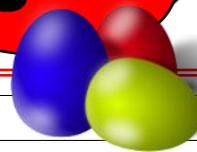


HAPPY
EASOER

HIGHAM LANE SCHOOL



Express



Issue 38

April 2017



Welcome to our eggcellent Easter issue!

*DEAR Parents/Carers/Students,
Welcome to the Easter edition of HLS
Express! I know you will all enjoy
reading about the Sixth Form charity sky
dive, the highly-acclaimed school
production of 'Little Shop of Horrors',*

*news from some subjects, plus a round-
up of all the latest sports successes,
topped by the Year 11 netball team being
fifth-best in the country!*

Happy Easter to you all!

PHIL KELLY, Headteacher

HIGH JUMP!

Charity
sky dive
raises
£6,026!

TWELVE brave souls from Higham Lane School's Sixth Form are jumping for joy after raising more than £6,000 for charity!

The fearless group, comprising 11 students and the intrepid Head of Sixth Form, Hanif Ladha, travelled to Hinton Airfield, located on the Northamptonshire/Oxfordshire border, to participate in a county wide tandem sky dive challenge set by the Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (WAYC).

The aim was to raise money for youth work across Warwickshire and Coventry. With nerves jangling, the skydivers waited patiently in the rain for the clouds to lift before finally receiving the go-ahead to jump.

After climbing to a heady height of 13,300ft, the parachutists exited the plane and reached speeds of over 120mph in free fall prior to deploying their 'chutes. Happily, all 12 landed safely back on terra firma, much to the relief of apprehensive families and friends who had been watching nervously below.

The challenge, now in its second year, saw seven schools and colleges taking part and, out of the £13,000+ total raised, Higham Lane's contribution was an incredible £6,026 — £4,000 more than the next-highest amount!

A formal presentation of the cash will be made at Leamington Town Hall in July.



• **BACK DOWN TO EARTH!** Sky divers Abigail, Charlotte and Jack.

After the jump, a relieved but proud Mr Ladha commented: "The students have been fully behind this challenge from the start. Their passion and enthusiasm was so inspiring and it comes as no surprise that they have performed so well. We are pleased to be supporting WAYC and we look forward to participating in the challenge again next year."

For more information about Higham Lane Sixth Form or Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs please check out their websites at www.highamlaneschool.co.uk and www.wayc.org.uk

• Please turn over to pages 2 and 3 for more photographs of the HLS Sixth Form charity sky dive.



Higham Lane School, Shanklin Drive, Nuneaton, CV10 0BJ



Tel: 024 7638 8123
Fax: 024 7637 0550

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● **DAY OF RECKONING!** Sharifa, Abigail and Jack arrive at the airfield.



● **PREPARATION TIME!** The group undergoes briefing prior to their sky dive.



● **THERE THEY ARE!** Families and friends watch intently as the sky divers exit the plane.



● **LEADING BY EXAMPLE!** Mr Ladha descends to Earth and is very pleased to get his feet back on terra firma!



• **TAKE OFF!** The plane which transported the sky divers to 13,300ft.



• **SAFELY GROUNDED!** Abigail, Charlotte and Jack.



• **TIME TO SMILE!** George, Amy and Hope are safely back down on the ground.



• **THANK GOODNESS IT'S OVER!** Families (and pets!) greet Sharifa, Sophie and Lauren after the jump.



• **JOB WELL DONE!** Sky divers, their families and friends celebrate following the successful charity parachute jump.

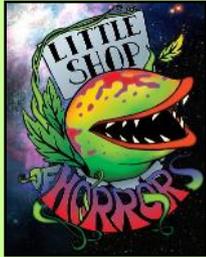
AT THE end of term we say farewell to three colleagues: **Chloe Badham** (ASL ICT and Computing) has secured a post nearer to home; **Janet Whooley** (ICT and Computing) completes her temporary post and **Kat Howard** (ASL English) is leaving her post. We thank these colleagues for their contribution to HLS. Our SENDCO, **Pippa Parker**, left at half term to take up her new post closer to her home. Pippa has been absolutely outstanding in this position. **Adam Lewis**

Farewells and Hellos

has left us and been replaced by **Kate Wright** as D&T Technician and **Danny Cummings** has been replaced by **Judith Hill** for Claire Webb's maternity leave. **Skehvi Hadijstasti** has joined us

as permanent English teacher, and **Laura Thomas** was successful in gaining the Assistant Subject Leader role in our English Department. **Lisa Salway** has joined HLS as a Midday Supervisor. Next term we welcome **Donna Elliott**, our new SENDCO and **Rebecca Smith** (ICT and Computing - no relation to Rebecca Smith, our Law and Maths teacher!). **Richard Ackland**, joins us as a teacher of ICT and Computing.

MR KELLY, Headteacher



Alex saves the day and Audrey has her Phil!



• **THE SHOW MUST GO ON!** Alex Ireland (left) the mystery voice from behind the scenes of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. Right: Audrey II devours Headteacher, Phil Kelly, during his visit backstage.

WHEN Headteacher, Phil Kelly, attended this year's school production of 'Little Shop of Horrors', little did he know he would be eaten by the star prop!

Having watched the show at the Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton, Mr Kelly went behind the scenes to congratulate the cast and crew on a sensational show.

The Head particularly thanked History teacher, Alex Ireland, who saved the day by standing in as the voice-over man after lead actor, Tom (9H2), lost his voice for the first two performances and parts of the third. Unseen by the audience, Mr Ireland stood in the wings where he read and sang from the script while Tom lip-synched the words on-stage.

Nobody even noticed!

During his visit backstage, Mr Kelly also met Audrey II — the talking and singing plant with a penchant for human flesh — which decided he would make a tasty meal!

• Please turn to pages 15, 16, 17 and 18 for a photographic montage of the show.



News from the English Department

WORLD
BOOK
DAY



• **DRESSED FOR THE PART!** Members of the Higham Lane School staff who joined in the spirit of World Book Day.



• **WHO'S THE TOUGHEST?** Mr Parker (Obi-Wan Kenobi) and Mr Bailey (Batman) fight it out!



• **HIGH-FLYER!** Harry Potter (aka Mrs Lynch) shows off her Quidditch skills to Dumbledore (Mr Kelly).

Colourful characters!

STUDENTS arrived at school for the 20th World Book Day on March 2 to be met by a wide range of literary characters.

Several members of staff decided to mark the 2017 event by dressing up as their favourite characters from popular books, in order to prompt discussion while also raising the profile of reading for pleasure.

