeleine (7L3), Lace (7L3), Molly (7H1), Calli (7S2), Agshana (7S1), Abigail (7L2), Phoebe (7H2), Ben (7H1), Katie (7H3), Katie (7L1) and Toby (7H1).

It has been so difficult to judge the winner, but eventually the top four chosen were: Madeleine, Agshana, Molly and Lace. They will also be presented with a First World War-themed prize and receive extra merits.

This has been an absolute treat for me. I would like to thank all the students who took part in this and commend them for the effort and work they did. They should be very proud of themselves.

**MR GOLDSTRAW, History Department**

## LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. LIVE IT. Nuneaton Central Scouts

Nuneaton Central Scout Group has a long history of over a hundred years of Scouting in Nuneaton although we have had to move on occasions due to the modernising of our local area. Proud as we are of our heritage and traditions, we are none the less a thoroughly modern, vibrant and forward thinking Scout Group. Our members learn new skills, follow a challenging and adventurous programme and have fun.

Nuneaton Central cater for all young people from 5 1/2 years of age to 25 years of age. We also have different night options to help with people's busy life's.

Beavers (5 1/2 to 8) meet Monday & Tuesday Nights from 6.00 to 7.15pm.  
Cubs (8 to 10 1/2) meet Thursday & Friday Nights from 6.30 to 8.00pm.  
Scouts (10 1/2 to 14) meet Monday & Tuesday Night from 7.15pm to 9.15pm.  
Explorers (14-18) meet Wednesday Night from 7.30pm-9.30pm.  
Network (18-25) meet Wednesday Night from 7.30pm - 10.00pm

As with all voluntary organisations are always on the lookout for suitable adults you don't have to be an adventurer like Bear Grylls to get involved with Scouting. Do you have first aid knowledge? Are you good with numbers? Handy in the kitchen? Or are you a DIY whizz? We all have useful skills and you can volunteer and help in many ways.

Volunteering with us is easy, fun and flexible — how much time you give is completely up to you. Whether you help out once a fortnight, month or term or just at special events or camps, there is bound to be a role you can play, and no matter how you get involved, we'll make sure you're properly trained and supported.

As well as gaining externally recognised skills and having a brilliant time, scouting also offers the chance to build on personal skills, like teamwork, confidence and leadership. A study found that over 90% of our volunteers believe that the skills and experiences they have gained through Scouting have been of relevance to their working or personal lives.

If you want further information regarding Nuneaton Central or Scouting in general, please email the group - [gs@nuneatoncentral.co.uk](mailto:gs@nuneatoncentral.co.uk) or pop in for a chat.

Nuneaton Central Scout Group  
Pool Bank Street  
Nuneaton  
Warwickshire  
CV11 5DB

[www.nuneatoncentral.co.uk](http://www.nuneatoncentral.co.uk)





# Ball of a time!



FOR a second successive year, Coombe Abbey was the chosen venue for Higham Lane School's annual Leavers' Dance.

The historic hotel, near Coventry, provided a breath-taking backdrop as glamorous young ladies and slickly-dressed young men arrived in a wide variety of transport, ranging from ice cream vans and motorcycles to Lamborghinis and Ferraris!

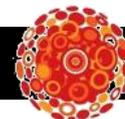
Following a delicious meal, the party-goers spent the remainder of the evening showing off their latest moves on the dance floor.

As always, the Leavers' Dance proved to be a memorable occasion for the departing students and a fitting finalé to their time at Higham Lane School.

More images can be found on the HLS website.  
• A CD, containing a full range of photos from the Leavers' Ball, will be available to purchase on GCE results day. All proceeds to charity.







● **INSPIRING TIME!** Budding Year 9 scientists outside the Big Bang Science Fair, held at Birmingham's NEC.

# Hands-on experience!

ON MARCH 16, 46 aspiring Year 9 scientists visited the Big Bang Science Fair at the NEC, Birmingham. This is an exhibition of many innovative and exciting science projects, designed to inspire and engage young people in the hope that they will follow a science or engineering career path as they progress through school.

The students were able to investigate some areas of space and motion, drawn by the promise of Formula 1 motor racing teams.

We were treated to some great explanations of how both engines and braking systems were designed for this cutting edge sport, and even saw a life-size replica of Bloodhound SSC the new supersonic car built in collaboration between the RAF and Rolls Royce designed to break the 1,000mph speed barrier!

