

Higham Lane North Academy

NEWSLETTER



Friday 19th June 2026

We have had a very busy week at HLNA! Students have particularly enjoyed practical lessons from making their delicious pasta bakes in Food Technology to testing acids and alkaline in Science. It is genuinely a pleasure to visit classrooms at HLNA and see all of our students so positively engaged in their lessons, always trying their best.



External visitors to HLNA this week: – Our School Improvement Partner (SIP) quality assurance of HLNA’s education

We have enjoyed a visit from our School Improvement Partner (ex-Headteacher and SENDCO of a top 10 secondary school) this week, and once again she was highly impressed with the quality of teaching and learning in all our classrooms. Her focus was Inclusive Practice which is an area of the Ofsted framework that all schools hold themselves to account with. This ensures that our most vulnerable learners, for instance, those with additional needs such as SEND, students who are in receipt of the pupil premium and those who are known to social services, are receiving a high-quality education. She was particularly impressed with how all students can fully access the curriculum and learning because of the teaching methods that we use. Our evidence-based, research informed professional development with teachers remains an ongoing priority and commitment to ensure that all students achieve well with our ambitious curriculum for all. We are also grateful for the wealth of experience that Miss Rounce, SENDCO, brings to her key role within the school, and our School Improvement Partner was very impressed with the way that the SEND department, under Miss Rounce’s leadership continue to work very effectively with students, and families, to ensure that our SEND students are accessing the curriculum and wider opportunities, and achieving well within this.

Our continued commitment to professional development for staff

Last week when students were enjoying their wellbeing day, we were busy with teachers planning ahead for Year 2. We were very impressed with our teachers' research projects which again shows their commitment to ensuring that your children receive a very high-quality education.



Working with our Governors for further quality assurance of the school

We are also grateful to work closely with our Governors and this week two of our Governors were in school to look at learning and speak to students about their experiences at school. We are so proud of our wonderful students – they always speak so highly of their daily lived experience of school – they are such a credit to you all.

Visits from colleagues within our Trust

Finally, we are delighted to be sharing our practice with colleagues from other schools in our Trust. On Thursday after being in lessons, our Trust colleagues commented on the quality of the teaching but also crucially, referenced the exemplary behaviour and attitude of the students, noting that every student they saw was actively engaged with their learning. Well done North Stars – you always make us proud!

Warmer weather – stay safe



The forecast is warm, dry and sunny for the next few days and Public Health have issued a yellow warning for the West Midlands that lasts until Tuesday evening. Considering the increased potential for very warm temperatures, the warning includes the possibility that water-related incidents may increase, including risks from cold-water shock and drowning. Please speak to your child about the dangers of open water and not to risk entering water. The fire brigade offer the advice of 'float to live' in that if we find ourselves in difficulty in open water, we turn on our back and 'float to live' until help arrives.

We will also be speaking to students about general safety when the weather is warmer, particularly in relation to our local context of parks and the community; and of course, the dangers of open water.

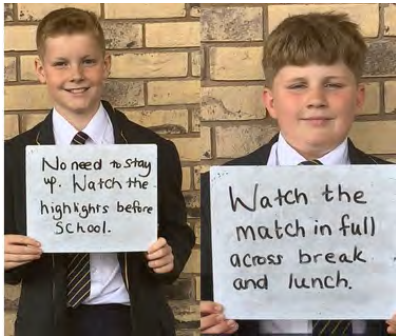
Please can you also remind your child if they are going to local parks, that they keep themselves safe, and away from others who might cause a harmful situation.

Warm weather at school

On Monday the forecast is exceptionally high. Considering this, students may choose to wear their PE kit to help keep themselves cool on Monday. If they are wearing their usual uniform, they do not need to wear the blazer.

We will review uniform requirements daily and inform students and yourselves of any changes via our email communication and on social media.

Please ensure that your child brings enough water to keep themselves hydrated now that the weather is warmer, and students may wish to apply sunscreen before coming to school. We will also use the field when appropriate at lunchtimes – please ensure that if your child suffers with hay fever, that they have taken their medication. Students may also wear a cap/hat at lunchtimes and there is also the opportunity to be inside during these times if the weather is too warm for them.