Students were curious about the various characters — ranging from superhero Batman to rabbit-loving Lennie from 'Of Mice And Men' — which provoked lots of interest.

Teachers spent the first 10 minutes of every lesson explaining who they were while book quizzes were held in classes and during Registration.

The day was a resounding success, not only creating a buzz around the School, but also communicating the message that reading is fun and key to high achievement.

MISS ARSHAD, Literacy Co-ordinator



• **TEACHER ACT!** Mrs Robinson, Mrs Ison and Mrs Somel play out their character roles.



• **HERE TO PROTECT** — PCSO Joanne Jackson informs students about her role safeguarding the community.



• **KEEPING OUR COUNTRY SAFE** — Karen Painter outlines the sterling work of the UK's Border Force.

A taste of things to come!

THE Year 8 Job Taster event, held in February, involved people from different professions talking to our students about the career opportunities within their field and highlighting to them what is required

in terms of qualifications, training and further study for their profession.

The event gave students an insight into what is involved in different professions and what qualifications are required,

both to successfully apply for a post and to secure a place on a college or university course linked to these careers.

It was fantastic to have such an array of different professions in attendance during the day.

The feedback from students and volunteer employees alike was excellent and we look forward to welcoming more businesses to next year's event.

MRS MITCHELL
Subject Leader for CPSHEE



• **PROMOTING HEALTHIER LIVING** — The role of an adviser with Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust is explained by Sarah Carter.



• **HOUSE PROUD!** Gemma Browne from Your Move Estate Agents.



• **MAKING HIS PITCH!** Retired Sports Editor, Derek Brown, talks to students about the world of newspaper journalism.



● **STRETCH!** Alison Dearden, of Abbey Physiotherapy, demonstrates physio techniques.



● **DEDICATED FOLLOWER OF FASHION!** Designer Sadie Read-Angelidis shows off a selection of her latest creations.



● **I KNOW YOUR FATHER!** Derek Brown talks to Finlay (8S3) whose dad is a former colleague and sports correspondent for the Coventry Telegraph.



● **BEHIND THE SCENES!** Universal Pictures' International Director of Publicity, Matt Moss, tells of his role looking after famous stars.



● **LEGAL EAGLE!** Lawyer Emma Billings from Cocks Lloyd Solicitors.



● **HI-TECH AGE!** Andy Baber describes what life is like working for leading global engineering and technology company, Siemens.



● **CARING PROFESSION** — Vicky Whitlock talks about the valuable work of Zoe's Place, the baby hospice which offers respite and palliative care to poorly infants from birth to five years along with support for the parents.



• **QUESTION TIME!** The group of Year 8 reporters, under the guidance of Miss Arshad, who undertook a Skype interview with Jon Ashworth MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Health, as part of their BBC News School Report project.

Very busy time for budding reporters!

ENTHUSIASTIC Year 8 reporters participated in a whole host of activities as part of this year's BBC News School Report day.

Leading up to the event, students conducted a Skype interview with the Shadow Secretary of State for Health, Jon Ashworth. During the grilling, students fired a number of testing questions relating to mental health and online safeguarding, the theme for this year's event.

In addition, the newshounds also toured the School beforehand, asking students for their thoughts on both issues, which were then reported on and filmed prior to uploading onto the School's website.

A party of students was also invited to visit the BBC studios in Birmingham, for a look behind the scenes at how the centre operates.

On to the big day itself — March 16 — which proved to be an exceedingly busy time for the newshounds.

While one five-strong group of reporters headed off to London to take part in the BBC's live radio broadcast, which was

screened online, another party made the short journey to the Coventry & Warwickshire Radio studios where they were interviewed live on-air by Trish Adudu on the Breakfast Show.

Afterwards, the roving reporters went out into the community and interviewed members of the public about their views on mental health and safeguarding.

Meanwhile, back at school, the majority of students were involved in the production of 'breaking news' stories, which were written, filmed and edited prior to publication on the HLS website.

Adding a little light relief to the stresses and strains of the news room, a BBC Bake Off competition was held during break time.

To round off a busy, but very rewarding day, the young reporters tucked into pizza while viewing their stories on the big screen.

MISS ARSHAD, Literacy Co-ordinator



• **SPECIAL GUESTS!** Higham Lane students visited the BBC studios in London to participate in a live radio broadcast which was screened online.



BBC News School Report 2017



• **RADIO STARS!** Higham Lane's roving reporters arrive at the CWR studios.



• **PRESS GANG!** Year 8 newshounds proudly show off their BBC News School Report identity badges.



• **QUESTION TIME!** This interview by Jamie (8H3) was broadcast on the BBC Live Feed webpage.



• **CUE ACTION!** A news report is filmed prior to editing and uploading to the HLS website.



• **CAN YOU SEE THEM?** Miss Aiello and five junior reporters kept their eyes out for the Higham Lane contingent during the live BBC online broadcast.



BBC News School Report 2017



ON TUESDAY, February 28, a group of students were able to visit the BBC studios in Birmingham (pictured above).

We were able to gather an insight of what the studios were really like behind the scenes.

Firstly, we were given lanyards to show that we were authorised visitors to the set and waited in the lobby area for the tour to begin.

Whilst waiting, we were able to examine some of the hi-tech devices used to help present the news. Some of the products were touchscreen, such as TVs, tablets and phones. They even had a VR (Virtual Reality) headset that we were able to try out.

Also, in the lobby they had a station where you could record yourself, asking questions which would then be sent to the reporters to answer.

Around the room there were props from some of the TV shows on the BBC,

such as dresses from 'Strictly Come Dancing', statues from 'Dr Who' and they had designed the lift to make it look like the Tardis police box.

Once the tour had begun, we were led around the studio. We walked past offices and into the recording areas which were live at that moment. We were also able to use some of the equipment.

When we reached the anchor studio area, we were given explanations about how segments were put together and told that the weather is used as a back-up if other segments run over or finish early.

Towards the end of the trip we were able to explore the rest of the studio that contained green screens and recording equipment.

Before we left Birmingham we were able to look around the Mailbox shopping centre and eat lunch until the coach arrived.

AMARAH (8S3)

DURING the trip to the BBC studios in Birmingham, 20 students (including myself) had the exciting chance to try out a range of activities as well as learning new facts about the secret world of the BBC in order to learn and investigate further into our News Day project.

The opportunity began with a technological experience, primarily revolving around the use of BBC software and services throughout a prototype 'smart home'.