The Operating Theatre Live stand allowed our students hands-on experience of a real life surgery scenario. For those who were brave enough students could see an actual piece of brain and a full intestine tract of a pig!

Two students, Sam (9L2) and Ethan (9L2), showed off their engineering skills making furniture out of rolled up newspaper!

The UK is short of 20,000 engineers and hopefully the visit to the Big Bang fair will inspire students to pursue a career in the world of science, maths and engineering.

**MRS ROWLAND, Science Department**



● **ON A ROLL!** Sam and Ethan (both 9L2) show off their engineering skills by making furniture from rolled up newspapers.



● **NUMBER CRUNCHER!** Jack (9S3) participates in the IMA Maths Imperium.



● **TIME TO CONCENTRATE!** Ethan, Tommy and Sam (all 9L2) help construct the world's largest automata.



# Down to Earth experiment!

HIGHAM Lane School has been taking part in the Royal Horticultural Society's Rocket Science Experiment.

The RHS Rocket Science project, in partnership with the UK Space Agency, is a nationwide experiment and a fun, interactive way to get students thinking about how plants might grow in space. It will help them understand the difficulties of living, growing and eating in space.

In September, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station on Soyuz 44S. The seeds were held in microgravity for six months with British ESA astronaut, Tim Peake, taking charge of them while on the ISS for his Principia mission, which started in December.

The seeds returned to Earth in April and Higham Lane School received 100. Fifteen Year 7 and Year 8 Space Biologists planted the seeds alongside others which had not been to space to see if there are any differences in growth.

No-one at Higham Lane knows which seeds have been to space



• **I'M A ROCKET MAN!** Astronaut Tim Peake with the seeds aboard the International Space Station.

and which have remained on Earth.

The Space Biologists, along with the science technicians Dr Smith & Mrs Sullivan, have been caring for the seedlings, recording their growth and observations over seven weeks and entering data into a database.

After all the data has been collected, the results will be analysed by professional statisticians. Leading scientists from the RHS and European Space

Agency will then interpret the results and draw possible conclusions, publishing their results on the RHS Campaign for School Gardening website.

The Space Biologists include: Harvey (7S3), Ben (8S2), Ryan (8H3), Grace (7H2), Rosie (8H3), Chloe (7H1), Emily (7H1), Megan (8S3), Randall (7L2), Matthew (7L2), James (7S2), Caylie (7L3), Freya (7L3), Jessica (7S2), Lisa (7S2).

MRS ROWLAND  
Science Department



• **SPACE-AGE RESEARCH!** Higham Lane's young scientists have been observing and recording the growth of seeds during the summer term.



## News from the Music Department



# Magical mix of musical talent!

WHAT a fantastic morning was had by all as Higham Lane musicians teamed up with 28 Year 6 students

arriving in September to create a 'Musical Morning', run by the County Music Service and conducted by

woodwind teacher Mrs Stella Mackereth.

'Blue Danube', 'Match of the Day' and 'Om Pah Pah' brought together string, woodwind, brass and keyboard players during the two-hour workshop in Chine Hall, thoroughly enjoyed by parents as they gathered to take the Year 6s back to their primary schools.

Talking to Year 6 students afterwards, many couldn't wait to take part again in school events run by the Higham Lane Music Department.

**MRS DAVENPORT**  
Subject Leader for Music





## News from the Music Department



# Wonderful end to the summer term!

THE torrential rain could not dampen the excitement and enthusiasm of the Summer Concert this year!

Even though we could not sit outside in the Memorial Garden like last year, our audience sat back, with their glasses of wine and buttered scones, listening to a wide variety of performances given by our wonderfully talented music students.

Head Girl, Lauren, and Assistant Head Girl, Ellie, introduced each performance with ease; our soloists and ensembles played with such confidence to provide such a variety of genres.

We are extremely thankful for all of the hard work and dedication, week in, week out, to provide such a wonderful end to the term.

Have a wonderful summer and perhaps

bring a friend along when rehearsals begin again in September!

**MRS DAVENPORT**  
Subject Leader for Music

• More Summer Concert photographs can be found on the HLS website!



# A little Bird has flown the nest!

• **BEST WISHES!** Fellow Middy Supervisors say goodbye to Gaynor Bird.



GAYNOR Bird, who came to Higham Lane in 1994 as a lunchtime supervisor, has left the School following early retirement.

