



Friday 16th January 2026

Everyone Is Included and Everyone Belongs – Ambitions Pathway Programme

We are highly ambitious for all our North Stars and are committed to ensuring that every child exceeds their potential. As part of this commitment, we have already begun delivering our five-year careers programme, designed to help students explore future pathways and develop high aspirations from the very start of their secondary education with us.

During the Autumn term, students heard from BAM engineers and our site manager, who spoke about the process of building our school and shared valuable insights into careers in construction, alongside their tips for success. Many more exciting opportunities are planned over the coming years to ensure that every child can begin to think carefully and confidently about their future pathway.

Today, we were delighted to welcome Amrik Singh, one of our community Governors, who delivered an inspiring presentation on careers in Law to all Year 7 students as part of our Ambitions Pathway Programme. Amrik shared exceptional advice on achieving success, the importance of perseverance, and how to stay safe online. Students also gained a fascinating insight into the role of a Senior Crown Prosecutor and were encouraged to pursue their ambitions with conscientiousness and compassion.

Amrik was extremely impressed by the conduct of our Year 7 North Stars, commenting on how ambitious, articulate and thoughtful they were. Their questions were insightful and demonstrated genuine curiosity. Following the presentation, members of our Pupil Parliament met with Amrik to explore how they can further utilise their skills within school through our democratic structures.

We are very much looking forward to continuing to support and guide our North Stars as they develop their aspirations for the future through our Ambitions Pathway Programme.



Conscientious, **Confident** and Compassionate.



Inclusive learning within every classroom



Once again this week, the quality of learning in classrooms has been exceptional. We regularly remind students that we expect 100% engagement in every lesson, and it is genuinely a pleasure to walk through classrooms and see every student focused, motivated and fully immersed in their learning. We are also extremely grateful to our teachers, who work tirelessly to ensure lessons are thoroughly planned and well prepared. Through thoughtful adaptations and inclusive practice, they make certain that everyone belongs, everyone is included, and every student is supported to be successful in their learning.

Teachers have also continued to return assessment feedback to students. We encourage you to ask your child to share their green assessment feedback sheets with you, so you can celebrate what they have done well together and support them in understanding their next steps for improvement.

Can we help?

Members of the Senior Leadership Team have also been speaking with several students who may find it more challenging at times to be successful in school due to a range of factors. Our purpose in school is to reduce barriers to learning and to support every child who faces disadvantage of any kind, so that all students can exceed their potential.

Please remember that if your child, or your family, is experiencing difficulties and would benefit from additional support, we are always here to listen and to explore how we can help. By working together in partnership between home and school, and by living our shared belief that everyone is included and everyone belongs, is how we can truly be successful for every child at Higham Lane North Academy.

Assessments and Reporting home – slight delay

Last week, all teachers submitted data from the Autumn term assessments, alongside indicators showing how well students demonstrate our core values of being conscientious, compassionate and confident in lessons. This information is usually brought together into a single report, which was due to be shared with you imminently. Unfortunately, due to the recent cyber-attack at Higham Lane School, this system has been temporarily suspended. I sincerely apologise for the delay this has caused. Please be assured that this work remains an absolute priority. The School and Trust are continuing to work closely with external agencies and are following their guidance to ensure systems are safely restored as soon as possible. The report will present all subject data together to support ease of reading and understanding.

In the meantime, we encourage you to continue reviewing your child's exercise books and to use the green feedback sheets, which provide clear information about their current attainment and next steps.

We will also be reviewing a small number of student groupings. These changes will be minimal, carefully considered, and reviewed with the Senior Leadership Team. All decisions are informed by assessment data alongside professional, contextual discussions about each individual child. Thank you for your patience and continued support which I appreciate is a frustrating situation for everyone.

Attendance matters – every day in school counts towards making excellent progress with learning



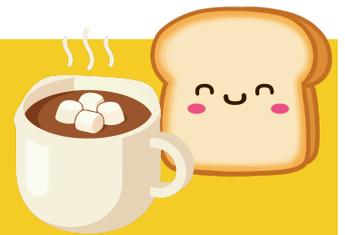
Next week, we are excited to relaunch our attendance rewards for both excellent and improved attendance. Every day in school is an opportunity to learn – and an opportunity to earn a reward for being present!

Some students are currently taking part in a 10-day attendance challenge, and we cannot wait to see which rewards they choose at the end of it. We are also looking forward to issuing badges to students who are members of our **100% Attendance Club**, as well as certificates to every student who has achieved **98% attendance** since September.

From Monday, the attendance tracker will be reset, giving all students a fresh opportunity to work towards membership of the 98% and 100% attendance clubs. We hope to see even more students receiving certificates in the summer term – and we would be delighted if we need to order even more 100% attendance badges!

Thank you for your continued support with attendance. Our school target is 97% - please remember that for every day lost, this means 5 hours of lessons to catch up on – this is not always easy for students to do. Please remember that if your child is feeling under the weather, please send them in with tissues, paracetamol can be kept in the school office, and we will call you if we feel that your child has deteriorated through the day and needs to go home.

Well Wednesdays and Fabulous Fridays! Breakfast Club 8.05 – 8.25am



We are excited to launch another new club! Next week for £1, your child can have a slice of toast and hot chocolate in our Dining Hall. (Library Club will still run!). Please bring in monies if your child wants to come along – this will not be on ParentPay. We hope that this will be a lovely way to start the day, either chatting with friends, playing board games, or even chatting to our staff whilst warming ourselves with toast and hot chocolate! We will review how this goes over the next couple of weeks and ask students for their feedback – who knows, if it proves to be popular, this could become a daily occurrence and perhaps we will extend our range of refreshments!

On a personal note,

Once again, thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a peaceful weekend.

Best wishes,

Kirstie Robinson.

Headteacher
Higham Lane North Academy.