Football



We also appreciate that many students and families are keen football supporters. We play highlights throughout social times, including before school. If England are playing exceptionally late, they can catch up on the game in school the next day without having to stay up at home. We also share knowledge of countries that England and Scotland are playing in our assemblies or weekly reviews. If England progress to the very latter stages, we will also look at further ways of showing our support to the national team.

We very much enjoyed Athletics Club after school on Monday!

Please encourage your child to come along and get involved. While we are currently selecting students to represent the school at next Thursday's Nuneaton and Bedworth Athletics Competition at the Pingles, we would really like to see students of all abilities attending. It is such a great way to end the school day – being with friends and playing sport, which is proven to be excellent for mental health and wellbeing. With National Sports Week taking place in July, there will be lots of exciting sporting activities for students to participate in, and all students will have the opportunity to take part in our Sports Day.

Athletics Club is therefore a fantastic chance for everyone to develop their skills, build confidence, and prepare to represent their House to the very best of their ability.

We were delighted to welcome over 40 students this week—can we beat that number next Monday?

We look forward to seeing even more students there!



Rounders Success!

The girls rounders team took part in the local schools tournament on Tuesday. With only a few weeks of training behind us and the first time playing outdoors the girls comfortably won their first two matches to win their group and go through to the semi finals.

We narrowly lost out in the semi final stage and finished a fantastic third overall. We are very excited to see how the team develops over the next 12 months and look forward to competing in many more competitions.



Mobile Phones and Under 16s

You may be aware that the Government is expected to introduce a ban on the use of social media apps for children under the age of 16 from 2027. While we await further details, we would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of ensuring their children remain safe online.

Please check your child's phone regularly and monitor their online activity to ensure that any communication or content they are accessing is appropriate and not harmful to themselves or others.

We would also like to remind families that current guidance recommends that children under the age of 13 should not have access to mobile phones.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our children safe online.

Can your child join the 1% Attendance Club?

As you are aware, every moment matters in school for your child. When your child misses school, it makes it so much harder for them to not only catch up from work missed in five lessons throughout the day; it also means that they have missed out on social time with their friends, potentially attending a club and generally missing out on their personal development and enjoyment of school life.

From Monday we are launching our 1% Attendance Club. Your child's attendance doesn't have to be perfect, it doesn't have to be the highest attendance in school, the challenge is for all students to improve their attendance by just 1%. This means being in school for as much as possible between now and Friday 17th July.

We have lots of prizes in our attendance prize draw for students who join the 1% club! Plus, all students who join the 1% Club or are in the 98% Club or 100% club for the next 5 weeks will earn an additional treat during the last week of school!

Please support your child to aspire to be in either the 1%, 98% or 100% Club for the next 5 weeks – every lesson counts and every session matters.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Getting Year 8 ready!

We are now officially 'Getting Ready for Year 8'! Please encourage your child to sign up to one of these many opportunities over the next few weeks, and to continue to try their best in lessons so that September gets off to a flying start for them. These include:

- Year 8 transition lessons in every subject – studying the Year 8 Higham North Curriculum
- Joining the 1% club for attendance where further treats and prizes are available
- Representing the school in the town's Athletics competition on Thursday 25th June. Students must attend Athletics training on Monday after school to be considered for entry.
- Being a Year 7 buddy/leader for our new students and supporting with a range of transition activities
- Representing the school and supporting new students at our Transition events
- Everyone representing their Houses in our Year 7 Sports Day on 7th July
- Applying for Work Experience with Watling Meadows Primary School Reception children (based at HLNA)
- Taking part in many different activities as part of national sports week
- Taking part in our half-termly community litter pick
- Enjoying our Rewards Day on Friday 10th July
- Enjoying our planned wellbeing activities
- Enjoying our Rewards Celebration

As you can see this is a busy and exciting half-term where every day's attendance really does matter!

