

Higham Lane North Academy NEWSLETTER



Friday 12th September 2025

Following a hugely successful Inauguration Week, we have now begun our academic curriculum in earnest.

You may have already heard from your child about the wide range of lessons they've experienced this week. Many students have particularly enjoyed more practical subjects, such as Design Technology, Art, Music, Computer Science, and PE and our teachers have been impressed by the enthusiasm and effort shown in all lessons. They truly have all been superb learners this week!

Students have also received their knowledge booklets for each subject. These booklets will support their learning and guide them through the curriculum areas. We encourage you to take a few minutes to look through these booklets with your child. Each one includes an overview of the topics they will be covering this year. Discussing the learning journeys can help your child to connect with their learning and understand how it fits into the bigger picture. If you are also able to, pre-reading any vocabulary or learning ahead of next lessons, also helps your child to access learning more fully. This is particularly useful if your child finds a particular subject difficult.

Please also take a moment to ask your child what they remember from the assembly this week and remind them that this was about how we can train our brains to remember more over time! If they have forgotten some of this content, please remind them that this is normal for our brains and why we are all going to train our brains so that we can be successful. We also talked about how our learning is like running a race – that if we want to win gold, we must prepare and train for it – and this is exactly the same with our learning! Within this, we have reminded all students that all we ask from them is to be the best version of themselves, it is not about getting the best marks (although we like that too!) but it is about 100% effort, something we can all do, because 'we are conscientious.'

Governor Visit – A Historic First!

This week, we held our very first Governors' meeting at HLNA – another historic milestone for our school!

Our Governing Body plays a vital role in supporting the development of HLNA, and at this first meeting, they provided an excellent balance of constructive challenge and support to help ensure that every child receives the very best education. We are incredibly grateful for their time, expertise, and commitment. We're already looking forward to welcoming them back in November, when they will visit during the school day to see HLNA in action and experience our vibrant learning environment firsthand.

Spotlight on ATTENDANCE

Good Attendance Means...

Being in school at least 98% of the time.
This means 7 Days Off!

Good attendance is vital for your child to get the qualifications they need now to progress on to further education and open up career paths.



Attendance is the first step on this ladder to success. Without it, your child will be cut off from lots of opportunities in the future. This could impact their ability to get the job they want, and their potential earnings.

Department for Education research shows that **17 school days of absence** results in all of a student's GCSE grades dropping by one grade.

This could be the difference between passing or failing any of their courses.

Our current attendance figure stands at an excellent 98.7%, so a huge thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school every day. Our whole-school attendance target is 97%, so we are already exceeding this thanks to your efforts.



We have a number of exciting rewards coming up to recognise excellent attendance — including the opportunity to earn a 100% Attendance badge and to be part of our 98% Attendance Club. At the moment, every student in our year group is eligible to be part of one of these clubs, which is fantastic to see! Let's continue to work together to keep attendance strong.

Of course, we completely understand that there will be times when a child is genuinely too unwell to attend school, and in those cases, rest is the right choice. However, as we head into the colder months, we also know that minor sniffles, coughs, and tiredness can become more common. Thank you in advance for helping to normalise coming to school even when your child is feeling under the weather — it's an important part of building resilience and good habits in order to be the successful people we all want them to be.

Please rest assured that if a child tells us they are not feeling well, we will always respond with care and support. This might include giving them a short break to rest and recharge, offering a snack or drink of water, or letting their teachers know so adjustments can be made.

We all want your child to be as successful as possible, and every day in school truly counts — learning time lost can't be reclaimed. Thank you for working with us to prioritise attendance and learning.

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

Tuesday 23rd September – 5pm in the Hall. Year 7 Family Information Evening. Key information about how to ensure your child is successful in Year 7. Further details next week!

Additional Co-Curricular Club: Every Wednesday WEEK A Badminton Club 3.15pm – 4.15pm. Meet in the Sports Hall.

Tuesday 2nd October – Staying Safe day – more details coming soon!

Tuesday 2nd October – Family Review Evening. More details coming soon.

Leadership opportunities!

Pupil Council, Sports Leaders, House Leaders, Subject Leaders and Anti-Bullying Ambassador opportunities – please encourage your child to apply!

Please bear with us with some of our IT systems such as Class Charts. We are experiencing technical difficulties with some systems which are beyond the school's control. We are working closely with the companies to remedy this situation as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Road Safety Reminder

We've been regularly reminding students about the importance of staying safe on their journey to and from school. Please take a moment to reinforce this message at home.

In particular, we ask that you remind your child to take extra care when crossing Higham Lane. There are two separate crossings on this road, and it's essential that students:

- Wait for the traffic lights to turn red before crossing the first section of the road.
- Then, wait again at the central island until the lights turn red a second time before crossing the remaining section safely.

Following this two-step crossing process is vital for their safety, especially during busy times of the day. Thank you for your support in helping us keep all students safe.

We would like to also thank you for being very considerate drivers along Upper Farm Drive and respecting the school zone area.

On a personal note,

We continue to be impressed with how well your children have settled in and they are all giving everything their best. Thank you for your continued support and I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,



Kirstie Robinson.

Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.

**FREE BOOKS
FOR YOUR
SCHOOL WHEN
YOU BUY AT
THE BOOK FAIR!**

From Tuesday 16th - Thursday 18th September
pupils can come to the Library at break time and
have a look at books that they may wish to buy.

Parents/Carers are invited to the Book Fair on
Tuesday 16th September between
3.30pm - 4.15pm.

 **SCHOLASTIC**



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BOOK

FAIR!

**LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED
TO DONATE OVER £5.3M BOOKS TO
SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE**

**A POP-UP
BOOK-STORE WITH
HUNDREDS OF BOOKS
FROM JUST
£2.99**

Payment at our Book Fair

- Students will be able to browse the book fair at breaktimes and write down a 'wish list' of books.
- Parents can log on to the website or use the QR code on the wish list to purchase any of the books from list and complete and return the form with the student with which books they have paid for.
- Students will then receive these books the next day.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £5.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.



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