Technology involved featured items such as an Amazon Echo AI assistant, multiple VR headsets to view your favourite shows and touchscreen monitors connected to high-end computers that showed off the interactive capabilities and assets of the range of CBBC games.

Several workers were on hand to instruct and teach us about the varied activities we could partake in, alongside the interactive feedback centre which even filmed your reaction to its questions.

Before the tour we were given a brief history of the BBC and its main roles at the Birmingham centre.

We then began the two-hour tour in which we had the chance to experience the inner workings of our primary news service.

We tried creating our own news reports by practising our use of the auto cue, as well as model weather reporting and even a quick game of Copycats at the end of the tour.

We also visited the news studio, which had a ceiling coated in lights and other crucial equipment to ensure the news looks identical each time you tune in.

There were four cameras for the perfect set of angles, as well as one holding an auto cue



● **EXTERMINATE! William meets one of Dr Who's Daleks.**

capable of adjusting the speed of the reader's words and actions.

The room was actually smaller than seen, due to the walls being slanted to ensure the set looked bigger. It was also very heat intensive in there, due to the lights being on just a few moments before.

Not far from the studios were the radio rooms which required us to be near-silent due to the

current Radio 1 event happening. The rooms featured a huge amount of noise reducing foam, different coloured microphones, computers, and even a way for each presenter to swiftly adjust the layout of the computer just by logging on!

We even had the rare chance to wave at the Radio 1 presenters during their show and listen to the music being played.

After visiting the studios we had the opportunity to visit the producer's room as this was actually where most of the magic and effects that bring you BBC News happened.

Several jobs included sound engineer, auto cue operator, and the all-important producer who aided the rest of the workers as well as the presenters in their roles.

The tour was nearly over and our last two stops awaited us. First was the stairs celebrating 60 years of 'The Archers' radio show and its actors, with several memorable pictures on the wall, demonstrating the impact it has had on many people.

The final stop was the interactive room which featured the original wooden Copycats set. The walls weren't automatic, meaning the tour guides had to aid the showing of our pictures.

The day finished with a huge thank you to the BBC staff as well as a brief lunch and visit around the Mailbox shopping centre and its range of posh and designer shops.

Finally, we took the coach back to school and ended the exciting day around 4.30pm.

We offer a huge thank you to the BBC for giving us this exciting experience and we applied the knowledge gained while working on our BBC News School Report projects.

WILLIAM (8L1)



BBC News School Report 2017

AFTER spending weeks on our BBC News school reports, my group was selected by Miss Arshad to receive the honour of interviewing a Member of Parliament via a Skype call.

Jon Ashworth is the MP for Leicester South and the Shadow spokesperson on health issues regarding teenagers. Because of this we interviewed him with certain questions concerning alcoholism, eating disorders, sexting and young people's mental health.

We booked a half-an-hour segment with him and organised it to take place in the Sixth Form. We had been given a full hour beforehand to organise suitable questions which were extensively checked.



• **TASTY JOB!** Three of the BBC Bake Off judges — Miss Blunt, Mr Wilson and Mr Emery.

THE reason I entered my cake into the BBC Bake Off competition is because I enjoy baking and had great enjoyment when making it!

I didn't like losing the competition but realised that you aren't going to learn anything if you keep winning — you have to lose to see how you can improve and I saw that my cake was great tasting but presentation lacked a little something.

Firstly, when making this cake you mix the butter and sugar together then slowly add the eggs in. Next you mix the baking powder in with the self-raising flour and sieve them both to ensure no lumps.

After you have given it time to mix with the whisk, butter the baking tray to make sure that the cake is not hard to get out, then pour the nice tasting cake mix into the round tin, leaving it to bake for 40 minutes, allowing more time if needed. You can decorate with the ingredients you have as an option.

RAQEEBA (8S3)



• **SCRUMPTIOUS!** Saarah (8S2) offers a piece of her winning cake to judge, Mrs Somel.

The majority of the questions primarily consisted of how he felt about each specific subject and if we, as a society, are doing enough to conquer such issues.

His answers mainly showed that, while he felt there are projects set up that people can go to, the Government needs to be doing more to reach out to people who need help they may not be currently receiving.

His main message that was presented in the interview was that everyone should feel safe and protected and no-one should feel alone, especially when experiencing unfortunate events.

I, personally, found the experience quite rewarding because we received honest answers from someone who has been in this particular field of work for a long time.

He was a professional and gave us detailed answers which covered everything that we asked him about. This helped us with the BBC reports that we made on March 16 because we already had some extra information that helped us make our stories more thorough.

This has made us more aware of what our modern day generation experiences.

I feel that it could have been improved if more people could have been given the chance to talk to him because only two groups were chosen.

PHOEBE (8H2)



• **ON-LINE INTERVIEW!** The MP for Leicester South, Jon Ashworth, answers questions via Skype.

IT WAS really enjoyable interviewing Jon Ashworth MP because we had the opportunity to interview a person who is quite important in Parliament.

We asked him questions that were important to us and he answered them in detail. It would have been even better if he actually came to our school in person as, when we did the interview over Skype, we had to get the microphone right and speak as loudly as we could, which was annoying. I understand why he couldn't come into school.

Mr Ashworth was a really interesting person to speak to and he told us that he would cover these issues next time he went into Parliament.

He was honest with us, which I liked, and admitted that the Government was not doing enough to help young people with mental health issues.

I believe he was a good choice for a person to interview as he answered our questions in details and told us we made him see some of the real issues in Britain that needed dealing with.

It was an excellent opportunity and important for us to take part in as young school children asking an MP the things that are important to us.

It also made us feel safer as we knew that if we ever developed mental health issues we would have someone debating about it in Parliament and would have people in school to go to.

I liked how we all got to ask John a question and how he answered those in detail and talked to us so politely like we were adults.

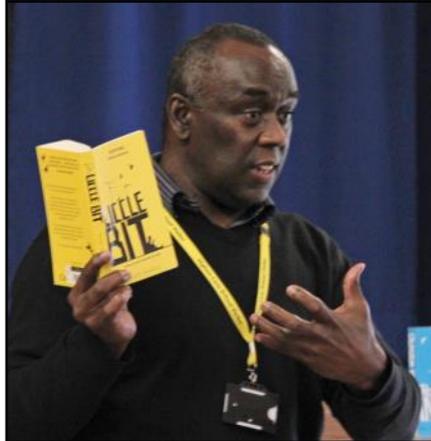
I would really like to do another interview with him but I would prefer it if he was able to come in person and talk to more people.

ZAHEERA (8L3)



Alex Wheatle rocks!

