



Friday 30th January 2026

We are Compassionate

This week we have been talking in depth about how we can really embody our values, and in particular, 'we are compassionate.' A favourite quotation of mine is from Atticus Finch, an inspiring character from Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, who says, 'you never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb inside his skin and really walk around in it.' We have talked in line-ups this week about what this quotation means for us in terms of building our empathy, kindness and value of compassion. None of us ever truly know what is going on in someone's lives and how they are feeling, and so our acts of compassion towards each other are always important so that everyone feels that they belong and are supported at HLNA. As always, students have responded to this notion with their mature and serious attitudes, and it is something that we will come back to over time. We thank you for your support with this from home too, in encouraging and reminding all young people, the importance of stopping and thinking before saying or doing something that might hurt each other's feelings.

Ambition & Excellence: Competitions in the Curriculum!

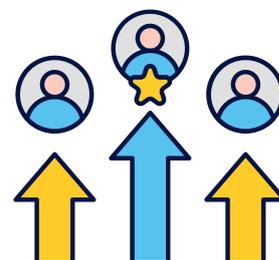
As we spring through the term, we are delighted to offer competitions in every subject area. This forms part of our commitment to providing ambitious and enriching learning beyond the classroom—deepening students' cultural understanding and giving them the opportunity to pursue their passion for a subject beyond what is typically taught within the curriculum.

These competitions also support our commitment to preparing students for their futures. Their next steps will be shaped by the subjects and interests they enjoy and value, and we want to give every child the opportunity to explore these while at school.

We are excited to launch the programme with English, through a storytelling competition, and Art's 'miniature photography' competition. There is an attachment with this week's newsletter to explain the competitions in more detail.

Every student is challenged to enter at least **three competitions**, with a **Gold Challenge** to enter five and a **Platinum Challenge** to enter them all over the term! With merits and rewards available, this is a fantastic opportunity to deepen knowledge, embed key skills, and enjoy a little competitive fun along the way.

We very much look forward to celebrating students' entries and achievements with them.



Ambitions Pathway Programme – laying foundations for future careers in construction

The community of our school is very important to us all and so were delighted to welcome Vistry Construction to HLNA today as part of our Ambitions Pathway Programme and working as a community. Vistry Construction oversee the Milby Meadows development and gave our North Stars an overview of construction and building. There are so many fantastic career opportunities within the Construction industry and our students very much enjoyed listening to how skills that we work on in school, such as teamwork and collaboration, will make them highly employable in the future!

Not only this, but Vistry have set our students a competition where the winners will have the chance to visit the site with their designs and have their work displayed for all to see! In our Geography lessons over the next two weeks we will be exploring ideas about sustainability and community to give students some inspiration for their ideas!

The Competition deadline is 9am on Monday 23rd February. Good luck North Stars! We cannot wait to see your designs!



Co-curricular activities – ambition and enrichment beyond the classroom

As you are aware, we have recently expanded our co-curricular programme, adding several new clubs. We are delighted that for one year group alone, we have a very wide variety of clubs and opportunities on offer. In addition, students can take part in a range of leadership roles through our North Star Guarantee, ensuring that everyone feels a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Please find attached our updated list of clubs for the spring term. We encourage your child to continue attending their current clubs or to try something new this term.

We are extremely grateful to our dedicated staff, who generously offer clubs beyond the classroom to inspire passions and enrich students' interests. This is very much what makes HLNA special; offering after school clubs are not in a teacher's official contract, but our staff really do want to give our students the opportunity to pursue different passions, and we are thankful for this. We look forward to even more clubs next year as new staff join the school!

Please be reassured that if a club is unable to run due to unforeseen circumstances, we will notify you of this via email/text and students are always able to stay in school and go to the Library Club where there are a variety of activities on offer. Even though this club finishes at 4pm, students also know that if there is an issue getting home due to traffic for instance, they are also able to stay in school until they can get home safely. Students are also able to use their mobile phone to contact you after school, as long as they do this at the office.

Year 7 trip on Wednesday 25th March

We are delighted to offer the whole year group the opportunity to further enrich their knowledge and understanding of the Year 7 curriculum through an exciting trip to **Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery** and the **Sea Life Centre** on **Wednesday 25th March!**

Activities throughout the day will link to learning across all subject areas, with rewards available for effort and achievement for individual students and Houses. We have worked hard to keep costs to an absolute minimum and hope that everyone will attend.

Please see **ParentPay** for full details. Payment and consent forms must be completed by the **end of February**.

We strongly encourage all students to attend, as it promises to be a highly enjoyable and enriching day for everyone! Students who do not take part will remain in school for a day of classroom-based learning.

Year 7 trip to France – Opal Coast, Northern France: Tuesday 14th July to Thursday 16th July 2026



We are excited to offer a joint trip with Higham Lane School to France! Miss Hampton and Mrs Finley from HLS attend this trip every year where wonderful memories are made by students and staff! There are 20 places available. Please see separate email for details.

Raising money for rewards and equipment!

We are extremely grateful for how you as families, and our community, support the school to raise funds. We have been asking students what else they would like at school, and top of the list is more equipment to use at lunchtime! We completely agree with them and with your help, this is what we would like to spend funds on! This will include both a range of outdoor equipment – sports and activities, alongside indoor equipment and things to do, such as more board games, puzzles, lego – and sponge darts board – by popular request! We would like to buy outdoor table tennis tables and other outdoor games that students can enjoy together during their lunch breaks. However, the tennis tables are very expensive! We would also like to use funds for special rewards, particularly during the summer term, where we have a few ideas of how to enjoy time together as Team North Stars!

Please remember that we use **EasyFundraising** to raise funds for school. All you have to do is register and if you are spending money in over 7000 retailers that have signed up to the scheme, you simply earn money for us too! Go to www.easyfundraising.co.uk It takes just a couple of minutes to register! Thank you!

We would also very much appreciate any further donations to the school, which can be paid via ParentPay.

Thank you very much for your support and generosity. We are looking forward to using the money to enhance your child's experience at HLNA!

Information from Community Autism Support Service

Our youth groups provide a fun, supportive environment where autistic children and young people can meet peers, feel accepted, and enjoy activities without pressure to conform. Typical sessions include games, sensory exploration, arts and crafts, and cooking, giving participants a sense of belonging while gently developing social skills in a neurodiverse-friendly space.

Our groups in Nuneaton run on a Wednesday evening, split into 3 age groups: 7-11, 11-15, 15-18. Please click on the link for more details.

[Community Autism Support Service](#)

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,



Kirstie Robinson.
Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

2nd February- 6th Feb Story Telling Week

5th February - SEND coffee morning for families

12th 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