Rewards Day 10th July

Thank you for providing consent and kindly paying monies for your child to participate in this exciting day.

We have aimed to keep costs as low as possible, avoiding coach travel. We hope that everyone will take part as we celebrate a highly successful year for everyone together. Please ensure that final monies are paid by Monday absolutely latest deadline. If your child does not participate in this event, the usual school curriculum will follow.





Finally,

Thank you for your continued support. I hope that you and your families enjoy the weekend

Best wishes,

Kirstie Robinson.
Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.

Click to read!

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

7th July – Sports Day

10th July – Year 7 Rewards Day

14th – 16th July – French Trip

15th July – Wellbeing Rewards Afternoon

17th July – Rewards Assembly and last day of term



Funded by
UK Government

Summer 2026

Holiday Activities & Food (HAF)

Dear Parent/Carer,

The DfE-funded HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) programme provides young people the opportunity to access enriching activities alongside healthy meals over the **main school holidays at Easter, Summer and Christmas.**

Please note that this programme is entirely separate from the Local Welfare Scheme's household support funding (i.e. supermarket HUGGG vouchers).

All young people who currently meet the following two criteria are eligible:

- In full-time education between Reception - Year 11
- Receiving benefits-related free school meals

Each eligible young person can access a maximum of **16 sessions** over the Summer holidays. Families have the flexibility to book with multiple activity providers if desired. All activity providers can request additional funding for 1:1 support if this is required, however this will depend on their staff availability and qualifications. We also fund a number of SEND-specific activities.

Please note you will need a HAF code to book activities. **Eligible families can access their HAF code through the 'Request a HAF code' form at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/haf.**

Summer activity listings will be live on our site from **Monday the 22nd of June** so that you can book. Activities will then begin from **Monday 20th July.**

With our regards,
Warwickshire HAF Team

Scan the QR
code to visit
our website



Family Information Service

0800 408 1558 fis@warwickshire.gov.uk Facebook: @WarwickshireFIS

Safe Heard Valued

HIGHAM LANE NORTH ACADEMY SAFEGUARDING

If you ever have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a student, please do not hesitate to get in touch. During the school day, you can contact Miss Charles by phone to discuss any concerns. If the concern arises outside of school hours, you can email the safeguarding team at safe@hlina.co.uk and a member of staff will respond as soon as possible.

We all have mental health

Earlier this half term the Mental Health Schools Team visited Higham Lane North Academy to talk to them about mental health and the idea that we all have mental health and to explain the services they can offer in school.

Mental Health is about our feelings, thinking, emotions and mood. We all have "small" feelings every day. These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long. Sometimes we experience "big" feelings; these feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives.

If you feel that your child may be experiencing overwhelming feelings, such as anxiety, and would benefit from additional support, please contact the school and speak to our Mental Health First Aid Team-Miss Charles or Miss Rounce. They can arrange for your child to meet with our school counsellor, make a referral to the Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST), or liaise with other support services, such as RISE, on your child's behalf.



How can I help my child's mental health?

- 1. Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life**-Anywhere is a good place to talk; in the car, walking the dog or cooking together.
- 2. Give your full attention**-We all know it is horrible to be half listened to. Keep eye contact, focus on the child and ignore distractions.
- 3. Check your body language** -Try to keep it open and relaxed and make sure you come down to the child's level.
- 4. Take it seriously**-Do not downplay what the child is saying or tell them they are "just being silly". Resist the urge to reassure them that everything is fine.
- 5. Ask open questions** -Such as:
 - "How did your day go today?"
 - "How are you feeling at the moment?"This will help to extend the conversation. Calmly stay with the feelings that arise. It can be our automatic reaction to steer away from difficult emotions.
- 6. Offer empathy rather than solutions**-Show that you accept what they are telling you but do not try to solve the problem.
- 7. Some ways to start a conversation about feelings**
 - "How are you feeling at the moment?"
 - "You don't seem your usual self. Do you want to talk about it?"
 - "I'm happy to listen if you need a chat."



Hot off the Press!

