

Higham Lane North Academy

NEWSLETTER



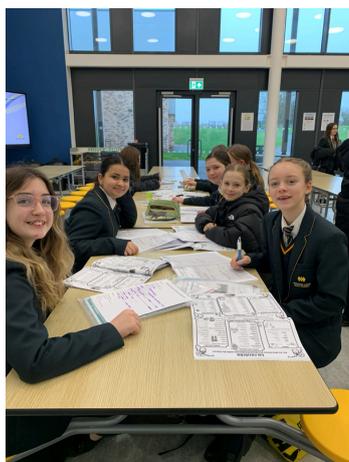
Friday 13th February 2026

We are conscientious – we are proud because we always do what is right.

It is always a pleasure and a privilege to be at HLNA, and this week was no exception. One moment of joy for me personally was on Thursday morning while on duty with Miss Charles before school. We always enjoy a calm and serene start to the day, helped along by the classical music playing in the dining hall!

When Miss Charles called me over, I braced myself to potentially deal with an issue – but of course, that wasn't the case! Instead, she pointed out several tables of students sitting and practising for their French assessment.

We have been working on 'excellence without reminders', and I was delighted to share with the students how clearly, they were demonstrating perseverance and determination in their learning. How fantastic to see such commitment before the school day had even begun! Well done to all the students this week who continue to show just how conscientious and dedicated they are.



Autism with Anxiety staff training

As part of our weekly CPD for staff, this week we all attended online professional development led by an external consultant on autism and anxiety in young people. This highly informative session enabled everyone to have a deeper understanding and empathy of how a young person is feeling and acting because of their anxiety and/or autism. Strategies were also shared for how staff can help a young person to manage this condition and enable them to be successful.

Year 7 curriculum trip – Wednesday 25th March to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and Sea Life Centre



We are very excited to be taking the whole year group out in March to enrich the Year 7 curriculum. Please ensure that this trip is paid for by Monday 23rd February to secure a place. We very much hope that everyone will attend. If your child does not attend, s/he will follow the usual curriculum in school. If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium and wish to speak to us regarding potential financial assistance, please call the Office and ask to speak to Mrs Smith.

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.



Children’s Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day

You may have seen from recent communication and on our social media that we have championed these worthy causes and shone a light on ensuring that students always know how to look after themselves and keep themselves safe, both in the ‘real’ world and online. The use of phones and social media continues to be of concern to me as Headteacher in ensuring that students keep themselves from harm and are not involved in anything on social media and online groups that spread misinformation and harm.

I am sure you do, but if you don’t already, please check your child’s phone on a very regular basis to ensure that all our students, and your child as your priority, are being kept safe and happy in the online world. I see this as being a key part of our safe and happy school community, supporting each other with what can be a difficult area for both school and home to navigate. Sharing the same values and working together will make a difference.

At school, students know that if they have a mobile phone, this is switched off and kept inside their bag throughout the day. We will rigorously follow our policy if this rule is not followed. I am delighted to report though (of course!) that every day this week, every single student has followed this expectation – this is fantastic and we will continue to be relentless with this expectation.



Student Progress Evenings

These evenings will give you an opportunity to make appointments with subject teachers to discuss your child's progress. These will be held face-to-face in school and each subject appointment is for 5 minutes. At Key Stage Three, students follow a range of subjects and if you are to make an appointment with every subject teacher, this gives you almost an hour with teachers to discuss your child's progress and next steps. After half-term I will explain more fully how the evening will run to ensure that the time is maximised for each subject. However, this is a reminder of the schedule with our staff being available over three evenings to ensure that there are enough appointments for all. Students will still follow their usual timetable on these days but with shorter lessons with school closing at 2pm on the following days.

- Thursday 19th March - 2.15pm - 7pm
- Thursday 26th March - 2.15pm - 7pm
- Wednesday 15th April - 2.15pm - 5.30pm



Flippin' fantastic at Pancake Club and shifting shapes at Attend-Dance!

We continue to exemplify everyone belonging and feeling included through our exceptional offer of co-curricular clubs. This week we enjoyed flipping pancakes at our Pancake Club. When I popped by, I must exclaim that there were potentially more fillings than pancake for some students, but everyone was having a very enjoyable time! Thank you to Miss Quigley, Miss Charles and Miss Rounce for role modelling their 'flipping' skills! We wish you good luck and fortune if you are making a sacrifice during the upcoming period of Lent.

We also enjoyed our school disco and thank you to our staff again for giving up their time to make this possible. Students have been creating their North playlist as part of our commitment to their mental health and wellbeing. Personally, I remain to be convinced with their choice of songs (!) and staff are also making their playlist too! Music of course is subjective, but I will share that Baby Shark and Gangnam Style do not feature on mine!



Looking ahead...

It is a short and busy half-term as we approach Easter!

We are very much looking forward to National Careers Week. As part of our Ambitions Pathways Programme and our commitment to preparing students to be successful adults, students will benefit from some exceptional career experiences. We are delighted to have won two national bids for companies to work directly with our students, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Miss Charles for her excellent work in securing these opportunities.

Alongside this, we will be celebrating improved and excellent attendance with further prizes, as well as taking part in our ambitious and enriching curriculum trip.

It promises to be a purposeful and exciting few weeks ahead!

An ambitious curriculum – subject competitions

We would like all our students to enjoy a well-deserved rest with their families, but if they are stuck with what to do on another rainy afternoon, (when will it cease raining?!), then please remember that they can always enter one of our subject competitions: Write a story for English, a Photography competition for Art and our Drawing competition for Vistry. All details can be found on subject pages for English, Art and Geography on Google Classroom. Good luck!

On a personal note,

Thank you for your continued support over the last half-term.

We are now officially halfway through Year 7, and it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on just how much the students have achieved. They are now fully settled into secondary school life, and it has been fantastic to see their growing confidence, independence and commitment to their learning.

Have a peaceful weekend and a restful half-term break.

Best wishes,



Kirstie Robinson.
Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.

DATES and NOTES for your DIARY!

16th–20th February – Half Term

- 25th February – SLT Coffee and Chat 4pm
- 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
- 25th March – Inspiration Day–Year 7 trip
- 26th March – Easter Rewards Celebration
- 26th March – Year 7 Pupil Progress Evening
- 15th April–Year 7 Pupil Progress Evening
- 30th March–10th April – Easter Holiday**



STRATFORD LIBRARY **Free!**

OPEN MIC POETRY

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 13-17-YEARS-OLD **Thursday 19th February**

2pm - Free workshop with poet **Emilie Lauren-Jones**

3pm - Poetry Open Mic

Limited **FREE** lunches available - first come, first served

SCAN ME! 



Poetry Collages

with **Emilie Lauren Jones**

Ideal for those who enjoy being creative, crafting or playing with words. Create your own collages using lines of existing poetry, articles and a mix of images and other random objects!

 Friday 20th February

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

 Nuneaton Library

 Free!
Free lunches available whilst stocks last

 Book on Eventbrite or ask a member of staff

SCAN ME! 

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](#).