Her cheery disposition and easy-going manner has resulted in Gaynor being a very popular member of the team and she has got along well with students and staff alike.

Sue Day, Senior Middy Supervisor, said: "Gaynor will be missed by everyone, and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

"After chasing students around the corridors for 22 years she certainly deserves a well-earned rest!

"We will all still keep in touch with Gaynor and are already arranging a meet-up."

Carrying on the family link, Gaynor's daughter, Louisa, joined the lunchtime team a couple of months ago and, just like her mum, is doing a great job!



• **A FOND FAREWELL!** Headteacher, Mr Kelly, thanks Gaynor Bird for 22 years' service to Higham Lane School.

## Music exam successes

THE following Higham Lane School Music students have passed their Associated Board Examinations during the spring term of 2016. Congratulations!

<b>Grade 6</b>		
Davit (10S3)	Violin	Distinction
Madeline (10H2)	Violin	Merit
<b>Grade 4</b>		
Esther (7L3)	Flute	Merit
<b>Grade 2</b>		
Ruby (8H2)	Clarinet	Merit
Rebecca (8L3)	Flute	Merit
Bailey (8L3)	Drums	Pass
Jess (7H2)	Flute	Pass
Ellie-Rose (9H2)	Clarinet	Pass



## News from the Drama Department



• **LET'S DANCE!** Chloe (11H1), Abi (11L1) and Ashley (11L2) fine tune their routine.

# Drama students get their act together!

DRAMA students get the unusual experience of saying that they actually enjoy their exam because it takes the form of a performance in front of an external examiner.

However, to get to the stage where they truly enjoy it, there

is a LOT of hard work to do. To a degree, they get to choose the play they will perform and the groups they work in, but once these crucial decisions have been made, they have to organise their time; plan their

rehearsals in and out of lessons; collaborate effectively in their groups; add to and adapt their scripts; gather together props and costume; plan their lighting and sound FX; learn their lines; research their parts and

generally prepare for their deliciously-terrifying final performance.

Ten days before their actual exam, they did a dress rehearsal in front of their friends and family. Miss Hollin and Mr Harris kindly came along to cast their expert eyes on their work and the whole thing was a great success, with all three pieces coming together nicely and, with feedback from three Drama teachers, they were given loads of pointers to work on to fine tune for the final show.

The students were off timetable to rehearse on the morning of the exam and, after a few dramas (pun intended), they all got their act (sorry, can't help myself) together and performed to the examiner two or three levels higher than they had done in the dress rehearsal. Safe to say, they were all buzzing afterwards!

It's now in the hands of the examiner, but all the Drama students can be proud of the way they performed and the fact they couldn't have done any more to prepare. Well done and good luck!

**MR BOTTRILL**  
Acting Subject Leader  
for Drama



• **REHEARSAL TIME!** Ella (11H2), Ellis (11H2), Jack (11L3) and Kiera (11L1).



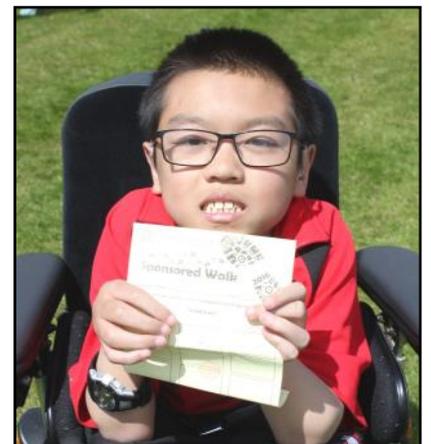
## Making great strides to raise school funds!

STUDENTS made their way to Ambleside Fields in early July for this year's eagerly-awaited Sponsored Walk.

The popular event, now a firmly-established date on Higham Lane's calendar, once again raised valuable funds for improvements at the School.

For the fourth successive year, the event was held in warm, dry conditions. Students clocked-up the cash, which will help provide new facilities and equipment that can be enjoyed for many years to come.

• *More photographs can be found on the Higham Lane School website!*



# It's open to debate!

THE penultimate week of the summer term saw the finals of the Nuneaton & North Warwickshire Debating Challenge.

The ability to debate is fast becoming a dying art. To debate means to present your views in a calm, rational manner; to listen carefully to the views and opinions of others; to respect those alternative opinions and, ultimately, to reach a conclusion based on the input of both sides.

It is a skill that many business leaders and politicians value and that even more, in today's political climate, seem to sadly lack.

