

# Higham Lane North Academy

# NEWSLETTER



Friday 2nd October 2026

## **A Week Behind the Scenes at HLNA**

This week has been another purposeful and productive week at HLNA, with our students' conduct being exemplary. We are incredibly fortunate that our students feel proud to be part of the HLNA community and consistently strive to do the right thing, both in lessons and during social times.

But what happens behind the scenes – beyond the school day and the school gates – to help make this possible? We are immensely grateful for your support from home, ensuring that you are providing your child with the excellent guidance, advice and support that all children require.

Additionally, our senior leaders and staff work hard every day to ensure that our school culture enables every student to experience excellent lessons, make progress and enjoy positive social time with their friends. We are extremely committed to getting this right for every child.

I thought therefore it might be useful to give you a snapshot of a typical week beyond the classroom for our leaders and teachers.

## **Governors' meetings**

This week, for example, we held our half-termly Governors' Meeting. Amongst a range of important agenda items, we shared our School Development Plan for 2026–27. This sets out the actions and priorities we are committed to across every aspect of school life, including leadership and governance, inclusive practice, attendance, behaviour, curriculum, teaching and learning, achievement and personal development.

A particularly important focus is ensuring that we are getting it right for students who may face greater barriers to success than others, including students with SEND, those eligible for Pupil Premium and children known to social services. We also share current data with governors so that we can celebrate areas where we are having a strong impact, while, crucially, identifying where further action is needed to make us even more effective. We are grateful to the time that our Governors give the school, both for the evening Governors meetings, and with visits to the school, visiting lessons, speaking to students and meeting senior leaders.

## Weekly ongoing professional development

Our commitment to continuous improvement is also evident in our weekly professional development. Every Wednesday after school, our teachers meet to focus on curriculum, achievement, teaching and learning.



Miss Charles and I also visit lessons every day. It is a real privilege to see learning taking shape across the school, and to see our ambitious curriculum being delivered so effectively. However, we firmly believe that the pursuit of exemplary teaching is never finished, there is always more we can learn and do to improve the experience and outcomes of our students.

This week, Miss Charles worked with teachers to celebrate the excellent practice already taking place in classrooms, while also focusing on how we can become even more effective at providing instant feedback. We explored how we can identify and address misconceptions immediately, so that students are clear about what they are learning and understand how to improve.

I also worked with our curriculum leaders, exploring how we can continue to strengthen subject leadership and ensure that every curriculum area is led as effectively as possible.

Alongside this, we have our 'Weekly Spotlight On...' professional development sessions, where staff share practical strategies to support groups of students. These might include students with SEND, those eligible for Pupil Premium or children known to social services. The aim is always the same: to ensure that every student receives the support they need to be as successful as possible at school.

## And our professional development does not stop there!

We are absolutely delighted to be working with the internationally acclaimed Knowledge Hub as we host their annual **national conference focused on leading teaching and learning**. We will be welcoming delegates for both the **Exemplary Leadership Conference** and the **Exemplary Teaching Conference**, with internationally recognised educational leaders sharing their expertise, research and practice.

Amongst the speakers will be **Tom Bennett**, founder of ResearchED and a leading voice on behaviour, classroom management and education; **Peps McCrea**, an educator, author and expert in teaching, teacher development and instructional practice; and **David Didau**, an author, speaker and educational consultant who writes and speaks extensively about teaching, learning, evidence and effective classroom practice.

We are delighted that, alongside our Senior Leadership Team, members of our wider teaching staff will also attend. This is a fantastic opportunity for our staff to learn from some of the most influential voices in education, share ideas and bring new approaches and insights back into our classrooms. Most importantly, the impact will be felt by our students, your children, at school.

For us, this is what school improvement looks like: **never standing still, continually learning and always asking ourselves what more we can do to provide the very best education and experience for our students.**

## Thank you so much!

We would like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you for your wonderful support of our Macmillan Coffee Morning last week.



As a school community, we raised an incredible **£472.01** for this very worthwhile cause!

This fantastic total is a direct result of your generosity and support – whether you baked or bought a cake, sent your child into school with a donation, or joined us at our community coffee morning. Every contribution, however big or small, made a difference.

It was a wonderful reminder of the strength and generosity of our HLNA community, and how much we can achieve when we come together to support others.

