Higham Lane North Academy

NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th November 2026

Checking the quality of the education we provide

We are incredibly passionate about providing an exceptional education for every student, underpinned by the highest quality teaching, an ambitious and engaging curriculum, and a culture in which every young person can thrive. We are equally committed to continually evaluating and improving our provision, which is why we work in partnership with external educational experts to challenge, review and quality assure the work we do.

This week, we welcomed an experienced former Headteacher of a school ranked in the UK's Top 10 for student progress and outcomes, who spent the day at HLNA observing lessons across the school, as well as our routines and expectations for learning and student conduct throughout the day to provide us with feedback on how to be even more effective.

We were delighted that she was once again so impressed by what she saw. She commented particularly on the consistently high quality of teaching and the strength of our learning and behaviour routines, which create calm, purposeful classrooms where all students can engage with and access an ambitious curriculum.
With her additional experience as a SENDCO, she was also particularly impressed by the effectiveness of our Quality First Teaching approach which is ambitious in its approach to ensure that every child receives the best quality teaching. She recognised how our teachers carefully adapt their practice, anticipate potential barriers and use inclusive classroom strategies to ensure that students with different needs are supported to make the very best possible progress.

Perhaps just as importantly, through our Student Voice activities and conversations with students during break and lunchtime, when staff are deliberately not present, she heard first-hand how positively students feel about being part of HLNA. Students spoke with real enthusiasm about their experiences of school, their learning and their sense of belonging.

Schools are never perfect, and we will always look for ways to reflect, develop and improve. However, I am immensely proud of the commitment, professionalism and determination demonstrated every day by our senior leaders and all our staff. They work tirelessly and relentlessly to provide the very best education and opportunities for every young person who attends HLNA. It was therefore especially rewarding for staff to hear that students recognise, value and appreciate these efforts.
Our visitor reflected that we have created a genuine culture of belonging, where high standards and expectations sit alongside equally high levels of care, understanding and support. This is precisely the balance we are striving for: a school where every student feels safe, valued, supported and included, but where everyone is also encouraged and challenged to achieve their very best.

We are incredibly proud, and genuinely fortunate, to teach your children. They are a wonderful group of young people who continue to impress us through their enthusiasm, character and willingness to embrace the school's values. Their commitment to being a North Star and living by our guiding principle of being 'proud because we do what is right', is something we see reflected in the way they conduct themselves, support one another and contribute to our school community. We could not achieve this as a school without your support from home and we very much appreciate the reinforcement of school values as we work in partnership to ensure that your child is happy and successful.

Assessments – Monday 16th November – Thursday 26th November (Friday 27th November Student Wellbeing Day)

Assessments take place in all subjects over the next two weeks which once marked by teachers will give students a formal opportunity to review their learning so far, celebrating strengths and working on next steps. In every subject students have been taught how to revise alongside being informed what they need to focus on. Thank you for supporting them from home to build their learning and revision stamina for key assessments. We know that this will pay dividends over the coming years as part of their learning journey with us. We also know that students are looking forward to their wellbeing reward day on Friday 27th November where they do not attend school!

We will remember them



We began this week by marking Remembrance, joining the wider community of Nuneaton for the town's annual Remembrance Parade. As part of this important occasion, members of our Leadership Team laid a poppy wreath in tribute to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts past and present, fighting to protect the freedoms and values we hold dear. It was a poignant and moving service, providing an opportunity for us to come together as a community and pay our respects.
For the second year, we have also explored the theme of Remembrance throughout our lessons, encouraging students to think deeply about what it means to remember. Remembrance is not simply about looking back at historical events or honouring those who have lost their lives; it is also about recognising the courage, sacrifice and resilience of others, understanding the impact of conflict on individuals, families and communities, and considering our own responsibilities in shaping a more peaceful and compassionate future.

Through exploring the many dimensions of Remembrance, students have engaged with the past in a deep and meaningful way, making connections with the world around them today and considering the lessons we must carry into the future. Discussions have encouraged reflection on themes such as freedom, courage, service, sacrifice, loss, peace, reconciliation and the importance of standing up for others. In doing so, students have been challenged to consider how the experiences of previous generations continue to shape our lives today, and how we can all play a part in building a future founded on understanding, respect and tolerance.

Alongside our classroom learning, we came together for a whole-school Remembrance Assembly, led by Miss Charles, which provided a further opportunity for reflection and commemoration. As a school community, we also observed the national two-minute silence, before laying a wreath at our own Garden of Remembrance.
Through our participation in the town's Remembrance Parade, our whole-school assembly and our curriculum-based learning, we hope that students have gained a deeper appreciation of the significance of Remembrance. Above all, we want them to understand that remembering is not just about honouring the past; it is about learning from it, recognising our shared humanity and taking responsibility for the kind of world we wish to create for future generations.











