

Higham Lane North Academy

NEWSLETTER



Friday 6th February 2026

Mental Health – being compassionate to ourselves



This week we have been encouraging students to consider strategies to ensure that their mental health is as strong as possible. As part of our values that 'we are compassionate', we have been reminding students that we also need to be compassionate and kind to ourselves. As part of an assembly on Mental Health, Miss Charles asked students one particularly pertinent question, if you had a free afternoon, what would you do to be kind and compassionate to yourself? We reminded students that we can all have negative thoughts from time to time, and shared strategies to help deal with negative thoughts. We are also looking forward to creating our North Playlist for boosting a positive mood and are asking students to share with us a favourite song of theirs that helps them to feel energetic and upbeat!

Please also remind your child that they can report any safeguarding concern that they might have to safe@hlna.co.uk

Recruitment update for HLNA

As we plan for a new year joining us in September, we have been recruiting for several teaching posts. The standard of applications has again been exceptionally high and over the last week, we have appointed Teachers for English, Maths, History and Geography. Once we have completed all appointments, we will share with students, and yourselves, who will be joining us in September. I explained to students this week that we will always appoint staff who we know will replicate our values of having high expectations for them and who will provide them with high levels of care and support for them to be successful. We are very excited with the appointments made so far and look forward to completing the process over the coming weeks.

Quality Assurance of the school

This week our CEO and Trust Director for learning conducted a visit of the school to see how ambitious and enriching the curriculum is. We are proud of our relentless focus on teaching and learning in the classroom to ensure that our practice is fully inclusive so that every child can exceed their potential and were pleased that the efforts of both teachers and students were recognised throughout the day.





Coffee and Chat – 4pm Wednesday 25th February

At this session we will be giving you an opportunity to hear from our **Curriculum Leader for Maths, Mr Thomas**, who will explain how you can support with maths homework, particularly with our new homework programme, Dr Frost; and also with Miss Hampton, Curriculum Leader for Languages, who will also explain how you can support with French homework, and in particular, with Language Nut, which we have recently introduced.

There will be an opportunity afterwards to raise any further questions with Miss Charles and I. We hope that you can join us.

SEND coffee and chat

Many thanks to all parents and carers who were able to come in and talk to Miss Rounce and Miss Charles this week. These are excellent opportunities to share any concerns and provide feedback to us as part of working together to support your child.

We are 'word-rich' at HLNA!

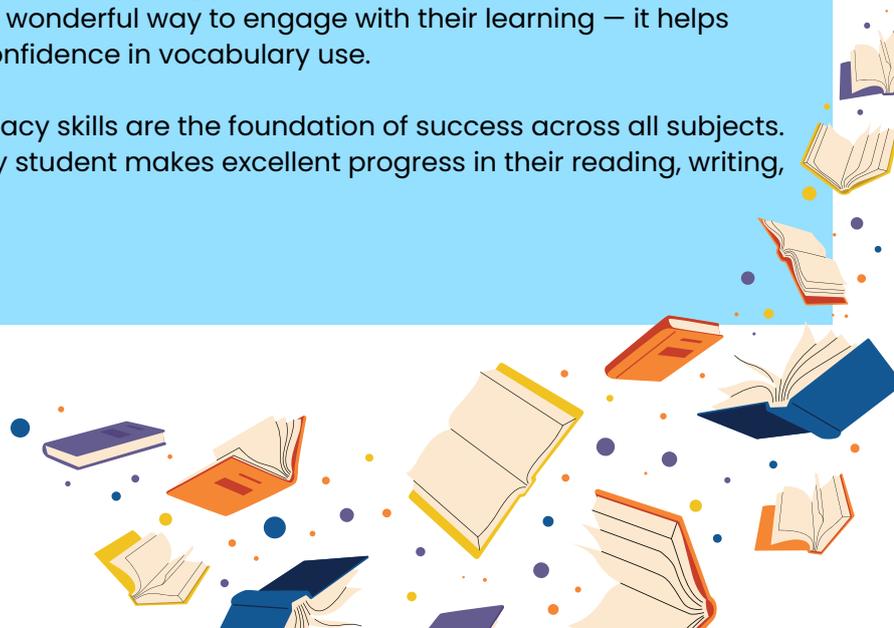
This week, we have been celebrating **National Storytelling Week** with an engaging story-writing competition in English—please do encourage your child to take part! We have been extremely impressed by how enthusiastically students are engaging with the curriculum and were delighted to celebrate their fantastic writing achievements in class.

Students are demonstrating excellent writing stamina and insightful interpretations, using increasingly sophisticated vocabulary with confidence and skill. Why not ask your child about Romeo's hamartia, a character's peripeteia, or how both **Sherlock Holmes** and Romeo display elements of hubris? This week I have observed students exploring how ambitious vocabulary such as fastidious, judicious, shrewd and subvert can be applied to characters they have studied in Sherlock Holmes, as part of our exploration of Victorian literature. Please continue these conversations at home by asking your child what these words mean and encouraging them to use more advanced vocabulary in their everyday language.