And it is a skill, that I am proud to say, was demonstrated with amazing quality by both of the teams from Higham Lane.

The Rotary Club of Arbury, in their presentation of certificates, said that the debates were some of the closest-matched and most impressive they have seen in the last few years of running the competition.

I am phenomenally proud of the teams, who handed some very complex and serious topics with a level of maturity and respect that belies their years.

The first heats were between the Year 9 'Junior' teams. Higham Lane, Hartshill and Queen Elizabeth Academy all fielded impressive teams and some intense debates led to a tense final between Hartshill and Higham on the topic of 'Is Social Media Anti-social?'

For the first time in the memory of the Rotarians present, the final of the 'Junior' category resulted in a draw!

The resulting head-to-head between the two team captains was a challenging

test of presentation under pressure, having only one minute to prepare a response to a tricky question.

Both team captains performed admirably and, although the award was given to Hartshill, captain Jack produced an eloquent and effortless speech that I would have been proud to produce.

For the 'Senior' Year 10/11 debates, only Queen Elizabeth and Higham fielded teams and therefore only had to debate one state: 'Apprenticeships have more value than University Degrees'. A hotly-contested and incredibly entertaining discussion led to the judges awarding first place to Higham Lane by a margin of one point, the closest in memory of the competition!

Next year's event will be held at Hartshill School, where we will be trying our hardest to win both trophies. If any students in Year 8 are interested in competitive debating and wish to join next year's 'Junior' team, please contact Mr Ireland, Mr Kelly or Mr Smith.

**MR SMITH, English Department**



• **MAKING A POINT!** Above and below, 'Junior' debating team members, Laura (9H1) and Jack (9S3), have their say.



• **LET BATTLE COMMENCE!** Higham Lane's 'Senior' debating team (left) face their opposition from Queen Elizabeth.



• **DECISION TIME!** The judges get down to the difficult task of scoring the debate.

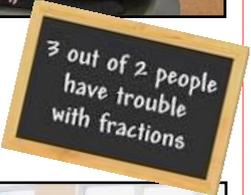


• **TOP TALKERS!** The triumphant 'Senior' debating team with their trophy and certificates, left to right, Yagnesh (10H1), Ellie (10L1), Holly (10S1) and Max (10H1).



• **A WARM WELCOME!** Assistant Headteacher, Miss Fern, and Maths teacher, Mr White, greet guests at the latest Parents' Forum.

# Whole lot of fractions!



ON WEDNESDAY, June 15, the Parent Forum met for the third time this year and were entertained to a Mathematics lesson from Mr White.

Every topic in Maths has some basis in real life and he demonstrated that, far from being an out-of-date concept, we use fractions in many places — even a McDonald's Quarter-pounder has a basis in fractions! Brave parents were asked to answer a series of questions involving fractions, using mini whiteboards to record their answers.

Mr White differentiated the lesson as if it was a typical maths delivery with Bronze, Silver and Gold level style questions, and was very pleased with the outcome and delighted with the level of ability. Almost everyone obtained correct answers to some tricky problems.

Mr White included a demonstration of quick ways of adding fractions and finished by pointing out that even at A-level there are many times when competence with fractions is essential.

Just in case you have a spare half-a-minute, you may wish to solve the following:-

$$\int x^{3/4} + x^{-5/6} - \sqrt{x} \quad \text{find } f(x)$$

For the less adventurous:- How far is it between The River and St Ives?



$$\frac{7}{4}x^{7/4} - 6x + \frac{3}{2}x^{3/2} + C$$

It is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles from The River to St Ives.



• **FRACTION ACTION!** Above and below: Mr White has everyone's attention at June's Parent Forum when the topic of 'Fractions' was presented by the Higham Lane teacher of Mathematics.



# Starring in a lead role!

THE crème-de-la-crème of Year 10 students put themselves forward as candidates for the 2016-17 Junior Leadership Team.

In addition to the six-strong JLT, ten Senior Prefect positions were also up for grabs, ably supported by a 54-strong Prefect team.

As in recent years, the interviewing panel was faced with an arduous task of choosing the successful applicants from the top-class field during a day-long selection process.

Impressing the panel with their leadership qualities and fresh ideas for the School were Lauren (10H3) and Sam (10L1), who were appointed Head Girl and Head Boy for 2016-17.