**Thank you once again for your kindness, generosity and support.**



## Education transforms people's lives – every day in school matters

Thank you very much for your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school every day.

We all recognise that it can be difficult for students to catch up on the five lessons they may miss each day they are absent from secondary school. There are also the important social and communication skills – the 'hidden skills' of school life – that young people develop through everyday interactions with their peers and staff, and which can be missed when they are not in school.

At the same time, we understand that some of our students need additional support with attendance, and we are committed to working closely with families to help them overcome any barriers. As we often say, 'You get them through the gate, and we will do the rest!'

We have a range of strategies and support available to help your child if they are feeling anxious, unsettled or under the weather. Our aim is to make coming into school feel as manageable and positive as possible, while ensuring that they feel supported and ready to learn.

We also have several attendance clubs for students to aim to be part of. Our 100% and 98% Clubs are popular goals that the overwhelming majority of students at HLNA strive to achieve. We also have our 1% Club, which celebrates students who improve their attendance by 1% each half-term.

Alongside these clubs, we run a range of prizes and competitions throughout the school year to recognise and celebrate excellent attendance and improvement. There are prizes coming up soon for both individual students and Houses, including rewards for Houses that make the greatest improvements in their attendance.

We are really looking forward to celebrating the achievements of our students and Houses!



## House merits

### Year 7

Aquila - 745  
Cetus - 724  
Cygnus - 745  
Hydrus - 727  
Lacerta - 926

### Year 8

Aquila - 1003  
Cetus - 934  
Cygnus - 873  
Hydrus - 816  
Lacerta - 908

## Weekly Attendance Winning Houses

Year 7 - Lacerta - 96.4%  
Year 8 - Cetus - 98.1%

# Year 7 Highlights

## Science highlights - Year 7

- Year 7 have made a fantastic start to Biology this year, exploring the fascinating topic of levels of organisation.
- Students have enjoyed bringing their learning to life through hands-on practical activities, including investigating how antagonistic muscle pairs work in their own arms and using microscopes to observe cells up close.
- It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm as they begin developing their scientific knowledge and practical skills.



# Year 8 Highlights

## Science Highlights - Year 8

- Year 8 have made an excellent start to Biology this year, building on their previous learning and applying it to the study of organ systems and the ways in which lifestyle choices can affect them. Students have explored the respiratory system and produced thoughtful, well-considered responses in their mini-topic assessment. They have also investigated how the digestive system breaks down food molecules, taking part in engaging activities such as speed dating to develop their scientific oracy and communication skills.



## Open Evening – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2026

As a new school, one of our key challenges is to grow and develop our community as we work towards being full by 2030. Working together sits at the heart of ensuring the very best for your child, and we want to thank you for the calm, constructive way you approach us whenever you have a question or concern.

Our staff are among the most dedicated and committed professionals I have ever worked with. Every day, they come to school with the intention of delivering a world-class, ambitious education for your child, and we are incredibly proud of the offer we provide.

Our Open Evening is a significant moment in our calendar, giving us the chance to meet prospective families and showcase what makes our school a special place to be. Your positive messages within the community make a real difference – they strengthen the reputation of the school your child attends, support them in securing their next steps when they leave us, and help us attract excellent new staff in the year ahead. In turn, this strengthens the quality of education and opportunities we can offer your child.

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



# OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2026  
4.30pm - 7.30pm

Upper Farm Drive, Nuneaton  
CV11 6YN



## Well done to Theo in Year 8!

Theo recently had his end-of-year cricket presentation, where he and his teammates received their trophies for playing in the U13 team. This meant they had all played at least one year above their official age group—a fantastic achievement and one they should all be incredibly proud of!



## Has your child achieved excellence outside of school?

It is wonderful to share news of where our students are achieving so well with their passions outside of school. Please send us any photos and information if you would like us to consider sharing this with our community in our Newsletter.

### Finally,

I 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!

- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October Open Evening 4.30pm – 7.30pm for prospective Year 7 families (2027 Year 7)
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Year 7 Meet the House Champion and Review Evening
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October SLT Coffee & Chat 3.45pm
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – KS3 Halloween Disco
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – INSET day, students do not attend school
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Half-term

#### WELCOME TO THE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE NEWSLETTER



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