

Higham Lane North Academy NEWSLETTER



Thursday 27th November

Thank you for your amazing generosity and support for Nuneaton in Need day!



It is wonderful to be able to begin this week's newsletter with a huge thank you for your recent support with our Charity Day for George Eliot Hospital's special baby unit. Together as a school community we raised an outstanding £879! As we have been saying at school this week, at Higham North, we all certainly enjoy a slice of cake! For one year group of 154 students this amount is exceptional. The fundraising team at George Eliot Hospital, along with the baby unit staff, have also asked us to pass on their heartfelt thanks. Your contribution will make a real and meaningful difference to tiny babies and their families during their most challenging moments. Thank you very much for your continued kindness, generosity, and commitment to making a difference in our town and community.

Christmas is a time to come together..!

Say 'Hello' to HLNA's Year 7 Choir! This week our Trust's school choirs all came together at our school to record a special song that we will show students and showcase at our Christmas Spectacular next month! Alongside Higham Lane School, Oakwood Primary, Oakwood Secondary and Michael Drayton Junior School, the choirs performed together with Makaton to accompany the songs. All schools from within our Trust performed brilliantly, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience – it truly was a heartwarming morning for all involved.



Christmas is a time to come together..!

We are excited to be hosting our very first Christmas Fayre! Thank you very much for all gifts and contributions donated so far. Students have been working hard on their stalls with their House Champions and are looking forward to offering their products to all customers! We have a wide range of stalls and activities from raffles, tombola, hot chocolates, festive stocking fillers, fun and games, alongside high quality refreshments such as our Gourmet Hog Roast (vegetarian option available)! As we have been so good this year, we may also get a visit from someone special ... ho, ho, ho! If you are able to, please come along to support our North Stars, and we extend our invitation to extended members of your families as well. It will be a wonderful start to the festive season, and we look forward to coming together as a school community. Raffle tickets are available to buy either from the school office or on the evening £1 per ticket or £5 for a strip of tickets!

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!

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.

Communicating directly to you from our North Stars!

This week Miss Quigley, Curriculum Leader for Art and Design & Technology will be sharing the journey of Art so far for our North Stars. I have been particularly impressed with both students' attitudes towards their artwork which has resulted in some exceptional progress being made by all.

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

Friday 28th November – Wellbeing day – Students do not need to be in school on this day
Monday 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 – Christmas rewards: Pantomime at Bedworth Civic Hall/Christmas activities in school
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,

Thank you for your support with Assessment Weeks and we hope that the students enjoy their extended weekend. We are looking forward to further events over the coming weeks where the school will once again come together as a community and we very much appreciate that your support as families ensures that these events are a great success.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend,


Best wishes,



Kirstie Robinson.

Headteacher
Higham Lane North
Academy.



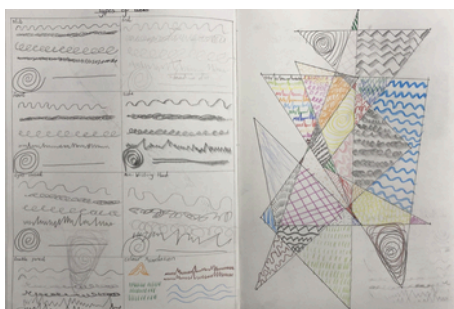


SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

Art

During the first term at HLNA, Y7 students have been exploring the Formal Elements of Art. We have been looking at line, tone, colour, shape, and pattern through a range of practical activities and guided experimentation. Students have been learning how artists use these elements to communicate ideas and develop their own visual style. They have been working in their sketchbooks to practise using each formal element, followed by an outcome, helping students build confidence and a strong foundation for future projects in art.

Alongside building their artistic skills, students have also demonstrated their North Star values of being confident, conscientious, and compassionate. They have shown confidence by sharing their growing knowledge during class discussions, talking about their own artwork, and experimenting with new techniques. Their conscientious approach is evident in the care and pride taken with their sketchbook, attention to detail, and their eagerness to refine and improve their work. Students have also displayed compassion by offering constructive peer feedback, supporting one another during practical tasks, and celebrating each other's progress. Together, these skills and values have helped create a positive, collaborative studio atmosphere.

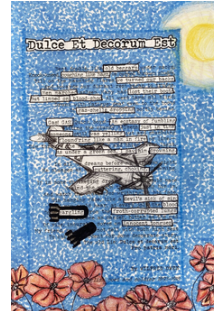
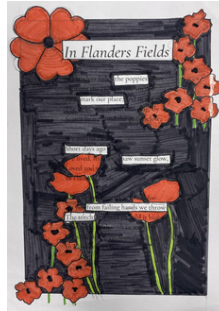


Graye:
"The art lessons are calm and peaceful. I have enjoyed the activity we did in art club when we drew balloon letters. I am looking forward to painting the colour wheel in our art lessons."