Supporting them in their role are Assistant Head Girls Ellie (10L1) and Holly (10S1), along with Assistant Head Boys Max (10H1) and Yagnesh (10L1).

The ten-strong Senior Prefect team is made up of Amna (10H2), Aaminah (10S3), Malaika (10S3), Megan (10L2), Elise (10S3), Oliver (10L1), Jessica (10H2), Armaan (10L2), Lewis (10L3) and Max (10L1).

All the candidates faced a tough problem-solving exercise and interview with the five-strong selection panel made up of Headteacher Mr Kelly, Assistant Headteacher Miss Fern, Year 10 Progress Leader Mr Davis, along with Oliver and Sharifa, the outgoing Head Boy and Head Girl.

Since the start of the summer term, a team of Prefects has carried out break and lunch time duties under the supervision of Senior Prefects.

Each team also works together at school events such as Student Progress Evenings and meet once a fortnight with their designated member of JLT to raise any concerns or suggest improvements on how the School operates.

**MISS FERN, Assistant Headteacher**

## Prefect teams 2016-17

**Monday: JLT** — Max (10H1). **Senior Prefects** — Amna (10H2) and Malaika (10S3). **Prefects** — Abigail, Mia, Jessica, Lauren, Robert, Emma, Miah and Eliot (10H1); Kasey and Caitlin (10H2); Max and James (10L1).

**Tuesday: JLT** — Sam and Ellie (10L1). **Senior Prefects** — Oliver (10L1) and Jessica (10H2). **Prefects** — Lauren (10H3); Sukhdip (10L1); Matthew, Hamzah and Catilin (10H2); Jessica, Amber, Liam, Chaz and Rohit(10H3); James (10L1).

**Wednesday: JLT** — Yagnesh (10L1). **Senior Prefects** — Aaminah (10S3) and Armaan (10L2). **Prefects** — Molly, Connor, Zoe, Ellie, Max and James (10H3); Morgan and Molly (10S3); Sajal (10L2); Florence (10L1).

**Thursday: JLT** — Holly (10S1). **Senior Prefects** — Megan(10L2) and Lewis (10L3). **Prefects** — Heather (10L1); Elissa (10L2); Katherine and Alannah (10L3); Armani, and Holly(10S1); Chloe, Ellie, Daisy and Alex (10S2); Umayah (10S3).

**Friday: JLT** — Lauren (10H3). **Senior Prefects** — Elise (10S3) and Max(10L1). **Prefects** — Joe, Ulfa, Libby, Davit, Dylan, Zara and Yusra (10S3); Georgia, Evie and Ethan (10L1).



• **JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM 2016-17.** Back row — Lauren and Sam (Head Girl and Head Boy). Front: Ellie, Max, Holly and Yagnesh (Assistant Head Girls and Assistant Head Boys).



# Duck on the menu again!

• **DELIGHTFUL DOZEN!** Mother Duck and her 12 offspring on patrol around the Memorial Garden on the day they hatched.

FOR a second successive year, Higham Lane School welcomed a clutch of new youngsters during the spring term!

Following the successful raising of seven ducklings last year, Mother Duck returned to the school's Memorial Garden where she built a brand new nest.

Twelve eggs were subsequently laid, all of which hatched on May 16, and the proud mother duck wasted no time in parading them around the quad in the early summer sunshine.

Unfortunately, one of the new-born chicks died of natural causes on the first night, but the other 11 managed to survive and rapidly gained weight as the weeks progressed.

This was hugely thanks to a staff collection, which raised the incredible sum of £85 for the purchase of specialised duck food

and the re-introduction of the hi-viz clad mannequin scarecrow, courtesy of the Textiles Department.

At the end of June, the 12-strong family relocated to Coombe Quad before finally taking off into the big wide world on July 11. Proving that nature can be so cruel at times, a second Mallard saw her nest in nearby Chine Quad destroyed by torrential rain on the evening of June 8.

After incubating 11 eggs for more than three weeks, the nest was swamped with cold flood water, destroying the eggs and causing the mother to abandon the site.

Sadly, at the time of the storm, some of the eggs were showing signs of hatching and all the ducklings perished. A day or so later they would have been fully mobile, allowing the mother to lead her offspring to safety.



• **FAMILY PARTY!** Now almost a month-old, Mother Duck proudly watches over her ducklings as they relax in the summer sunshine.