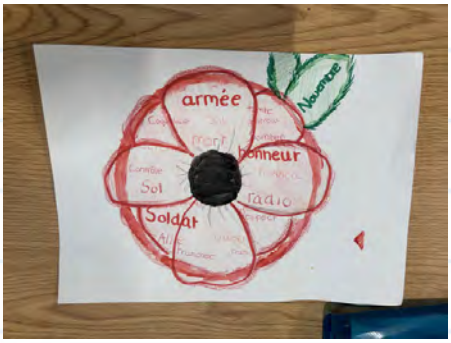


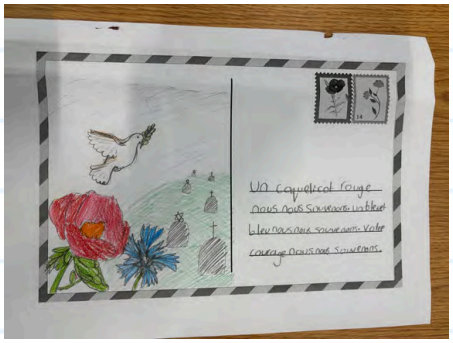
French Highlights

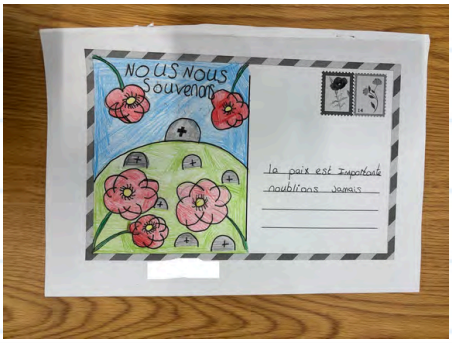
Remembrance

Year 7 and 8 Remembrance - Nous nous souvenons!:

This week in our French lessons we have taken the time to remember the fallen in our remembrance lessons in both year 7 and 8. In year 8 students created their own remembrance postcard and used excellent French language skills to express their thoughts of remembrance. In year 7 students learned how to use the French-English dictionary in lesson to enable them to create their own WordArt of a poppy using French words of remembrance which they have found using their newly acquired dictionary skills.















French Highlights

Some Exciting French news! - Des nouvelles passionnantes!

We have also had a very exciting start to the school year this year with some new initiatives launching and I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the students who have won the 'Crème de la Crème - French Linguist of the Month' award in both September and October thus far this academic year. Another exciting opportunity for our students has been the launch of 'La Ligue Française' interclass competition for average test scores. I am very pleased to announce that out of the 3 classes in Division Rouge - 8yFr1 won for our recent low-stakes assessment with a class average test score of 25.96 out of 30 and out of the 3 classes in Division Vert - 8yFr3 won with a class average of 21.3 out of 30. Both classes enjoyed a mini roll or a mini doughnut for their efforts. The next opportunity to win this competition will be the November Exam results for both year groups and I am looking forward to revealing the winners of La Ligue Française for these exams! Bonne chance à vous tous!!

I would also like to wish our students in both year groups luck with our North Star Languagenut Legends! School competition where students can win a bronze, silver or gold award for their efforts on Languagenut this term. The winners of this competition will win a badge for their blazer, a certificate and either 3, 6 or 10 merits (depending on the award they achieve) for their efforts. This award will be announced in our rewards assembly before we break up for Christmas.

As ever I am very impressed with the level of enthusiasm and engagement that our French students show each and every day in lesson but also in and around the school site. It always makes me very happy and proud of our students and school ethos to be greeted when on duty by students in French using their very best accent.

Following on from this, it was a real privilege to see how engaged and privileged our students were when they were ordering their food in French one day and Spanish another day in the canteen during our European Day of Languages Celebrations way back at the end of September as well as how engaged they were in the activities which they participated in during their lessons in all subjects. This year our 7's had a focus on French and our year 8s had a focus on Spanish. Roll on next year when year 9s will be tackling some Italian!!

House merits

Year 7	Year 8
7Aquila 2020	**8Aquila 2171**
7Cetus 1748	8Cetus 2112
7Cygnus 1801	8Cygnus 1711
7Hydrus 1867	8Hydrus 1854
7Lacerta 2158	8Lacerta 2050

Weekly Attendance Winning Houses

7Lacerta - 96.8%
8Cetus - 97%





Finally,

Thank you for continuing to share such positive experiences of our school.
Your support genuinely matters, and we appreciate it very much.

Best wishes,



Kirstie Robinson.
Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

- **Monday 2nd – Friday 13th November RAP weeks – revise and practice**
- **Monday 16th November – Thursday 26th November – Assessment Weeks**
- **Friday 27th November – student wellbeing day, students do not attend school**
- **Wednesday 2nd December – Christmas Fayre**
- **Monday 7th December – SLT coffee & chat 3.45pm**
- **Tuesday 8th December – Carol Service at St Nicolas Church**
- **Thursday 10th December – Student Christmas Lunch (TBC) and KS3 Christmas Disco after school**
- **Monday 14th December PM – Rewards afternoon**
- **Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Music showcase 6pm**
- **Friday 18th December – school closes at 1.15pm for all students. There are no after-school clubs on this day.**
- **Monday 4th January 2027 – students return to school**
- **Friday 22nd January – school progress reports issued**
- **Monday 1st – Friday 5th March – HLNA Careers Week**
- **Tuesday 23rd March – Year 8 Curriculum Enrichment trip**
- **Friday 26th March (inclusive) – Friday 9th April – Easter holiday**
- **Thursday 15th April and Thursday 22nd April – Year 8 Student Progress Evenings**