Research shows that practice makes permanent when it comes to vocabulary acquisition, and we want North students to have a real edge in articulation, confidence, and communication skills!

Please also continue to support your child with their spelling practice and weekly reading. Hearing your child read aloud, even for a few minutes, is a wonderful way to engage with their learning — it helps them develop fluency, pronunciation, and confidence in vocabulary use.

Research consistently shows that strong literacy skills are the foundation of success across all subjects. We remain committed to ensuring that every student makes excellent progress in their reading, writing, and oracy skills.



Reading Leaders

We are delighted that so many Year 7 students have signed up as Reading Leaders to work with Milby Primary School. Through this partnership, they are paired with Year 4 pupils as reading buddies—listening to them read and discussing the books they are enjoying.

This week, both Year 4 and Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed getting to know one another and sharing conversations about their favourite books and reading interests. Well done to our Reading Leaders for being such inspirational role models and for promoting a love of reading across our school community!

Word Millionaires

We are also delighted that we have another Word Millionaire in Year 7, taking our total to 6 students who have read over a million words as part of our Accelerated Reading programme! One of our English groups has also read over 10 million words between them! We recognise at school both attainment and increased effort with reading and thank you for your continued support in encouraging your child to read regularly.



Are your contact details up-to-date?

If any of your personal details have changed since you completed contact details last September, please let the office know so that we can change our records. This could include a change of address, telephone numbers, emergency contacts and change of names. It is important that we have all up-to-date details for your child, particularly in the event of an emergency.

On a personal note,

Thank you for your continued support – we really do appreciate it and are proud to share with others how supportive our school community is.

Have a peaceful weekend,

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kirstie Robinson'.

Kirstie Robinson.
Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

9th February – Pancake Canbake Club

16th–20th February – Half Term

25th February – SLT Coffee Morning

2nd March – 6th March Reading week events

5th March – World Book day

5th March – New Year Transition Family Evening

19th March – Year 7 Pupil Progress Evening

23rd March–27th March – Shakespeare Week

24th March – Inspiration Day

26th March – Easter Rewards Celebration

30th March–10th April – Easter Holiday

Free activities over half-term!

We are pleased to share with you on behalf of Warwickshire Education some activities that are available over half-term that you may be interested in!

Free Reading events at libraries across Warwickshire to celebrate the national year of reading

Poetry Collage with Emilie Lauren Jones

Create your own collages with professional poet Emilie Lauren Jones using lines of existing poetry, articles and a mix of images and other random objects! After the session, you will be able to take your fantastic creations home. Expect an inclusive, accessible and enjoyable session.

Friday 20th February

11am-12pm for ages 4-11-years 1-2pm for ages 12-15-years.

Nuneaton Library

[Book your free place on Eventbrite](#)

Use the following link to find out what other free reading events are taking place in libraries across the county during half-term

<https://img.evbc.com/https%3A%2F%2Fcdn.evbc.com%2Fimages%2F1172977389%2F394496156153%2F1%2Foriginal.20251215-131838?w=1024&auto=format%2Ccompress&q=75&sharp=10&rect=0%2C294%2C2152%2C786&s=197853865ea937fe621ebb25327db08f>

There's lots on for children and young people across Warwickshire this February half term, with events taking place at country parks, museums, libraries and local centres. With opportunities to explore outdoors, get creative, enjoy storytelling and take part in inclusive activities, there's many activities taking place different ages and interests in the school holidays.

Events and activities

Families can enjoy the benefits of spending active time outdoors with half-term fun at Warwickshire's country parks. Activities will take place at Ryton Pools Country Park and Kingsbury Water Park, including campfire popcorn, teddy bear dens, making natural bird feeders and more. Book tickets at

<https://countryparks.warwickshire.gov.uk/activities>.

Alongside the scheduled activities, the parks offer varied play areas, woods and lakes to explore, quirky independent cafes to discover, and more. Browse the country parks and greenways at <https://countryparks.warwickshire.gov.uk/explore>.

A free, hands-on event will be taking place at Market Hall Museum in Warwick with Buzzing with Life: Discover the World of Bugs and Bees! The event includes bug handling sessions with ZooLab, insect-themed craft activities and colouring inspired by the Dorothy Cadbury exhibit. Children can also take part in the Bug Hunt Museum Trail, exploring the galleries to uncover insects hidden among the displays. More information and booking details are available at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/heritage-and-culture-warwickshire-74671062993>

Children and Family Centres across Warwickshire will also be offering a range of free activities during the half-term break. Contact local centres to find out more or drop in to find out what is available. More information is available at

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilycentres.

Find ideas for activities suitable for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) by visiting [Warwickshire's Local Offer Facebook page](#).