# 'Fixed Up' for examinations!

IN THE extremely stressful run-up to examination time, Year 11 students received some much-needed TLC from the motivational speakers at Fixed Up Seminars.

Introducing the day with

an inspiring assembly, the London-based company's motivators provided Year 11s with individual workshops based on becoming the 'best version of yourself'.

Talking from personal

experiences, using celebrity examples and 'keeping it real', gave Year 11s a real insight into why it is important they are a GCSE champion.

Our students were 100% involved and excited by the event. For many, it not only inspired them to reach for the stars, but also to touch the moon.

Thank-you Fixed Up Seminars for ensuring our Years 11s were fired-up for revision at the right time.

The questions: 'Why are we doing this?', 'Who are we doing it for?' and 'What do I need to achieve it?' were definitely answered by our students when they attended lots of extra revision sessions at lunch and after school in order to be prepared for their exams.

**MRS MITCHELL, Subject Leader for CPSHEE**



## Term dates and holidays



**FRIDAY, JULY 22**

Break-up for summer holidays.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

Inset day.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

Inset day.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

Autumn term commences.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21**

Break-up for half-term.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 31**

Autumn term recommences.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

Inset day.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**

Break-up for Christmas and New Year holiday.

A comprehensive list of calendar dates can be found on the School's website — [www.highamlaneschool.co.uk](http://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk)



## Don't miss the next deadline!

THE next electronic edition of HLS Express will be uploaded to the School's website on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. Would you please ensure all your contributions are with Mr Nikols by December 1 at the very latest. Thank you.



## News from the Physical Education Department

# Excellent individual and team displays by athletes!

CONGRATULATIONS to all the athletes who took part in the District competitions this season, which provided several excellent individual and team performances.

### Athletics Team Results:-

**Year 7 Boys:** Second in the District Competition and third in the District 'Super 6' Competition.

**Year 7 Girls:** Second in the District Competition and third in the District 'Super 6' Competition.

**Year 8 Boys:** Second in the District Competition.

**Year 8 Girls:** Second in the District Competition.

**Year 9 Boys:** Winners of the District Competition.

**Year 9 Girls:** Winners of the District Competition.

**Year 10/11 Boys:** Third in the District Competition.

**Year 10/11 Girls:** Third in the District Competition.

Following the District competitions, an amazing 17 students were selected to represent the District in the County Championships in Leamington on Saturday, June 10.

This is a fantastic achievement and they all performed very well, they are amongst the best athletes in the County.

A special mention to Omolola (10L3) in Year 10 who has again been selected to represent the County in the English Schools' at 300m.

This is the third year in a row she has been selected, which is an astounding achievement. We wish her good luck in her events!

**MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE**



• **ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENT!** Athlete Omolola (10L3) will be representing the County in the English Schools' for the third successive year.

## Warwickshire Combined Events

Group	Name	Individual Position	Overall Team Position
Year 7 Girls	Lily (7H3)	24 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
	Lilly (7H1)	23 <sup>rd</sup>	
	Prapti (7S3)	12 <sup>th</sup>	
Year 7 Boys	Stephen (7L2)	8 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
	Harry (7H3)	15 <sup>th</sup>	
	Daniel (7L2)	17 <sup>th</sup>	
Year 9 Girls	Asmita (9L1)	14 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Morgan (9L3)	18 <sup>th</sup>	
	Hannah (9L1)	24 <sup>th</sup>	
Year 9 Boys	Aaron (9H3)	8 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Joe (9L2)	11 <sup>th</sup>	
	Sam (9S1)	20 <sup>th</sup>	
Year 10 Boys	Josh (10S1)	6 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Peter (10S1)	7 <sup>th</sup>	
	Liam (10S3)	13 <sup>th</sup>	
	Rohit (10H3)	14 <sup>th</sup>	