HIGHAM Lane School's ongoing quest to promote reading amongst students continued in the spring term with a visit from an award-winning author.



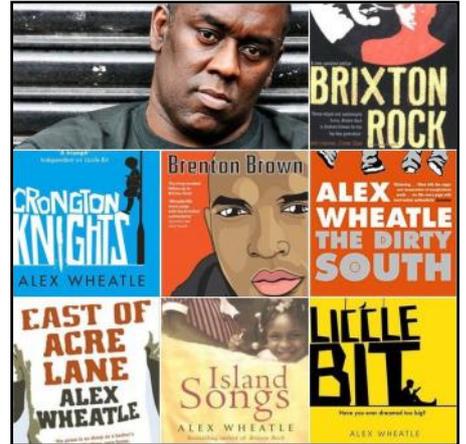
• **STRAIGHT FROM THE AUTHOR'S MOUTH!** Alex Wheatle explains the plot of his book 'Liclle Bit' .

Novelist Alex Wheatle MBE was invited along to host special assemblies for Year 7s and Year 8s, during which he explained how his own experiences had inspired him to become an author and write books aimed at the younger generation.

The writer candidly told his attentive audiences about life growing up in south London, getting involved in drugs and finding himself in prison following the Brixton riots of 1981.

While in Wormwood Scrubs, his cell mate introduced him to the power of reading and, upon release, he settled down and began to write books, having been influenced by the likes of John Steinbeck and Chester Himes.

What followed was a string of best sellers, including 'Brixton Rock' and 'Liclle Bit', which became widely read amongst young readers, while 'Crongton Knights' won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize in 2016.



Such was the influence of the author on Higham Lane students that, in the days following his visit, the Learning Resources Centre was inundated with requests for Alex Wheatle books!

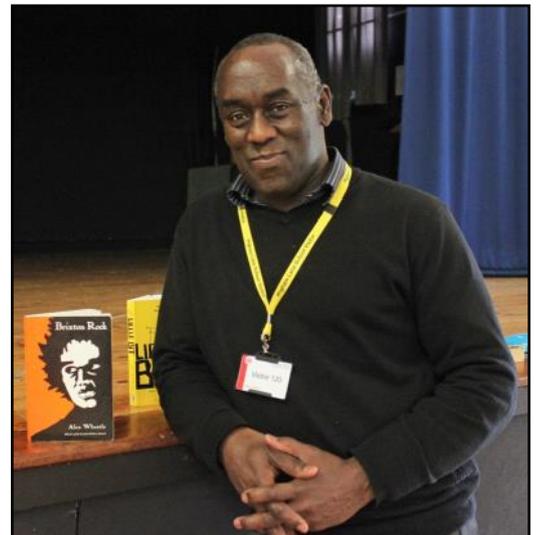
MISS ARSHAD
Literacy Co-ordinator



• **SIGN HERE PLEASE!** Year 7 students (left) and Year 8s (right) queue to get their books signed and meet the author.



• **GREAT TO MEET YOU!** Avid Alex Wheatle fans (including Miss Arshad) and some of the Year 7 students who stayed behind afterwards to talk to the author.



• **JOB WELL DONE!** The author reflects on a successful visit to Higham Lane School.

Tips for Parents



YouTube Online Safety - YouTube

How does YouTube moderate inappropriate videos?

There's very little information (frustrating!!), but essentially YouTube say that it's a combination of 'flagged' (user reported) videos and AI (artificial intelligence). There is a team of moderators who will view flagged videos to see if they break terms and conditions, but this is a mammoth undertaking.

How old do you have to be?

To have your own channel and upload videos, the terms and conditions of YouTube state you have to be 18, although you can be 13 with parental permission. The terms and conditions also seem to 'suggest' that you have to be 13 to view videos on YouTube. As with other social services, this restriction is in place due to advertising.

Have that conversation with your child about what they are doing on YouTube; have they got their own YouTube channel, do they upload videos? I speak to lots of children who state they upload videos onto YouTube but their parents aren't aware; on rare occasions this content has been of significant concern.

RESTRICTED MODE within YouTube is a way of restricting objectionable content. It isn't perfect, but it can help to stop your children seeing inappropriate content on their computer or other device. Restricted Mode is available on web browsers, and on the apps on most devices and is really easy to set up.

For parents of younger children, consider giving access to YouTube Kids, rather than the full YouTube service. It's free, no sign-up and it's multi-platform.

DOING IT TOGETHER

Advice for parents/carers

YouTube is a big part of online life for many children and young people, from watching games to funny videos, and even the strange phenomenon of unboxing videos!

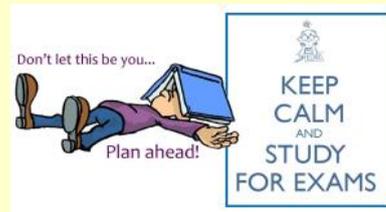
There are so many positives to using YouTube, but as with anything there are negatives too; out of the hundreds of millions of videos that are on the platform there is a completely unknown number of videos that are wholly inappropriate, regardless of age.

The curiosity of some children or the use of innocent search words can very easily lead them to videos that you (and they) would not be happy with. It's important that you understand what they

are viewing on sites such as this mainly for your own assurance, for example many children like the PewDiePie channel. It sounds like a cute channel name, it's anything but cute. It's one of the most famous channels on YouTube and PewDiePie (the man) makes a serious amount of money from this channel, and yet the language is questionable. Have a look yourself and see what I mean.

- Talk to your children about the channels they watch and assure yourself that these are appropriate.
- Does your child have his/her own channel? Check, and see what they're uploading.
- Apply the Restricted Mode settings as shown above. Do it with your child so that you can explain why you're doing it. Equally, let them know that if they see something concerning they can talk to you about it.

Year 11 — Your exams are nearly 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. Use the information below to organise your time and be prepared.

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.

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!

