

Higham Lane North Academy

NEWSLETTER



Friday 17th April 2026

Welcome back!

I think we all recognise that getting back into the rhythm of routines after a break can be a challenge for us all, and so this week we have worked hard with students to explain how routines make us successful as people. We began the week with an assembly celebrating the success of the Artemis II mission to the moon and how key aspects of this, such as critical thinking and problem solving, considering ethics and big questions, global collaboration, a growth mindset, resilience and high standards, are all skills, qualities and the acquisition of knowledge that we need and develop in school. After our assembly, we built on these messages with a 're-set and refresh' lesson where students were reminded about our routines that make us safe and successful as learners, and more importantly, as people. This is always our routine after a break to help support students in being successful when they are at school.

I am also delighted to share with you that the overwhelming majority of our students never receive a Reflection (detention) or demerits. Our teachers work hard to ensure that there are excellent working practices within the classroom and we also communicate our values daily with students to ensure that our school has high expectations alongside excellent levels of care and support. It is a credit to them, and to you as families with your support, that students consistently display that they are 'proud because we always do what is right.'

Pupil Parliament – students, have your say!

This week we met with members of Pupil Parliament who are working with their Houses to gather all students' views on the school, celebrating what is going well, and if there are any improvements they would like to see. We have also asked students to give their thoughts and views for what students would like to do on Rewards Day on Friday 10th July, and also what trips and visits they would like us to explore over the coming years. We are looking forward to Pupil Parliament reporting back to us next week! Watch this space for more information!

Students have also been completing surveys in school giving their feedback on all aspects of school life. We listen seriously to how students are feeling about their experiences and always seek to respond in appropriate ways.

Parent Feedback

Thank you for your time in attending our recent Student Progress Evenings. As part of our ongoing commitment to an excellent education for your child, please take a moment to complete this survey that has previously been shared with you:

<https://forms.gle/hPXq4AIPcuYFyTxDA>

The survey deadline is Monday 12pm. If you have already completed it, there is no need to complete it again

Assessments – Monday 11th to Friday 22nd May

Students are assessed daily in lessons in a very low-stakes way to help them remember their learning. We also have two assessment periods during the year where we use assessments to understand how well students are learning the KS3 curriculum overall. Prior to the above assessment period, our RAP weeks (Revise and Practice) will commence from Monday 27th April – Friday 8th May. These are supportive weeks where students are reminded of what and how to revise in each subject with revision sessions replacing homework activities. We have planned these carefully to help students build study stamina and gain the learning habits that will be required for them to be successful throughout secondary school, and of course when they are in Year 11 – although we appreciate that this is a way off yet. In our Care and Support curriculum, we also provide key guidance around building independence, resilience and having a growth mindset for success. Thank you for your support as we approach our second assessment window – and with ensuring that your child is in school every day so that no learning opportunity is lost.



Reading – we are ‘word-rich’

As you know we are greatly committed to the importance of reading, both within lessons, and reading for pleasure. In lessons, curriculum leaders have chosen ambitious texts for students to read in lessons, we read these texts carefully and new vocabulary is explained and spoken aloud to support students’ literacy skills. We encourage students to read for pleasure through a variety of ongoing initiatives, and our Accelerated Reading programme, as part of the English curriculum, also ensures that students are building strong stamina for reading.

As part of our commitment to reading and also celebrating 2026 – the year of reading alongside our Ambitions Pathway Programme, we had the pleasure of welcoming local children’s author Ben Davis, who inspired us with his talent and enthusiasm for reading and writing. He treated us to readings from his brilliantly humorous books and explained how many of his ideas come from everyday life experiences.

Ben also shared valuable tips on how to improve our writing and encouraged us to continue to enjoy reading. One particularly amusing moment was when he revealed that many of his characters are inspired by embarrassing family members – something everyone could relate to, as shown by a sea of raised hands! Ben also shared with students how to become a writer, from ‘snowballing experiences’ to editing, securing an agent and approaching publishing houses – truly inspirational!



We are Reading Schools!

It has also been a privilege to work with Year 4 Milby readers this term as a partnership between both schools. Our North Star Reading Leaders have used their leadership skills to mentor they Year 4 pupils and to share their passion for reading. This week the project culminated in a final workshop to create reading superheroes! We have been so impressed with Year 4 Milby pupils and of course our North Reading Leaders. Well done to everyone who has been involved in promoting our shared love of reading!



Finally,

Thank you for supporting your child with a very positive return to school for the summer term. I hope that you and your families all have a peaceful weekend.

Best wishes,

Kirstie Robinson.
Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE NEWSLETTER



Click to read!

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

- 21st May – CEAT Day of Cultural Diversity
- 11th – 22nd May Assessment Weeks
- 25th May – Half-Term
- 4th June – SEND Coffee & Communication for Families 4pm
- 10th June – SLT Coffee & Communication for Families 4pm
- 12th June – Student Wellbeing Day - students do not attend school. Staff INSET.
- 1st July – Summer Fayre
- 3rd July – Sports Day
- 10th July – Year 7 Rewards Day
- 13th – 15th July – French Trip
- 15th July – Wellbeing Rewards Afternoon
- 17th July – Rewards Assembly and last day of term