## District Athletes

Name	Event	County Position	Result
George (11L1)	800m	5 <sup>th</sup>	2m19s
Matthew (10S2)	800m	6 <sup>th</sup>	2m22s
Harry (10S1)	High Jump	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.50m
Lauren (10H3)	100m	7 <sup>th</sup>	15.8s
Omolola (10L3)	200m	2 <sup>nd</sup>	26.5s
Omolola (10L3)	300m	1 <sup>st</sup>	40.7s
Aaron (9H3)	200m	6 <sup>th</sup>	27.9s
Ethan (9H2)	300m	4 <sup>th</sup>	41.0s
Joe (9L2)	800m	1 <sup>st</sup>	2m17s
Brad (9L3)	800m	6 <sup>th</sup>	2m38s
Aston (9S3)	80m Hurdles	6 <sup>th</sup>	14.8
Ethan (9H2)	High Jump	5 <sup>th</sup>	1.45m
Aaron (9H3)	High Jump	6 <sup>th</sup>	1.45m
Aston (9S3)	Long Jump	4 <sup>th</sup>	4.99m
Josh 9S1)	Long Jump	8 <sup>th</sup>	4.34m
Jack (9L1)	Discus	4 <sup>th</sup>	25.14m
Jack (9L1)	Javelin	6 <sup>th</sup>	27.00m
George (9H2)	Javelin	7 <sup>th</sup>	26.29m
George (9H2)	Shot	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.96m
Asmita (9L1)	100m	8 <sup>th</sup>	14.6
Morgan (9L3)	75m Hurdles	7 <sup>th</sup>	14.1
Hannah (9L1)	75m Hurdles	8 <sup>th</sup>	14.6
Morgan (9L3)	High Jump	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.50m
Asmita (9L1)	Long Jump	8 <sup>th</sup>	4.05m
Hannah (9L1)	Javelin	4 <sup>th</sup>	20.59m
Harriet (9L2)	Shot	4 <sup>th</sup>	8.47m



# News from the Physical Education Department



Year 9 Boys' and Girls' Athletics Teams



Year 8 Boys' and Girls' Athletics Teams



Year 7 Boys' and Girls' Athletics Teams





## News from the Physical Education Department

### Rounders team lift District title

HIGHAM Lane's Year 9 rounders team have enjoyed a good season.

The girls collected silverware in the Nuneaton & District Tournament, beating Polesworth in the final to secure the trophy.

In the Level 3 School Games, which comprised 14 teams from around Warwickshire, the team played extremely well to reach the semi-finals.

Unfortunately they lost on the last ball but, in the third/fourth place play-offs, the girls defeated Alcester Grammar 5½-2 to clinch the Bronze medal position.

MRS DAVIES and MISS SLATER, PE Department



• **DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!** The Year 9 rounders team. Back row, left to right: Katie (9L2), Jessie (9S3), Megan (9H3), Beth (9S3), Morgan (9L3), Leah (9S1). Front: Molly (9L2), Molly (9L1), Hannah Glover, captain (9L1), Billie-Jo (9S3), Asmita (9L1).

## Skills recognised by County!



THE silky netballing skills of eight Key Stage 4 netballers have been recognised with a County call-up.

Six Year 10 students, along with two from Year 9, have been selected to train with the Warwickshire Under-16 County squad.

What started with 150 girls, was whittled down to 70, and these have made the final 40. Selection involves regular training sessions in Coventry, focusing on skills and agility work.

This means all but one of the Under-16 netball team in September will be County players.

MRS DAVIES  
PE Department

• **COUNTY RECOGNITION!** The eight girls who have been called-up by Warwickshire. Back row, left to right, Macy (10L1), Christie (10H2), Laura (10H2), Lucy (10S1), Leah (9S1). Front: Amy (10H2), Georgia (10L1), Kristen (9L1).



## News from the Physical Education Department



• **FANTASTIC FIRST SEASON!** The Year 7 netball team, back row, left to right: Phoebe (7H2), Prapti (7S3), Lily (7H3), Maisie (7L2), Sophie (7L2), Sadie (7S3). Front: Ivy (7H1), Lilly (7H1), Daisy, captain (7S3), Chloe (7L3) and Esther (7L3).

## Netballers off to a flying start!

HIGHAM Lane's Year 7 netball team got off to a flying start in their first season of competitive matches playing for the School.

In the league competition, the girls competed in seven games and remained undefeated, scoring 64 goals while conceding just four, to win the Nuneaton & District Town title.

In the District Tournament, they again triumphed in all their matches, beating St Thomas More in the final to clinch the crown.

"This is a very talented group of girls who gel together well as a team and we look forward to them achieving more success in the future," said coach Mrs Davies.

Congratulations to Daisy Gill, Chloe Baker and Prapti Strestha on being selected for the final Under-14 Warwickshire County Trials.

A special mention to Prapti who was selected for the County squad. This is a fantastic achievement as she is a year young.

MRS DAVIES, PE Department

## Georgia buzzing!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Georgia Brown (pictured right) who has been selected for the Under-19 Regional Netball Performance Academy — four years young!

