Higham Lane North Academy

NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th November 2026

This week, our value of the week has been **'We Are Conscientious'**, and it has been wonderful to see students return to school with such a positive focus, settling straight back into their learning and making the most of their lessons.
During assembly, we looked ahead to the next few weeks as we prepare for our upcoming assessments. The next two weeks will be our **RAP (Revise and Practise) Weeks.** In every lesson, students have been shown what they need to revise and, importantly, how to revise effectively in each subject. Our aim is to develop strong, consistent learning habits over time, so that these become second nature and provide the foundations for a successful five-year journey of academic progress and achievement.

We also talked about the importance of having a personal best mindset. The best athletes don't simply compare themselves with others; they focus on their own performance, celebrate what they have achieved and look for ways to improve each time. We want to encourage our students to adopt exactly the same approach to their learning. As we move through the assessment period, we look forward to celebrating individual strengths and successes, while also identifying the areas within each subject where students can develop further and become even more effective learners.

Revision for Assessments
This work has also been supported during House time, where students have been introduced to some excellent revision strategies by their House Champions. Every student has received a revision booklet to help them plan their time over the coming weeks, setting aside time each evening to revise across their different subjects. Our aim is to develop strong, consistent learning habits over time, so that these become second nature and provide the foundations for a successful five-year journey of academic progress and achievement.Please take some time to look through your child's revision timetable and support them with their efforts over the next couple of weeks.

Our assessment period will run from **Monday 16th November to Thursday 26th November**, and we look forward to seeing students put their revision and preparation into practice.

Finally, there was plenty of excitement in assembly when we reminded students that **Friday 27th November is our Wellbeing Day**, meaning students will not be required to attend school that day! Our messages of hard work and revision are always balanced with wellbeing and students were also reminded about being kind to themselves as they work hard over the coming weeks.
We look forward to the weeks ahead and to celebrating the effort, progress and achievements of all our students.

A wonderful week of learning, laughter and character building!

This week, students have enjoyed a magnificent day focused on building character. Throughout the day, they took on a range of challenges that required them to draw on their problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills. These opportunities are fantastic for developing character while, of course, having plenty of fun along the way! We know that experiences like these do so much more than take learning beyond the classroom. They help to build strong relationships between students and, importantly, between staff and students too. These shared experiences strengthen our sense of community and help to create the harmony that we value so highly within our school. Everyone returned a little wet, but certainly with no spirits dampened! There were plenty of smiles and, no doubt, lots of memories made.

We are particularly grateful to Miss Rounce, whose hard work and commitment have made two trips possible for all our students this week. Miss Rounce truly understands the value of opportunities beyond the classroom and the important role they play in developing confident, resilient young people. We are incredibly fortunate to have her enthusiasm and dedication in making these experiences happen.
Our thanks also go to all the staff who supported and accompanied students on the trips and in particular our office staff for supporting with the administration of two trips in a week. These opportunities would not be possible without their time, care and commitment.









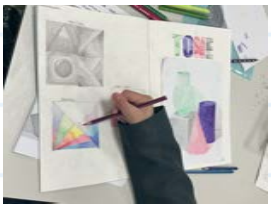




Art Highlights

- Year 7 artists have recently completed their tone artwork developing their understanding of how to use light and dark shading to transform two-dimensional outlines into convincing three-dimensional forms. We have been so impressed by their developing drawing skills and the care they have taken to build up different tones to create realistic shapes. It has been fantastic to see their confidence and understanding grow throughout this project!
- Students are now beginning to explore colour theory and will apply their knowledge of how to make secondary and tertiary colours by painting a colour wheel.



- Year 8 artists have developed their observational drawing skills by studying and drawing individual facial features, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's studies of eyes, noses and mouths before creating full portraits. We have been blown away by the superb quality of the drawings produced and can see how proud Year 8 artists have been of their artwork - rightly so!
- Next, Year 8 artists will be developing their colour-mixing skills by using watercolour paints to create a range of different skin tones.






Art Club highlights:

- Art Club artists have been busy designing their own mini monsters, which they have imagined collecting and displaying inside a jar!
- Students have developed their realistic drawing skills by learning how to create the illusion of a glass jar, while also exploring their creativity and imagination to design their own unique monsters.
- These designs have now been brought to life as 3D clay sculptures, which students are currently painting and adding their finishing touches to. We have been so impressed by the creativity and individuality of their designs!






Remembrance



As you will all be aware, the country will be observing Remembrance over the coming days. On Sunday, we will be laying a wreath on behalf of the school, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible as we come together to remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed so much.

Students have been engaging with this important commemoration through their lessons, taking part in a range of activities to help them understand the significance of Remembrance and reflect on its importance.
We will, of course, also be holding a whole-school Remembrance Service on Wednesday, providing an opportunity for our school community to come together in reflection.

Students who wish to do so will also be able to purchase poppies in school.



House merits

Year 7	Year 8
7Aquila - 1790	**8Aquila - 1983**
7Cetus - 1521	8Cetus - 1908
7Cygnus - 1600	8Cygnus - 1562
7Hydrus - 1666	8Hydrus - 1698
7Lacerta - 1939	8Lacerta - 1825

Weekly Attendance Winning Houses

7Lacerta - 97.2%
8Cetus - 97.6%

Knitting Club



There is a change to Knitting Club. It will now be on a **Tuesday Week B.** You are still welcome to come along on a Tuesday week A but please understand that if any student comes to Spanish Club on a week A - which is the Spanish club slot - knitting will not take place! Gracias! Miss Hampton.

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**
- **Thursday 3rd 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 (earlier finish) for Christmas holiday**
- **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**