Higham Lane North Academy

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 16th October 2026

**Celebrating a strong culture**

As part of our ongoing quality assurance work, members of our Trust team spent the day with us earlier this week. They visited lessons, spoke with students, observed line-ups, spent time with students during break and lunch, and looked through their books.

They were extremely impressed by the strength of our school culture and the way our values underpin everything we do. They commented on the atmosphere of mutual respect between staff and students, as well as the genuine compassion and consideration shown towards one another.

In lessons, they observed exceptionally high levels of concentration and focus, with all students actively participating in their learning. They praised the way misconceptions were addressed quickly, the level of challenge provided, and the support offered by staff to ensure that all students could succeed.
Just as importantly, every student spoken to said that they felt safe in school and knew what to do and who to speak to if they ever felt worried or concerned about anything. This is a powerful reflection of the caring, supportive environment we work hard to create every day.

A huge well done to all our students, who work so hard and demonstrate our values in action, and to our fantastic teachers, whose dedication, care and commitment make such a positive difference to our young people every single day.

**Working in Partnership with Our Families**

This week, it has been a real pleasure to spend time with so many of you, our families, and to continue strengthening the partnership between home and school.
We enjoyed welcoming so many of you to our Year 7 Family Review Evening, where families had the opportunity to speak with our House Champions about what is going well, share any questions or concerns, and discuss how we can best support your child.

We fully recognise that the transition from primary to secondary school is one of the biggest changes children and families experience. Secondary school brings many new experiences, routines and expectations, and we understand that it can take time for everyone to adjust. It is therefore important that we continue to create opportunities to listen to families, understand your experiences and work together to help every child feel settled, supported and happy at school.

It was also lovely to meet parents at our various Coffee and Chat events this week, whether at our Year 7 SEND coffee and chat event with Miss Rounce and the SEND team or at the opportunity to meet with Miss Charles and myself. Hearing your views, experiences and suggestions is incredibly valuable. Your feedback helps us reflect on what we do well, consider where we can improve, and inform the decisions we make as a senior leadership team to ensure that our school continues to be as effective and supportive as possible. Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet with us, share your thoughts and contribute to these important conversations. We really value your input and look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that every child has the best possible experience at our school.

**Survey – hearing your feedback**

We would also encourage all parents and carers to take a few minutes to complete our **Parent and Carer Survey**. Your feedback is extremely valuable and something I take very seriously as we continually strive to provide the best possible education and experience for your children.

Please be assured that I carefully consider the responses we receive and discuss feedback with our senior leadership team and staff, using it to celebrate strong practice and to consider where we can be even more effective.

Alongside feedback about areas where we could do better, we would also welcome hearing about the things you feel we are getting right. Positive feedback makes a genuine difference to our staff. Being able to share your kind words and recognise the difference colleagues are making can mean a great deal and helps staff feel valued and appreciated for the care, commitment and hard work they put in every day.
At a time when recruitment and retention remain significant challenges for secondary schools nationally, we are fortunate not to be experiencing the same difficulties. However, I remain very mindful of the importance of maintaining staff morale and ensuring that our colleagues feel recognised and supported in the vital work they do.
Your feedback, particularly when it highlights the positive impact a member of staff has had on your child, really does go a long way. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the dedication of our team and remind colleagues that their efforts are noticed and appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

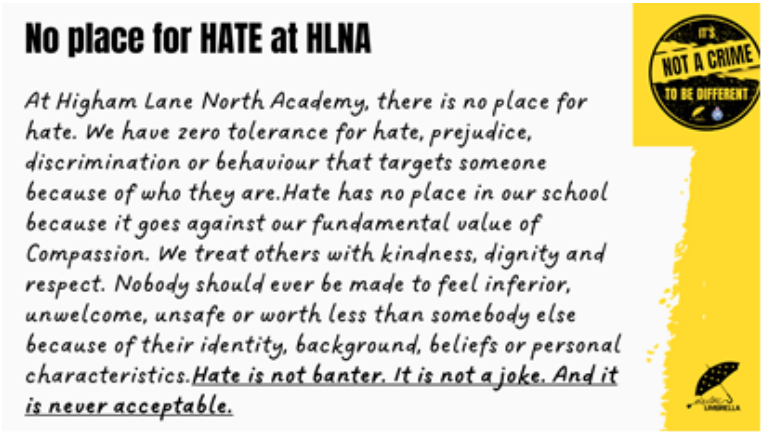
**National Hate Crime Awareness Week**

This week our school value focus of the week has been 'we are compassionate' which also ties in with raising awareness with students about hate crimes and why there is 'no place for hate' at both HLNA and in wider society. Students learnt more about this important topic both in our weekly review in House time and in Assembly and have responded with maturity and empathy in terms of how we treat each other. As always, thank you to Miss Charles for presenting this information in such a thought-provoking manner.