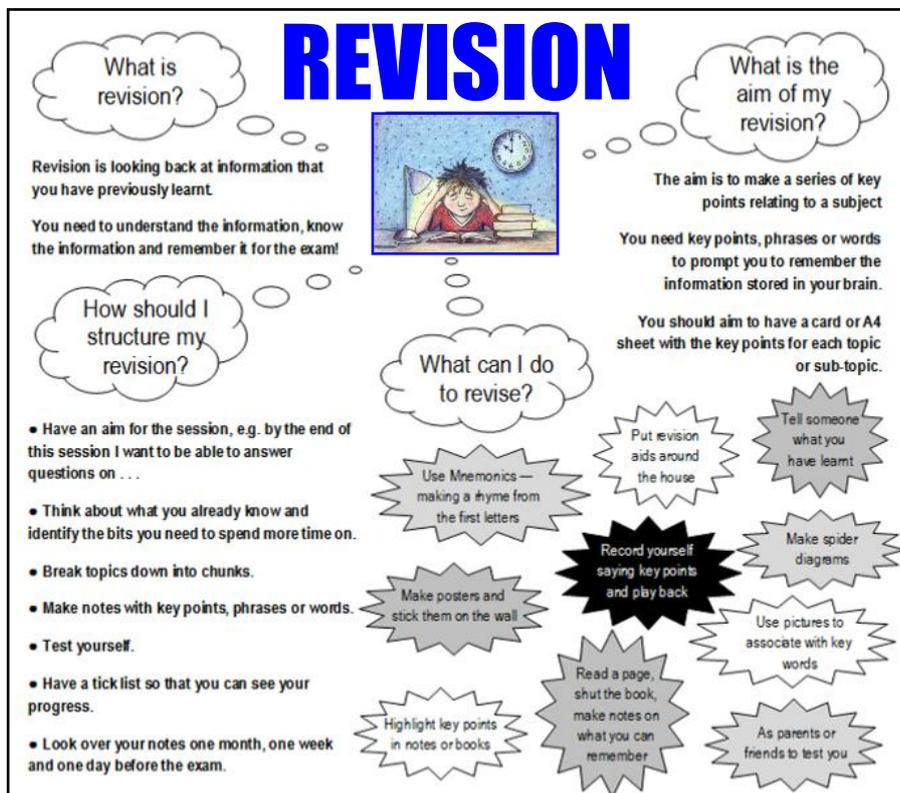
- Preparing for your exams may seem like a lot of work, but the more prepared you are, the more you will achieve. Your goal is in sight. Strive to achieve your best!

Visit the Learning Mentor Frog page for help with revision techniques.

I wish you every success!

MR IND

Acting Learning Mentor





Monster hit thanks to monumental team effort!

THE most dedicated cast we've ever had, facing the most adversity we've ever faced, giving, arguably, the best performance we've ever given - Little Shop of Horrors 2017 was certainly an experience to remember!

For so long, it'd gone so well. The cast had learnt their lines, songs and dance routines really early which meant we were able to put the 'polish' on scenes and the Saturday no-script rehearsals – usually a disastrous time of finding out who's not learnt their lines! – went unbelievably well so we were in excellent shape as we approached show week.

But nothing's ever perfect, and so it proved as we faced one problem after another once we were in the theatre from the Monday morning of show week. I won't bore you with the details, suffice to say that everything that could go wrong did go wrong, the worst of which was finding out Tom, our lead man playing Seymour, had completely lost his voice and couldn't even speak, let alone sing.

Despite the numerous tribulations, everyone pulled together in a monumental team effort, overcoming every obstacle flung in

our path, to give three performances we are all immensely proud of.

Whilst I have already thanked everyone both publicly and privately so won't repeat them all here, I must give a special mention to both Tom and Alex Ireland – our History teacher and voice coach – for the way they dealt with Tom's lost voice.

Quite how they managed to synchronise Alex speaking and singing all Tom's lines from the wings while Tom lip-synched on stage so convincingly, I'll never know. And we were all so pleased for Tom that he could at least speak his lines on the final night and sing some of the easier songs while Alex still belted out the more challenging numbers from off stage. Incredible job, fellas!

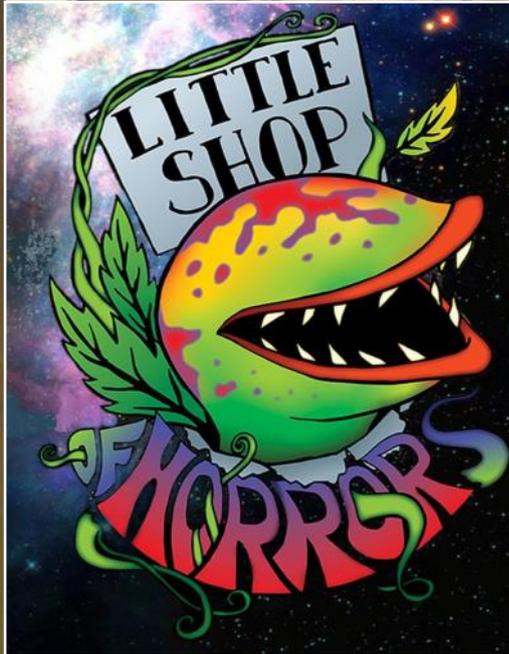
Thanks to everyone involved, including a huge amount of gratitude to those of you who came to watch.

Can't wait for next year . . . (although we're all quite enjoying a temporary return to sanity before we start all over again!!).

MR BOTTRILL, Co-Director









Dear Headteacher,
I, together with my husband, attended the Abbey Theatre to watch 'Little Shop of Horrors'. We went with the thought that it would be just another 'school play'.
However, we were surprised to say the least, stunned more like! It was fantastic. We were so impressed with everyone who took part.
They were all word perfect but we must congratulate the young man who played Seymour for his lip-sync

work. It was impossible to tell whether he was singing or not. Pity the voice-over man did not take a bow at the end, he deserved it. The band were excellent and added to the atmosphere.
Well done everybody concerned. Thank you for a very enjoyable evening. Roll on the next one!
Sincerely yours,
GLENDIA MASON (via email)

● Please turn to page 4 to see the mystery man behind the voice!





News from the Modern Foreign Languages Department



• **HOLA! MFL teacher, Miss Garcia, flies the flag for Spain as students hold aloft the initial letters received from their new pen friends at Parque Goya in Zaragoza.**

Forging links with Spain

TWENTY-THREE Year 9 Higham Lane students of Spanish are taking part in a pen friend letter exchange programme with Spanish secondary school Parque Goya in Zaragoza, Spain.

Higham Lane students wrote their first letter last term to introduce themselves to their new pen pals and received a letter in return from the Spanish students.

This term, we have already sent our second letter.

We are hoping to develop these initial links further.

MISS GARCIA, Modern Foreign Languages Department



National Citizen Service (NCS)

What is NCS?

National Citizen Service (NCS) is a life-changing experience offering 15 to 17 year olds to take part in adventurous activities; develop new valuable skills and meet new people. Over 200,000 teenagers have already benefited from taking part in NCS including over 30,000 completing NCS delivered by The Challenge in summer 2016.