As you may have heard in the news this week there have been major developments in the UK around children's use of social media.

- The UK Government has announced plans to ban under-16s from using major social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and others.
- This could come into force as early as 2027, with detailed rules expected sooner.
- The proposals go further than any other country, including:
 - Blocking livestreaming and contact with strangers
 - Restricting "addictive" features like infinite scrolling and autoplay
 - Introducing possible screen-time limits or curfews for children.
- There are also plans for:
 - Safer design requirements – platforms must prove they are safe for children
 - Stronger age checks to stop underage access
 - New protections against risks such as bullying, harmful content, and online exploitation

How We Will Support Your Child at School

As a school, we are committed to helping families navigate the fast-changing world of social media and online safety. We will do this through:

- Regular updates for parents to keep messaging aligned between home and school
- Sharing guidance, alerts and practical advice as new trends or risks emerge

A structured curriculum approach

- Online safety is embedded within:
 - Computing curriculum
 - Care and Support lessons
- Age-appropriate assemblies focusing on:
 - Social media use
 - Online conduct
 - Keeping safe when interacting with others online

Care, guidance and support

- Pastoral support available for any child experiencing issues online
- Support in managing friendships, conflict and peer pressure linked to social media

A strong approach to mobile phones

- Phones are never seen or heard during the school day

Swift response to any concerns involving:

- Cyberbullying
- Inappropriate content
- Unsafe online interactions

HIGHAM LANE NORTH ACADEMY

TOP TIPS TO KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Practical advice for parents and carers

TIKTOK	INSTAGRAM	WHATSAPP
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure accounts are set to Private.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Turn on Private Account settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review privacy settings and limit who can add your child to groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Check who can comment on videos and send direct messages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review followers regularly and remove unknown contacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remind children never to share personal information, passwords or location details.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use Family Pairing to manage screen time and content settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enable hidden words and comment filters to reduce harmful messages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discuss the risks of sharing images, screenshots and messages.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage children to report and block inappropriate content or users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discuss the difference between real life and the edited images often seen online.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage children to leave group chats where inappropriate content is shared.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Talk regularly about online trends and challenges before they take part.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage young people to speak to a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regularly check who is in your child's group chats and discuss any concerns.

GENERAL ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep communication open and talk regularly about online experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Agree family expectations around screen time and device use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage children to think before posting, commenting or sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remind young people that people online are not always who they say they are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Know how to report concerns on social media platforms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seek support early if online activity is affecting your child's wellbeing, sleep, friendships or mood.
--	--	--	--	--	--

SIMPLE FAMILY RULES THAT HELP

<ul style="list-style-type: none">No devices in bedrooms overnight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Agree daily screen time limits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Charge phones in a shared space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regularly review apps together.
---	---	--	---

Remember: The most effective online safety tool is regular, open conversation. Children are far more likely to seek help when they know they can talk to a trusted adult without fear of getting into trouble.

Working together to keep our young people safe, informed and empowered online.

Where can I turn for help outside of school?



Access free and anonymous mental health support. Including free online counselling.
www.kooth.com



Meditation and mindfulness app to help manage stress, build focus and improve sleep.
www.headspace.com



Mental health support for young people.
www.mind.org.uk
Telephone: 02476552847



A free, confidential text-based support service for anyone in the UK in crisis
Text: 'SHOUT' to 85258



A charity that works to prevent suicide amongst young people.
Telephone: 0800 068 4141



A charity that supports young people experiencing anxiety.
Website:
www.anxietyuk.org.uk



A branch of CAMHS providing services to support emotional wellbeing and improved mental health.
www.cwrise.com



Confidential advice on safety, bullying and family issues.
www.nspcc.org.uk
Telephone: 0808 800 5000



Support for young people and their families following a death.
www.cruse.org.uk



You can talk to ChildLine about anything. No problem is too big or too small.
Telephone 08001111



The Samaritans offer a 24 hour service if you need emotional support.
Telephone 116 123



Specialist emotional support for under 16s.
Telephone 0300 304 7000