**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 families.

**Well done Thomas!**

We are so proud of Thomas in Year 8! Thomas has been shortlisted for selection to the UKMT mentoring programme due to his outstanding performance in the junior maths challenge. Thomas earned a **gold certificate** and placed highest in the school. **Being shortlisted means that he is currently placed as one of the highest scores in the country!** The Mentoring Scheme aims to help support students the opportunity to push their skills even further with challenges, setting them up perfectly for later stages of academia and mathematical careers. Well done Thomas on being shortlisted, this is a wonderful achievement.

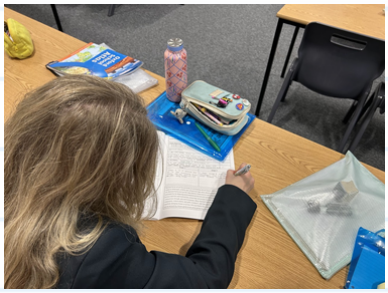


# Year 7 Highlights

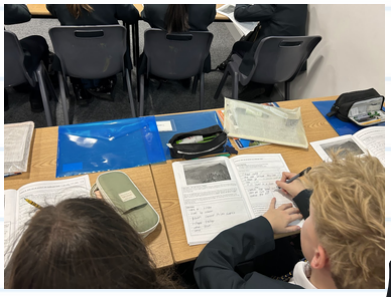
🌍 **Geography Highlights at HLNA!** 🌊

What have we discovered in Geography...

⏳ Year 7 North Stars have travelled through 4.6 billion years of Earth's history, exploring the evolution of life, the changing continents and the impact of human activity on our planet.





# Year 8 Highlights

🌊 Year 8 North Stars have been investigating coastal erosion, discovering how waves shape our coastline and the challenges this creates for coastal communities.

🏔️ Coming next: Year 8 will explore the incredible power of glaciers and how these giant rivers of ice have sculpted the UK's landscape!

Our North Stars have also been out and about again on their weekly litter pick, helping to keep our school and local community clean and tidy! 🧤🗑️ Well done North Stars!

Remember that you can come along to one of our Geography co-curricular clubs and see how you can make a difference to the world that we live in! Thank you to our curriculum leader, Mrs Clempson, for her inspiration and passion for Geography!











🎃👻 **IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR SPOOK ON!** 👻🎃

Our annual Spooky Disco is creeping up on us, and it's going to be fang-tastic! 🧛‍♀️🕸️
🎵 Got a boo-tiful tune? tune? Send your song requests to Miss Rounce!
🧙 Got a spook-tacular costume? Mr Rowe can't wait to hear what you'll be dressing up as!
Last year's costumes were fang-tastic, so let's see what we can do this year! 👀

📅 **Thursday 22nd October**
⏰**3.15–4.15pm**
🕷️**FREE ENTRY!**




## House merits

| Year 7 | Year 8 |
|---|---|
| 7 Aquila - 1245 | **8 Aquila - 1293** |
| 7 Cetus - 1116 | 8 Cetus - 1190 |
| 7 Cygnus - 1144 | 8 Cygus - 1103 |
| 7 Hydrus - 1208 | 8 Hydrus - 1179 |
| **7 Lacerta - 1445** | 8 Lacerta - 1194 |

## Weekly Attendance Winning Houses

**7 Lacerta - 96.5%**
**8 Cetus - 97.4%**

## 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!

- Thursday 22nd October – KS3 Halloween Disco
- Friday 23rd October – INSET day, students do not attend school
- **Please remember that school finishes for half-term at 3.15pm on THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER.**
- **We look forward to welcoming all students back on MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER.**




Click to read!



Mental Health Support Team in Schools



Dimensions tool

Free online personalised self-care information & support for adults and children in Coventry & Warwickshire

# Tips For Wellness

# Being Brave

We can show bravery in lots of different ways, such as recognising that we feel a certain way (e.g., sad, anxious), asking someone for help when we need it and trying new things, even if we feel scared!

Feeling scared is often a sign that we are doing something challenging and it is completely normal to feel this way. Even though it can feel uncomfortable, being brave and facing these difficulties can also help us to learn and grow (both physically and emotionally). This can mean we need to step outside our comfort zone at times to be able to overcome challenges, but it is important to remember that being brave does not mean we have to cope alone.

## Our Tips for Being Brave:

1. **Setyourselfa goal totry something new**. Create a plan to break your goal down into smaller, more achievable steps! This can help your goal to feel less overwhelming.
2. **Take chances and make mistakes!** Sometimes it is helpful to fail, so you can practise being brave. Try something you have been wanting to try and take that chance to move out of your comfort zone. You might even find that it wasn't as bad as you thought it would be.
3. Practise **positive self-talk** to help develop your bravery. Repeat these sentences to yourself or out loud -'I can do hard things'; ' I try my best'; 'I can enjoy challenge'. You might want to write positive statements on post-it notes and stick them around your mirror so you can remind yourself of them every day!
4. **Ask for help** when you need it from someone you trust. Taking the step to talk to someone is one of the bravest things you can do!
5. **Strike a power pose!** Standing up tallwith your feet apart, your head held high and with your hands on your hips can help make you feel more confident and ready to take on a challenge. What pose makes you feel more confident?

*Follow the QR code for activities to support the theme 'being brave'!*

**In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.**

**MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays. Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.**