Phase 1 - Adventure

Young people stay at an outdoors centre and take on new challenges; develop confidence and bond with team-mates on an action packed residential either in Wales, Lake District or Scotland.

Phase 2 - Skills

After a short break, young people will stay in University-style accommodation. Young people will learn a new skill in sport, media, photography, music, drama, enterprise or art.

Phase 3 - Social Action

Young people design a social action project to support their local community and pitch for funding to make it happen. Young people then return to deliver the campaign and work with local charities.



NCS at \ Higham Lane School

In 2016, 31 students from Higham Lane took part in NCS. Each NCS place is valued at over £1,000, but due to government support we ask for no more than £50, with financial support available if needed.

Your NCS representative is Nathan. If you have any questions, contact him at: nathan.alleyne@the-challenge.org

For more information or to sign up, visit NCS.THECHALLENGE.ORG or call 020 3542 2400

Magical musical Christmas!



KEEPING with tradition, Higham Lane School's magnificent musicians once again ensured Christmas got off to a sensational start thanks to four cracking concerts.

Getting the Yuletide celebrations underway was the Carol Concert, held as usual at Nuneaton's St Nicolas Parish Church.

The following Monday, students were again invited to play a matinee performance at Reg Hadden Court, situated opposite the School, where residents and staff thoroughly enjoyed a feast of festive song and music.

This was followed, two days later, by the Christmas Concert at the School, a record-breaking audience of 150 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 all played an assortment of

tunes, ably supported by several other performers with their interpretations of traditional carols, popular songs and compositions.

A repeat performance then took place the following morning when the audience was made up of senior citizens from the local community

This included one lady 94 years young on the day, who had a tear in her eye when the students gave her an impromptu rendition of 'Happy Birthday'!

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!"







Intriguing insight into the wonderful world of psychology



• **BEST FOOT FORWARD!** Dr Peter Lovatt (aka Dr Dance) demonstrates to Miss Moore and her Year 12 Psychology students how dance can uplift and energise people.

PSYCHOLOGY students experienced an insight into the remarkable world of the subject from professionals specialising in a variety of areas during a visit to Warwick University.

A range of speakers were present at the conference, including Jonathan Smith, who was the Sports Psychologist for the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and Charles Fernyhough from Durham University, who was able to explain why people hear voices in their heads.

However, the most popular speakers by far were Kerry Daynes and Dr Peter Lovatt. Kerry is a forensic psychologist who often appears on TV and advises the media about a number of topics, including why a serial killer might behave in such an abnormal way.

She gave insightful, and often shocking accounts of prisoners she has communicated with. Her talk inspired many of the Year 12 students to change their career path, and consider how they can become a forensic psychologist.

The highlight of the day, especially for me, was Dr Peter Lovatt, affectionately known as Dr Dance! When Peter is not giving his expert opinion on TV shows such as BBC's 'Strictly Come Dancing – Bit On The Side', he can be found boogying in his dance laboratory at the University of Hertfordshire.

He spoke of how dance can be beneficial for people suffering with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease – which prompted curious students to ask more about this interesting area of research.

His charm and energy is infectious and ensured that all the students were up dancing to a routine that he had taught them.

This emphasised the power that dance has to uplift and energise people . . . there were smiles and laughter all round!

So next time you feel a bit low, have a dance and let the endorphins flow!

MISS MOORE
Teacher in Charge Psychology



Term dates and holidays

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
Break-up for Easter.

MONDAY, APRIL 24
Inset Day.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25
Summer term commences.

MONDAY, MAY 1
Bank Holiday.

FRIDAY, MAY 26
Break-up for half-term.

MONDAY, JUNE 5
Summer term recommences.

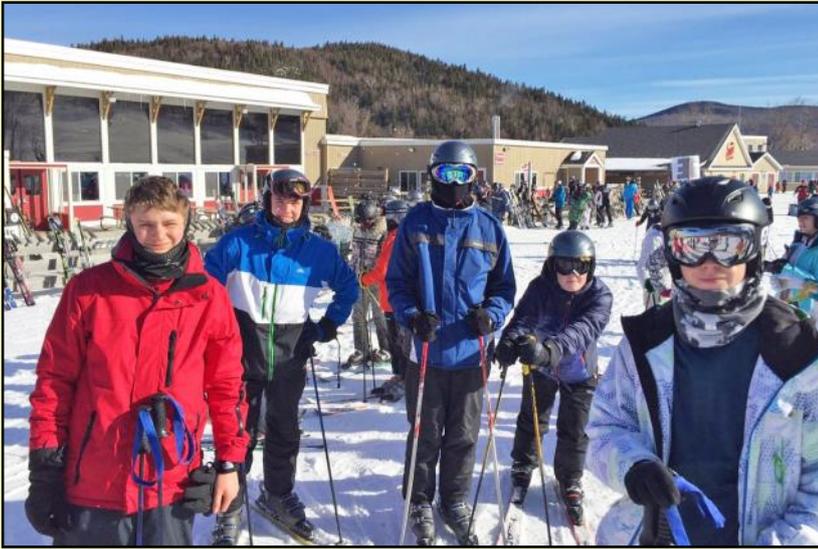
FRIDAY, JULY 21
Break-up for summer holidays.

A comprehensive list of calendar dates can be found on the School's website —
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 Tuesday, July 18, 2017. Would you please ensure all your contributions are with Mr Nikols by Friday, July 7, at the very latest. Thank you.



● **WHITE OUT!** There's lots of snow for skiers in the hills of New Hampshire during February's half-term trip.

Brilliant time on the American adventure

THE return to a February half-term ski trip proved worth it considering all the snow we had at our resorts of Cannon and Loon in New Hampshire. Seventy students learnt to ski or improved their techniques during the week-long adventure, with all of us skiing from the top of the mountain on the final day!

The stop-over in New York was breath-taking. Arriving in the early evening we were able to see Times Square in all of its glory, before eating burgers at the Hard Rock Café.

Basking in the early spring sunshine the following day, we took the students to the Ground Zero memorial, ventured up the new One Observatory building to see Manhattan from the skies, and took the Staten Island ferry across the Hudson River.

Before we left, a lunch stop at the world renowned Grand Central Station was also a treat. Overall a brilliant trip!

MRS MITCHELL

Subject Leader for CPSHEE

● Mrs Mitchell is already planning next year's trip. Keep a look out for the letters coming out shortly.



● **VERY SMART!** Four of the boys look forward to bit of snowboarding.