Students have further showcased their North Star values in the artwork created for Remembrance Day. As part of their Remembrance work, students created their own blackout poetry by selecting key words and phrases from three poems studied in English: The Soldier, Dulce et Decorum Est, and In Flanders Fields. To enhance their work, students added their own drawings and artwork in the background using imagery and symbolism to deepen the impact of their poems. This project allowed students to combine their literacy skills with creative expression, and they produced thoughtful and visually powerful artworks.

Layton:

"In art, I enjoy drawing and shading. The art lessons are very good and interesting, and help a lot with learning how to get better at art. The lesson I have enjoyed the most in art is shading and tone, and I am looking forward to learning about Henri Matisse when we learn about shape as his art is very bright and colourful."



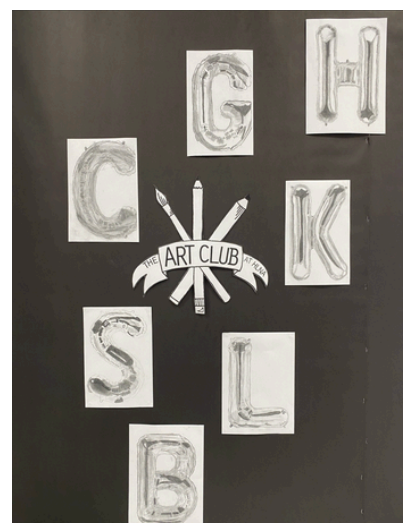
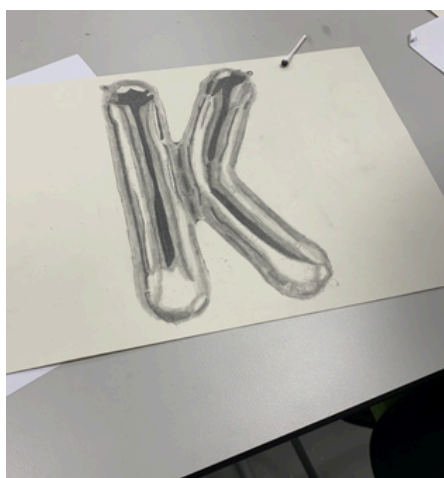
Students have been extending their art knowledge beyond the classroom by completing a homework task to "reinvent the colour wheel." Rather than simply recreating a traditional colour wheel with art materials, they were encouraged to apply their understanding of colour theory in creative and personal ways. Using a wide range of materials from Lego to loom bands and cake decoration, students presented primary, secondary, and tertiary colours in their own unique way. This task allowed students to embed their classroom learning at home, think creatively about colour, and strengthen their understanding of one of the key formal elements in art.



Orla:

"In art lessons, we get to do lots of fun things, however my favourite has been making our own colour wheel for homework. I loved doing this because it couldn't be made from art supplies and I liked how we had to use our creative mind. Our lessons with Miss Quigley are fantastic, she is amazing at art and she talks us through step-by-step so it doesn't get confusing and she always finds fun activities to do. In art lessons, I have really enjoyed learning about line and how we can use it in different ways and how it might make a drawing cooler. In the future, I am looking forward to making crisp packets in Y8."

Art Club at HLNA is a chance for students to build on, develop, and explore their own creativity and ideas while being guided through new techniques and skills. Previously at Art Club, we focused on drawing skills by creating metallic balloon letter drawings which helped students practise tone, highlights, and reflective surfaces. Currently, students are creating zines, using them as mini sketchbooks to experiment and explore a range of art techniques. These zines give students a space to try out new methods, materials, and styles in a low-pressure, creative way. Art Club will continue to offer a space where students can experiment freely, try new materials, and work on various projects in a relaxed and supportive environment. It's an opportunity to grow confidence, deepen artistic knowledge, and enjoy making art alongside others who share the same enthusiasm. We encourage students to practise their art skills at art club and at home as, like with anything, practise makes perfect!



Our next art project, Footwear, will build on students' Formal Elements knowledge while introducing new skills in collage, mixed media, and watercolour, particularly controlling washes, blends, and tonal effects. Inspired by contemporary artists, students will think imaginatively and expand their technical abilities as they design and create their own expressive footwear artworks.

Looking for a creative weekend activity? Visit the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry! It's a great way to explore a wide range of artworks, from historical masterpieces to contemporary exhibitions, and see how artists use different techniques and styles to express ideas. Experiencing art in person can inspire your own work and connect classroom learning to the real world. A weekend trip to the Herbert is a fun way to enhance your cultural capital while enjoying and learning from amazing art.

Alexis:

"What I enjoy most about art is how you get to know so many techniques you probably didn't know existed! Art lessons at HLNA are very helpful and are made in a way you learn efficiently but you can understand and apply what you have learnt. I've enjoyed learning how to blend and shade with coloured pencils and how you can use different colours to add depth to a drawing. I'm looking forward to learning how to draw portraits, hands, and different painting techniques."