



Friday 27th February 2026

Welcome back.

As we returned this week, there was a real sense that spring is in the air – at long last! The changing seasons therefore provided us with a timely reminder that we all have opportunities to begin again – to reflect, learn from our experiences, and move forward positively. We have been reinforcing with students that making mistakes is a natural and important part of growth, and that every day offers a fresh start.

This week, our Chair of Governors, Keith Hobbs, visited the school to undertake a learning walk. He spent time visiting classrooms and speaking with students and was particularly impressed by their positive attitudes to learning. He commented on how polite and courteous our students were, noting the excellent manners consistently displayed throughout the school.

Our Governors continue to provide both support and constructive challenge, and we are very grateful for the time and commitment they give to our school community.

An enriching and ambitious curriculum

This week, we have been incredibly impressed by the way our students have embraced ambitious opportunities to enrich their learning across the curriculum. From exploring castles in History to developing photography skills in Art, from analysing song lyrics in English to designing a local housing area, our students have demonstrated just how creative and capable they are.

We hope you enjoy seeing examples of their work – we are extremely proud of the effort and determination they consistently show in all their learning.

There are more ambitious opportunities coming up for students to enrich their learning experiences!



Shoutouts to..!

Over the coming days, we look forward to celebrating this hard work through prizes and rewards. Recognising effort and achievement is an important part of our school culture, and it is always a pleasure to celebrate success together.

Next week, we will also be launching our weekly Shoutouts, where we will recognise students who go above and beyond in school. Each Shoutout will be accompanied by merits, and we are excited to share the many ways our North Stars continue to demonstrate just how exceptional they are.

SEND white paper – every child achieving and thriving

You may be aware that the Government has published its White Paper outlining proposed reforms to the SEND system this week. We will be reviewing the detail carefully to understand what this may mean for us as a school over time and to ensure that we continue to meet all statutory requirements.

Above all, we want to reassure you that inclusion remains central to our ethos. We are committed to ensuring that every child feels that they belong and are valued within our school community. We will continue to uphold our core values by supporting all pupils, and particularly those with SEND, working in partnership with families to ensure that every child can thrive.



Family 'Coffee and Chat' events.

Every half term, we provide an opportunity for you to come into school to discuss any concerns you may have. These sessions also allow us to share key information about how you can support your child at home and how we can continue to work in partnership together.

This week, we were joined by Mr Thomas and Miss Hampton. Miss Hampton explained how to support learning at home using Language Nut and Mr Thomas introduced Dr Frost Maths, which will be launching next week. Students will be shown by Mr Thomas how to log into Dr Frost, and they will spend a maths lesson learning how to use Dr Frost effectively for homework to support their overall learning in maths.

- Maths homework is set on a Monday and is due the following Monday.
- French homework is set on a Friday and is due the following Friday.

If you were unable to attend this week's meeting, the presentations are attached for you to view. After Easter, the sessions will be about the History and Geography curriculum and how to support from home. Please let us know via hello@hlna.co.uk if there is another aspect of school life that you would like more information on to go alongside these informative sessions.

Staying safe in school

Yesterday, we practised both our Lockdown and Fire Drill procedures to ensure that students are regularly reminded of the important differences in how we respond to each scenario. It is vital that everyone understands the distinct actions required so that, in the unlikely event of an emergency, we can respond quickly and safely.

We prepare students for these drills through our Weekly Review messages, where we explain why such procedures are important and emphasise that these are practice exercises. We also take time to reassure students that their safety is always our highest priority and that we do everything within our power to keep them safe.

As expected, students behaved impeccably in both scenarios and followed instructions calmly and sensibly. They were particularly interested to hear us using our phone tannoy system for the first time in classrooms – an additional communication feature that would be used in a lockdown situation and which enhances our ability to provide clear, immediate instructions to keep everyone safe.

Looking ahead – Careers Week and Ambitions Pathways Programme

Next week, we are very excited to be taking part in National Careers Week. We are delighted to have secured funding to deliver two accredited careers programmes with our students, providing valuable opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of future pathways.

Alongside this, we have a range of additional activities planned as part of our Ambitions Pathways Programme, all designed to raise aspirations and broaden horizons for every student. We are committed to ensuring that our young people are equipped with the confidence, ambition and insight they need to make informed choices about their futures.

We look forward to sharing more news about these exciting opportunities next week.

Student Progress Evenings

As previously communicated, these will be taking place on Thursday 19th March, Thursday 26th March and Wednesday 15th April. I will be communicating separately next week about the procedures for these evenings and will do so via both written information and a voiceover presentation so that we can ensure that these evenings are as successful as possible.