Higham Lane North Academy

NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th October 2026

Weekly Focus: We Are Confident

This week, our focus has been one of our key values: 'We Are Confident.' Throughout the week, we have been reminding students that being a confident learner is about much more than speaking up in class. It means taking responsibility for your learning — being organised and prepared, having the right equipment, responding positively to feedback and developing the ability to work independently. We have also encouraged students to recognise that confidence grows through experience. Joining a club, taking part in an activity, trying something new and getting involved in school life are all great ways to develop confidence and build new skills.

Importantly, confidence also comes from how we treat others. Being polite, well-mannered and charming helps students develop positive relationships and gives them the confidence to navigate different situations successfully.
We work relentlessly every day to maintain and strengthen our positive school culture, and focusing on a different value each week helps us to keep these important expectations at the heart of school life.

Our North Stars Shine at Open Evening!





A huge thank you to all our students for making Wednesday's Open Evening such a success!





Our staff worked incredibly hard to create a fantastic evening, but once again, our students were the stars of the show. We received wonderful feedback from prospective families about how polite, helpful and confident they were.
One member of our Trust commented to a parent, 'This isn't just for show - they are like this every day,' while another remarked, 'I have never known a student here not to hold a door open for me.'



What brilliant feedback - and particularly impressive when we remember that these are our Year 7 and 8 students. Their character, confidence and courtesy truly shone through.



We know that education is about both character as well as academic success, and our North Stars showed exactly what that means.
Next week students who volunteered to support the school will receive their certificate and reward for their service to the school.

We couldn't be prouder of them!

Fantastic Attendance at HLNA!

We are delighted to share that **HLNA's attendance last year was in the top 10% of all schools nationally** — and also in the **top 10% of schools with similar characteristics to ours.** Our overall attendance figure was an excellent **96%!**
This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the positive partnership between our school, our students and our families. Thank you for reinforcing at home just how important it is to be in school every day.

We continue to encourage and celebrate excellent attendance through our 100% Club, 98% Club and 1% Club, alongside regular raffles, prizes and rewards.

We also understand that children can sometimes feel unwell. Please let us know if your child is under the weather so that we can support them during the school day and remember that medication can be sent into school where appropriate. If we feel your child is too unwell to remain in school, we will always contact you.

However, missing a day of school means missing five lessons, valuable learning and time with friends. Good attendance has a direct impact on learning, progress and, ultimately, a child's future opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or need any support, please contact us — we are always here to help.



House merits

Year 7	Year 8
7 Aquila - 1033	8 Aquila - 1293
7 Cetus - 918	8 Cetus - 1190
7 Cygnus - 981	8 Cygus - 1103
7 Hydrus - 994	8 Hydrus - 1179
7 Lacerta - 1293	**8 Lacerta - 1194**

Weekly Attendance Winning Houses

7 Aquila - 98.3%
8 Cetus - 97.3%

Year 7 Highlights

Students are always thoroughly engaged in their learning in Design Technology lessons, taking advantage of our fully equipped, specialist technology rooms. Whether it is Food Technology or Design and Engineering, we know that they are enjoying what they do and making some excellent progress in these subjects. Miss Quigley leads Art & Design Technology superbly and we are also delighted that Miss Weizak has also made such a strong start with DT where students are confident and thriving in these practical lessons.

Food Preparation and Nutrition Year 7:

- During theory lessons, Year 7 students have been introduced to the hygiene routines we use in the Food Preparation and Nutrition kitchen to prevent contamination, keep food safe to eat, maintain a clean working environment and develop safe, professional habits in the kitchen.

- In practical lessons, students have been demonstrating safe knife skills using the bridge and claw knife holds while making coleslaw and apple crumble. We have been thoroughly impressed with their enthusiasm and positive attitude towards the recipes they have prepared so far!

- **Why not encourage your child to get involved with food preparation at home? With appropriate supervision, they can put their newly developing knife skills into practice and help prepare a family meal.**









Year 8 Highlights

Product Design Year 8:

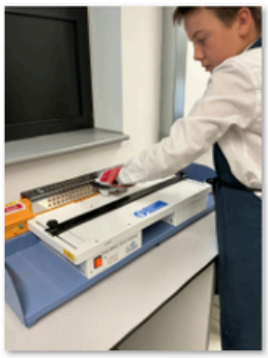
- Year 8 students have been learning about the De Stijl design movement and have applied their knowledge of its key design principles in their design assessment.

- This week, students have loved being back in the workshop where they have been applying their technical knowledge to create a mitre joint to construct the wooden structure of their De Stijl phone holder.

- Students have also been applying their knowledge of thermoplastics by safely heating and bending acrylic to create the phone holder section of their design. It has been fantastic to see students making clear links between the theory they have learned and how materials can be manipulated and used in practical applications.

- **Why not challenge your child to become a materials detective at home? Encourage them to identify everyday products made from thermoplastics and thermosetting plastics and discuss why each material might have been chosen.**





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



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.



Click to read!

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

- Wednesday 14th October – Year 7 Meet the House Champion and Review Evening
- 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