● **SUPER SKIIER!** Macauley (10S1) had a great time!



● **READY FOR THE SLOPES!** Preparing for a trip downhill.



● **THERE'S SNOW IN THEM THERE HILLS!** It's group photo time.



● **SLIPPERY CUSTOMERS!** Visit to an ice rink.



● **ROCK 'N' ROLL!** At the Hard Rock Café in New York.



● **WHEN THE BOAT COMES IN!** The group checks out Pier 16, the boarding area for New York's famous water taxi and tours on the Hudson River.



News from the Physical Education Department

Born leaders!

TWENTY-FOUR Year 8 students were asked to be leaders and help out with the officiating of the Warwickshire School Games Infant Agility competition in Rugby.

The students had to time, count and measure all the different events and work out all the scores for the 240 Year 1 and Year 2 students who took part.

They did an absolutely amazing job under a great deal of pressure from the watching parents and primary school teachers.

Well done to all our leaders who were a credit to the PE Department and have been asked to help out at another event in June.

MR WILSON
Subject Leader for PE



• **BRILLIANT START** — Above and below, the 24 students who acted as leaders at the Warwickshire School Games' Infant Agility competition



• **YEAR 8 BOYS** — Jack, Ben, Finlay and Harry.



• **YEAR 8 GIRLS** — Mia, Sophie, Gabriella and Daisy.

Swimmingly brilliant!

HAVING three teams representing Northern Warwickshire at the finals of the County School Games was a great achievement for Higham Lane School.

There were fantastic individual performances by the Year 7 & Year 8 'flyers', all winning their races and otherwise known as Harry Beverley, Lucy Simpson & Gabriella Watts, Ben Stewart for his first place in the 50m backstroke and the Year 8 boys team who came first in both of their relays.

Overall, and under great pressure from some very good teams from across the county, the Year 8 boys' team finished second and the Year 7 & 8 girls teams came fourth. Well done to all of our swimmers!

MRS MITCHELL, PE Department



• **YEAR 7 GIRLS** — Abbie, Lucy and Vienna. Missing from photo: Kiera.



Courting success!

Key Stage 3 Girls Badminton

THE Year 8 and 9 girls' badminton team have shown good improvement over the season.

In November they finished runners-up in the District Tournament. Since then they have won three League fixtures and drawn two. This means they finish the season as League winners.

Key Stage 3 Boys Badminton

The Year 9 boys' badminton team have had a fantastic season this year. In November they won the District tournament without losing a game. They have won every one of their League fixtures to win the District League with ease.

In the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals, they won their first two games 5-0 against Alcester and Park Hall but in their third match they just lost 3-2 against a very strong Bluecoat. They therefore went into the third-fourth play-off which they won 3-2 against Tudor Grange.

Key Stage 4 Girls Badminton

The Year 10 girls' badminton team has played superbly this year. They easily won the District tournament and strolled to victory in all four of their League matches to win the title again.

In the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals they played in some very tough matches but won 4-1 against Stratford Girls, 5-0 against Park Hall and 3-2 against Bluecoat.

This meant they progressed through to the final, playing St Peters, where they unfortunately lost 4-1.

Key Stage 4 Boys Badminton

The Year 11 boys' badminton team has played wonderfully well this year. They easily won the District tournament and District League, only losing two games along the way.

In the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire finals they won their three group games 5-0 against Alcester, Park Hall and Ernesford Grange.

This meant a repeat of last year's final against a very good Lawrence Sheriff team. The boys continued to play excellent badminton but unfortunately just lost out 3-2 to finish runners- up.

DISTRICT LEAGUE RESULTS

Under-14 Girls: Ash Green W 5-3, Twycross W 7-1, Polesworth D 4-4, NCS D 4-4, George Eliot W 6-2. Winners!

Under-14 Boys: Hartshill W 7-1, Ash Green W 7-1, St Thomas More W 7-1, Twycross W 8-0, Polesworth W 8-0, NCS W 8-0, George Eliot W 8-0. Winners!

Under -16 Girls: Hartshill W 6-2, Ash Green W 8-0, Polesworth W 5-3, NCS Won 8-0. Winners!

Under-16 Boys: Hartshill W 8-0, Ash Green W 8-0, St Thomas More W 8-0, Polesworth W 7-1, NCS W 8-0, George Eliot W 7-1. Winners!

MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE



• **THE YEAR 9 BADMINTON TEAM** — Chris, Will, Jake and Ryan (Year 7).



• **THE YEAR 10 GIRLS' BADMINTON TEAM** — Beth, Billie-Jo, Hannah and Asmita.



• **THE YEAR 11 BADMINTON TEAM** — Rohit, Josh, Armaan and Yakoub.



News from the Physical Education Department



• **SCINTILLATING SEASON** — Left to right: Laura, Leah, Katie, Billie-Jo, Megan, Hannah, Asmita, Morgan and Kristen.

Fantastic high-scoring season

THE only way to describe the Year 10 netball season is 'fantastic'!

The girls won the Nuneaton & District Tournament at a canter after scoring a grand total of 109 goals with only three conceded, beating Nicolas Chamberlaine 29-0, Twycross 21-1, Queen Elizabeth 28-2 and Ash Green 36-0.

In addition, they also finished runners-up in the County tournament, narrowly losing to King's High in a closely-fought final.

The girls defeated Shottery 13-2, Stratford 12-5 and Kingsley 13-5 to reach the semis, where they convincingly despatched Princethorpe 21-3.

Despite a valiant attempt, the girls lost 7-5 in the final to a very talented King's High team.

MRS DAVIES, PE Department

Sensational start for newcomers!

THE Year 7 girls have made a sensational start to their Higham Lane School netballing careers.

So great has been the support from students wishing to play, that Higham has been the only school to field 'A', 'B' and 'C' teams in both the League and Nuneaton & District tournaments!

The 'C' team has shown great commitment and sportsmanship throughout the season, even beating some 'A' teams in the tournament rounds!

The 'B' team has also produced some good netball and finished a very creditable third in the League.

However, the 'A' team has enjoyed an absolutely outstanding season, topped by scoring 47 goals in the town tournament without conceding any in reply!

In the League, they again came up with some breath-taking attacking play, scoring an incredible 108 goals, while conceding just two!

In late March, the team travelled to Leamington to play in the Warwickshire County Tournament where the girls won their section comfortably, beating Princethorpe, Alcester Grammar and North Leamington to reach the semi-finals.

In the semis they faced a King's High squad, who have been together for the past three years and, despite playing exceptionally well, narrowly lost 7-5.

