



Friday 21st November 2025

Assessment weeks are underway!

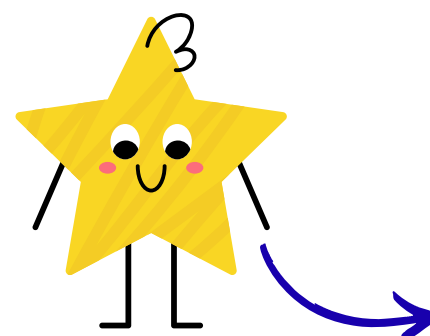
As you are aware, this week students have been sitting assessments in their subjects, and these will continue into next week. Their attitude towards these has been superb – I have heard various conversations from students around school about what revision they have been completing at home, and in class they have approached their assessments with great maturity. Teachers have been informing me of how impressed they are with their effort and approach, and I am pleased that we are already building what we call 'exam stamina' – being able to recall knowledge and skills, and to concentrate and write for extended periods of time. This will really bode well for their progress over the next five years.

What happens next?

Teachers will begin marking assessments over the next couple of weeks and in turn students will receive feedback in class, celebrating subject strengths and identifying areas to work on and improve. Please remember that these assessments are one piece of the learning jigsaw so to speak, and we are at the beginning of the KS3 curriculum learning journey. Students also complete daily lower-stakes assessments in their lessons. Looking through all work and assessments in exercise books and knowledge booklets will help to complete the picture of how well your child is learning the curriculum at the present time. Please continue to discuss your child's learning with them using their exercise books and booklets, paying close attention to the green pen work as this is where they will have been instructed to either address a misconception or error, or to uplevel a response and make it even more effective. Thank you for your continued support – together as a partnership between school and home, we can really make a difference to the progress and outcomes for your child, helping them to achieve the best possible results with their learning.

Communicating directly to you from our North Stars!

This week I am handing part of the newsletter over to some of our students who wanted to share with you what they have been learning in some subjects since they joined Higham Lane North Academy. I am sure you will enjoy reading about their experiences so far and thank you to Edward, Sophie, Ernie and Abbie who have shared their thoughts this week!



Fantastic French by Abbie

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Abbie! This means, Hello, I am Abbie! In French we have covered greetings, numbers, the alphabet, our families and much more! Miss Hampton, (who is our brilliant French teacher), helps us remember more by saying things ten times over and over again! This is how I learnt J'ai, tu as, il a, elle a, on a, nous avons, vous avez, ils ont and elles ont – and now I know these off by heart! These mean I have, you have, he has, she has, one has, we have, you lot have, they (male) have and they (female) have and these are all linked to the verb 'avoir'. I have really enjoyed singing songs to memorise French words, especially 'quel age as-tu?' which means, 'how old are you?' I am really looking forward to going to Northern France which is at the end of the year. J'ai onze ans, j'ai deux soeurs et mon anniversaire est en juin, (I am eleven years old, I have two sisters and my birthday is in June). Au Revoir!

Design Engineering links to the real world by Edward

I have really enjoyed Design, particularly when we began looking at how the McDonald Happy Meals have been adapted to be even more suitable for children, for example, they now make vegan happy meals. This was really interesting to see how companies have to adapt. We then created our own Happy Meal which I really enjoyed thinking about the different foods that children would enjoy. We are now learning about the safety of the workshop and we have been creating our jigsaws using different wood types. Miss Quigley makes the lessons really enjoyable because she is always helpful and supportive. I am really looking forward to using the workshop and using our practical skills in woodwork and metal work.

We have learnt so much in Science! by Ernie

In science we have been learning about cells and muscles. These topics are fascinating because in the cells topic, we have learnt what they are called and what function they have. In the muscles topic, we have learnt about the different jobs they have. We also learnt that when one muscle contracts, the other relaxes. For example, the Bicep and Tricep: when the Bicep relaxes the Tricep will contract and these are called antagonistic pairs. In my opinion, I think the topic cells is the best because I found learning about the function of the cells interesting. These are some of the cells and their job:

Nucleus: The nucleus controls the cell. Chloroplast: This is where photosynthesis takes place. Cytoplasm: Where the cells activities take place. Cell membrane: It controls what goes in and out the cell. Vacuole: A large storage space filled with cell sap. Cell wall: It is made from cellulose and it protects the cell.

I enjoy science lessons because I find learning new things interesting. Doing experiments is a fun way to learn. My favourite investigations have been making an arm with the bicep and tricep relaxing and contracting. We also did a Skittle colour experiment to investigate whether hot or cold water dissolves the colour fastest. Unfortunately, we weren't allowed to eat the Skittles!

Our North Stars shine brightly!

Please share your child's achievements with us!

We are delighted that so far, every child at HLNA has attended a co-curricular club and taken part in our North Star guarantee and we will be sharing more about each club over the coming weeks. However, we would also like to share what our North Stars do outside of school!! If you are happy for your child's interest and achievements to be shared as part of our end-of-term assemblies, our newsletter and on social media, please send us a photo with key information regarding their achievements and we will share their success with our community! We can't wait to read these!

International Men's Day

We were delighted to shine a light on all positive male role models in our North Stars' lives to celebrate International Men's Day this week. We talked about well-known inspirational males in House time and in our Assembly, and crucially we also celebrated positive male role models in our daily lives. We also sought to raise awareness of men's wellbeing and were delighted with how all our students thought deeply about how being a positive male role model is important to a community that is compassionate and looks after each other.



Tips for using ParentPay and purchasing food:



- On the App, you can view a daily breakdown of what your child is purchasing. It may be helpful to discuss with your child the type of balanced lunch you would like them to choose.
- Students are welcome to bring their own water bottle, and we encourage them to do so. Therefore purchasing drinks from the canteen is not necessary at all. This will save you a good deal of money, particularly when we have water fountains that they can fill their bottle up with!
- To help keep costs down, you may wish to encourage your child to buy food at either break or lunch, rather than at both times. There is only 1 hour between break and lunch!
- Students are very welcome to bring their own food from home, whether a packed lunch or items in a warm flask. Many of our students choose to do this, as do our staff!
- If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, the meal deal is worth £2.65. If your child spends more than this (they shouldn't need to), this is not covered and you will need to top-up the account to pay for any further items beyond the £2.65.

As the weather has become noticeably colder, please ensure that your child is wearing a coat. Please refer to the uniform policy regarding coats which should be black/navy blue. Thank you.

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

Monday 24th November – Thursday 27th November – Assessment Period continues

Tuesday 25th November – Flu Immunisations

Friday 28th November – Wellbeing day – Students do not need to be in school on this day

Wednesday 1st December – SEND Cafe 2.00pm–3.00pm

Wednesday 3rd December 3.30 – 5pm – School and Families Christmas Fayre

Monday 8th December – SLT Coffee and Chat 3.45pm Agenda to follow

Tuesday 9th December – Carol Service at St Nicolas Church, Nuneaton 6.00pm

Wednesday 10th December evening – Trip to The Nutcracker Ballet, Rugby

Thursday 11th December – Staff and pupils Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 16th December PM – Pantomime at Bedworth Civic Hall

Wednesday 17th December – HLNA's Christmas Spectacular 6.00pm

Thursday 18th December – Staff and Pupils Karaoke/HLNA's Got Talent!

Friday 19th December – last day of term. More details to follow.

On a personal note,

Once again, we have had an extremely productive week at HLNA. Thank you for your ongoing support and please remember that next Friday, students will not be in school, having earned their long weekend after their assessment period! Have a peaceful weekend,

Best wishes,



Kirstie Robinson.

Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.