

Higham Lane North Academy

NEWSLETTER



Friday 11th September 2026

A productive and purposeful week at HLNA

We have enjoyed another calm and purposeful week at HLNA, and it has been a privilege to visit all classrooms this week to see our ambitious curriculum in action. In every classroom, I observed students thoroughly immersed in their learning, demonstrating excellent listening skills and showing real perseverance and commitment to their work. Our Chair of Governors also visited HLNA today and commented on both Year 7 and Year 8s exemplary attitudes to learning. He also spoke to a wide range of students in Year 7 and unanimously all students said that they were thoroughly enjoying being at HLNA, they said, 'we want to give a shoutout to our teachers', that their teachers are 'passionate about what they teach', are 'kind and help explain things if we are unsure.' They are also appreciative of clubs being offered and enjoyed the wellbeing walk and friendship disco this week. We continue to seek all students views about their experiences at school, and our first full student survey will take place before half-term.

New staff are also settling in well!

As you are aware, we have also welcomed several new staff to HLNA and we have been fortunate to be able to recruit excellent teachers to join our already well-established team of experts. It has been interesting to hear their first impressions of the school, particularly when they have arrived from very high performing schools elsewhere in the country. All new staff have expressed how much they are enjoying being at HLNA, citing that our high expectations and high levels of care and support for students have created such a strong culture of focused learning and achievement – and thus they feel it is such a pleasure to be teaching your children at HLNA.

A busy, positive start to co-curricular clubs!

As part of our Higham North Guarantee, we recognise that a successful young person needs to be truly well-rounded, with opportunities to develop their self-esteem, confidence and wider talents. This is why we are so committed to providing a rich programme of co-curricular clubs and leadership opportunities.

This week, it has been delightful to see our students getting involved in hockey, basketball, volleyball and netball to name a few, while our Drama and Musical Theatre club was the most popular choice on Monday! With our impressive facilities, students have fantastic opportunities to develop their sporting and performing arts talents and discover new interests. Beyond sport and the performing arts, our Chess Club proved highly popular this week too – what a fantastic way to start a Monday morning! Lego Club and Art Club have also been very well attended, giving students further opportunities to be creative, challenge themselves and have fun.

Please do make sure that your child has signed up for a club. You never know what they might discover, learn and achieve when they step outside their comfort zone and try something new!

****** please note: Year 7 Netball FRIDAY. Rugby all years MONDAY ******

This is a change to the initial timetable and is due to the huge popularity of other clubs running on the same night and students keen for this change to take place.



House merits

There are so many prizes to be won for most amount of merits throughout the year! We look forward to celebrating each week with students which House has the most merits.

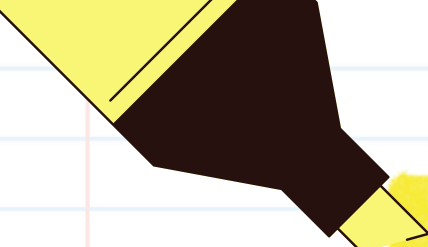
Year 7= 796

Year 8= 905

Year 7 House winner – 7 Lacerta 196 merits

Year 8 House winner – 8 Aquila 233 merits

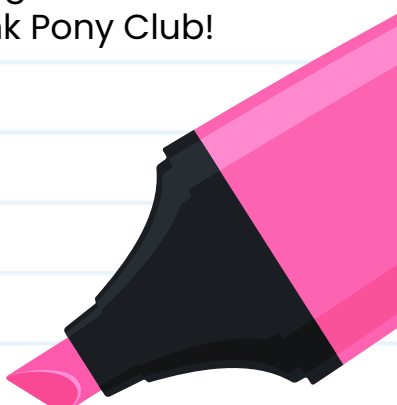
Well done everyone!



Year 7 Highlights

- How well students are adapting to the change to secondary school – they have learnt so many of our routines already which will help them to be safe and successful.
- Watching students use the Bunsen burners for the first time in Science applying what they have learned in their Science safety lessons – wearing goggles and applying the flames sensibly.
- Hearing students in French practising their pronunciation and beginning to learn French songs to help with memorisation!
- The Friendship Disco! Wow! It was brilliant to see students getting together and enjoying themselves. At one point every student in the hall had linked arms and was singing away! This year's favourite tunes ranged from everything from Oasis and The Killers to Baby Shark and Pink Pony Club!

Well done Year 7s!



Year 8 Highlights

- We have all commented on how Year 8s have risen to the challenge of being excellent role models and demonstrating exemplary conduct with such maturity for younger students to learn from. Year 7s have told us that Year 8s have been friendly and helpful to them.
- Year 8s have started exceptionally well with their learning, showing excellent concentration and perseverance in lessons. Watching them ask searching questions about the Industrial Revolution in History this week showed their conscientious they are and we are seriously impressed with how much they have read over the summer holidays...more word millionaires incoming!
- We are also very impressed with how many students have applied for a wide range of leadership roles; they are true leaders, keen to support the school, and they recognise the opportunity to continue to enhance their confidence.

Well done Year 8s!

Year 7 Learning – Where Are We Now?

Over the next couple of weeks, our Year 7 students will complete a range of tasks in lessons to help teachers understand their current knowledge, skills and understanding. They have already begun this in subjects such as Art and Design Technology.

Although we have access to students' KS2 SATs data, it is important that teachers develop a clear and immediate picture of each student's starting point in Year 7. This will enable us to plan ambitious lessons that build on what students already know, rather than spending valuable learning time revisiting knowledge and skills they may have already mastered. There is absolutely nothing for students to be concerned about. These activities are **not tests or assessments that students need to revise for**. Instead, they are an opportunity for teachers to identify what students know, understand and can do, so that we can provide the right level of challenge and support from the very beginning of Year 7.

Our aim is simple: **to make sure we get it right for every student and help them make the best possible progress.**

Jeans for Genes Week – 14th–20th September 2026

- Next week, students will be learning more about Jeans for Genes Week during assembly.
- Around 1 in 25 children in the UK are affected by a genetic condition, making this an important opportunity for students to understand how the biology they learn in the classroom connects to real people and real-life experiences.
- The assembly will link particularly well with our Year 7 Biology curriculum, where students are currently studying this area, as well as a topic that Year 8 students will explore later in the year.
- Through the assembly and supporting information, we hope to bring classroom learning to life, helping students understand what genetic conditions are and what life can be like for children their own age who are affected by them.



Click to read!



Information evenings

As part of our continued commitment to share information, advice and guidance to support success between home and school, we offer many different opportunities to work together for success.

Our annual information events for each year group are as follows:

The secondary journey - Year 8: Wednesday 16th September 5pm – 5.45pm

The secondary journey - Year 7: Wednesday 23rd September 5pm – 5.45pm

Each of the evenings will include:

- Curriculum, learning and achievement – what to expect during the year ahead
- Personal Development of your child during this year – opportunities for growth
- Working together to maximise success – how to support from home

As well as hearing from Mrs Robinson and Miss Charles during the main presentation, you will also have an opportunity to meet Mr Rowe, KS3 Pastoral Manager. Miss Rounce (SENDCO) will also be in attendance.

Finally,

I look forward to seeing you all at the Information Evenings over the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued support and I hope you all have a peaceful weekend.

Best wishes,



Kirstie Robinson.
Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

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