Coach, Mrs Davies, commented: "What a great season the Year 7s have had, which is due to the huge number of girls who turn up for training each week."

MRS DAVIES, PE Department



• **BRILLIANT START** — The Year 7 'A' netball team. Back row (left to right) Kiera, Freya (vice-captain), Millie, Emma and Hannah (captain). Front: Lily, Charlie, Kiera and Ellie.



News from the Physical Education Department

Table tennis team nets third place!

THE Year 10 and 11 table tennis team represented North Warwickshire in the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire tournament on Friday, February 3, held at John Henry Newman College in Solihull.

They had won the North Warwickshire tournament at George Eliot School in November to qualify, but knew the finals would be tough with some County and England players on show.

After a long journey and sitting through a lengthy opening ceremony, the tournament finally began.

The event is organised into two groups of four teams with the top two teams progressing through to the semi-finals.

The Higham Lane team of four players consisted of Jamie (10H2) playing at Seed 1, Kieron (10S2) Seed 2, Cameron (11S2) Seed 3 and Adam (11H1) Seed 4.

In their first game, against Studley High, the team got off to a disappointing start, losing 3 matches to 1. This, however, only seemed to motivate the team to up-their-game and in the second match the quartet remained undefeated as they beat Park Hall 4-0.

In the final group game they easily saw



● **THIRD PLACE** — The Year 10/11 table tennis team (left to right) Cameron, Kieron, Adam and Jamie.

off the attentions of Stoke Park 4-0 to qualify for the semi-final.

Unfortunately, their semi-final was against a very strong Ashlawn School who had one England player and one County player. Dispute playing very well, they were beaten 4-0 and would therefore be in a play-off for third place

with Studley High, who they had lost to in the group stage.

All matches were very close but Higham Lane played some excellent table tennis to take revenge from their earlier loss to win and therefore finish third in all of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE

Indoor athletes in fine form

FOLLOWING victory in the District competition, the Year 7 boys' indoor athletics team qualified for the School Games finals in Solihull.

They produced some excellent individual results in all the running events and against some very strong teams, finishing fifth in all of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

The Year 8 girls' team also won the District

competition, and qualified for the School Games finals in Solihull.

They ran extremely well in the individual and relay events, and finished high-up in the field events to finish fifth overall in all of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

MR WILSON, Subject Leader for PE



● **SPEEDY STUDENTS!** The Year 7 boys' and Year 8 girls' indoor athletics teams.



News from the Physical Education Department



• **WORKING HARD!** David (7L3) and Vikram (8S2).



• **EVERYONE WELCOME!** Boxing Club is open to girls and boys two mornings each week.

Boxing Club a big hit!

AS A means of improving health and increasing confidence, exercise sessions don't come much better than boxing.

Mr Jhutti and I had this in mind when we set up Higham Lane's first Boxing Club before Christmas and it's really taken off at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Despite the early(ish!) 8am start, we regularly get 15 to 20 students on a Tuesday and Wednesday morning doing all sorts of boxing-related activities including skipping, pad work, footwork and rounds on the heavy bag.

We started by introducing them to the basic punches but they've progressed so well, we're now looking at much more technical elements of the sport and they've taken to it all with real energy and enthusiasm; their willingness to learn and work hard make the sessions a real pleasure to coach.

Although the sessions we do in school are non-contact, technical sessions (due to the level of qualification I have), we had our first Boxing Club trip to a brilliant local martial arts gym, Combat and Exercise, where students were given an intense workout by one of the resident coaches and also had the chance to spar with each other — an experience they absolutely loved.

After Easter, we'll be starting the Higham Lane Boxing Club Fitness Challenge as the Club continues to go from strength to strength, and new members are always welcome.

MR BOTTRILL, PE Department



• **EARLY MORNING WORKOUT!** Mr Bottrill and Mr Jhutti with the enthusiastic boxers who attend Boxing Club.



Focus on the National Schools' Netball Finals



HLS Express Sport



• **NATIONAL PRIDE** — Back row (left to right): Lucy (County honours), Asmita, Georgia, captain (County/Regional/Wasps), Leah (County), Kristen (County/Regional), Christie, captain (County), Daisy, Amy (County) and Faye. Front: Laura (County), Maisie (County) and Becky.

HIGH-FIVE!

Netballers are fifth best team in the country!

A BIG high-five to Higham Lane School's Under-16 netball squad who returned from this year's National Schools' Finals as fifth best team in the country!

The girls travelled to Stanborough School in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, for this year's event after qualifying as one of the top 18 schools in England.

This meant they had to be top of their game, especially in their first match against Hulme Grammar, winners at Under-14 level in 2015.

A thrilling match ensued which saw Higham narrowly ahead throughout until the last 30 seconds when Hulme intercepted the ball and scored a breakaway goal to win 10-9 as the final whistle blew.

This turned out to be costly as the result would eventually lead to Higham missing out on a coveted semi-final place.

Undeterred, the girls produced outstanding netball during the remainder of the day — great defensive play leading to opposing teams not having a second chance at goal while superb attacking play was rewarded with a string of convincing victories.

This meant the team finished a fantastic third in section, narrowly missing out on a medal position.

Proud coach, Mrs Davies, said: "I am over the moon with the girls taking fifth place in the Nationals and delighted that some team members are staying on at school and will become part of the first-ever HLS Sixth Form team!

"A special mention to the two captains — Christie and Georgia

— for their fantastic leadership, not only at the Nationals, but over the past five years."

The road to the Nationals was paved by way of a pulsating performance in February's West Midlands Tournament.

Victorious in five of their six section games, the girls found themselves in the semi-finals, up against the winners of the other section — King's Worcester.

Having watched them play in a previous round, Mrs Davies knew the opposition was vulnerable if Higham played to their full potential.

King's went into the game oozing with confidence but were soon pegged back and suffered a humbling 13-7 defeat thanks to a dogged display by Higham.

Unfortunately, the Worcester side were so sure of victory that they took the defeat in poor taste, refusing to shake hands at the end of the match!

Nevertheless, the Higham girls were overjoyed as reaching the final — win or lose — guaranteed them a lucrative place in the Nationals as one of England's top 18 schools' netball teams.

Despite a valiant effort, Higham lost to an outstanding Bromsgrove side, but were overjoyed at knowing that five years' hard graft was being rewarded with a fitting finalé.

To finish fifth in the Nationals was the icing on the cake of their Higham Lane netballing career!

MRS DAVIES, PE Department

• For more photographs please turn to P31.