Last season she played for the Under-17 Regional Academy so this is obviously a fantastic achievement and a huge step up to Under-19 level.

This involves training three times a week in Walsall and eventually she should feed into the newly-formed Wasps Super League team.

On a more local level, Georgia is currently trialling for Ambleside ladies' Premiership team.

MRS DAVIES, PE Department





# Spotlight on the 2016 Year 7 District Football Cup Final



● **NEAT PASS!** Harry (7L3) sets up a Higham attack.



● **RESOLUTE DEFENCE!** Higham Lane's Year 7 impenetrable rearguard react in force to thwart an Ash Green attempt at goal.



● **HIGH-FLYER!** Higham defender Sam (7H2), No. 2, launches himself to clear the danger with a powerful header.



● **NIPPY PLAYER!** Liam (7H3) fends off the attentions of an opposing defender.



● **IT'S IN!** Shaun (7S2), extreme right, hits the goal which proved sufficient for the Year 7s to retain the Colin Jones Cup.



● **DANGER AVERTED!** Higham Lane goalkeeper, Vikram (7S2), is in a great position to save this goal-bound free-kick.



## Spotlight on the 2016 Year 10 District Football Cup Final



• **GOAL!** As the ball crosses the line into an empty net, No. 7 Matthew (10S2) wheels away in delight after giving Higham Lane Under-15s a 1-0 lead in the 2016 Nuneaton & District SFA Cup final.



• **ALL-OUT ATTACK!** No. 31 Sajal (10L2) rises above a flat-footed Ash Green defence to power a header goalwards.



• **HEADS-UP!** Above: Carrying out his defensive duties, Sam (10H3) rises high to clear the danger during a rare Ash Green attack.

• **FIVE-STAR!** Right: The Ash Green 'keeper is left reeling as a bullet header from No. 31 Sajal (10L2) thunders into the net to put Higham Lane 5-0 up on the night.



More images can be found on the Higham Lane School website!

# HLS Express Sport



• **WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!** Year 10 football captain, Max, holds the North East Warwickshire Cup aloft as the team celebrates their emphatic victory.

# TRIPLE DOUBLE!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Year 7 and Year 10 football teams who won their respective District Cup finals at the Bedworth Oval.

This is the third year in a row that Higham Lane has won the two cup finals on the same night!

After winning the District League, beating Etone, Polesworth, George Eliot, Nicholas Chamberlaine and Hartshill, the Year 7 team qualified for the cup final against an unbeaten Ash Green School.

In a very closely contested game, Higham took the lead through Shaun (7S2) midway through the first half.

After this, both teams created good chances, but some resolute defending and assured goalkeeping meant the score remained 1-0 and Higham had won the double.

Well done to all the players involved this season and to Mr Bailey and Mr Jhutti, who coached the team this year.

The Year 10 team had progressed through to the final by beating St Thomas More 4-1, Nicholas Chamberlaine 2-1 and Nuneaton Academy 3-0.

Their cup final opponents were also Ash Green, but this was a much more one-sided affair.

Higham took an early lead through Matthew (10S2) before Sam (10H3) added a second.

Higham Lane's defence looked very comfortable and they were able to play some excellent football and create numerous chances.

Further goals came from Kieran (10S), Matthew (10S2) again and finally Sajal (10L2).

Ash Green scored a late consolation goal but Higham won the cup 5-1, and after winning the league earlier in the year they too were double winners!

**MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE**

• See pages 38/39 for photographic action from the matches!



• **YEAR 7 DISTRICT CUP WINNERS!** Back row (left to right): Mr Jhutti (coach), James (7H3), Harry (7L3), Harry (7H3), Shaun (7S2), Stephen (7L2), Sam (7H2), Harry (7S1), Mr Bailey (coach). Front: Owen (7L1), Harry (7S2), Liam (7H3), Vikram (7S2), Joe (7S3), Noah (7S3), Will (7L1), Brandon (7S3).



• **YEAR 10 DISTRICT CUP WINNERS!** Back row (left to right): Luke (10S3), Harrison (10L1), Kieran (10S2), Alex (10S3), Dan (10S2), Sam (10H3), Owen (10H1), James (10H1). Front: Sajal (10L2), Josh (10L3), Max (10L1), Matthew (10S2), Ethan (10H1), James (10H2), Josh (10S1).