



HIGHAM LANE  
NORTH ACADEMY

# Family Handbook

Year 7

Founding North Stars cohort

2025 – 26





Higham Lane School

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## Welcome from HLNA

Welcome to Higham Lane North Academy. We are delighted that you have chosen HLNA for your child's secondary school. As part of the founding cohort, your child will benefit from the full attention and support of our highly skilled teaching staff and be the first year group to use our amazing facilities.

HLNA is a school where firstly 'everyone is included, and everyone belongs.' We are fully committed to ensuring that everyone will excel because we have high expectations for your child to be successful and we will provide high levels of care and support to ensure that they are the happy and successful people that we all want them to be.

Our pledge to HLNA pupils is that they will be:

- ◆ **H** Happy and Safe
- ◆ **L** Love learning
- ◆ **N** Nurtured and supported
- ◆ **A** Aspirational and ambitious

At HLNA we will teach pupils key values in life to help them be successful. Pupils at HLNA will be confident and resilient young people who act with wisdom, integrity and gratitude, making them 'proud because we always do what's right.' HLNA pupils will say: 'We are hardworking. We are confident. We are compassionate.'

Within this framework, HLNA pupils will demonstrate our STAR values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Resilience. We will give them opportunities every day both within the classroom and beyond to excel in these areas, helping them to enjoy their time at school, and prepare them to become happy and successful young adults.

We have a highly skilled and committed team in place, excited to be teaching your child over the next five years. They are very much looking forward to working with you all as families. Together, we are at the pinnacle of creating a brand-new school in the heart of a new community and we cannot wait to get started!

Please use this booklet as an initial introduction to the next part of your child's educational journey on to secondary school with us at HLNA. More information and guidance will follow over the coming months, and we hope that you can join us in July to attend our Families event where you will also be able to take a tour of the school.

Thank you for joining us at Higham Lane North Academy where we look forward to your child being part of the HLNA team and working with all HLNA families.

Best wishes,  
Kirstie Robinson  
Headteacher Designate



## Read more about how we will fulfil our commitment to your child at Higham Lane North Academy



### Happy and Safe

We will have a hyper-vigilant culture of safeguarding your child. It is your child's right to feel happy and safe in their school environment at all times. We will proactively and repeatedly teach your child how to keep themselves, and others, safe from all types of harm every single day whilst they are with us. We will do this through our daily positive messaging of safety, through our carefully planned and well sequenced academic curriculum, care and support curriculum and our character and culture curriculum. Our teachers and form tutors will receive high levels of training to ensure that they build connections with your children so that they always trust us to keep them safe. Our clear systems, policies and procedures alongside training and awareness for all staff will create a safe environment for your child at HLNA. Our school will be a place where they feel happy. We will work carefully with more vulnerable children to ensure their protection and wellbeing and will work extensively with external agencies and safeguarding stakeholders within the community to ensure that HLNA pupils' safety and wellbeing is our priority. Pupils will instinctively know what to do if they feel concerned or worried about something and will know that if they find themselves in this situation we will help and support them to ensure that they feel happy and safe again. Overall, our positive classrooms will ensure that they feel confident as learners; and we will provide a wide variety of experiences to give your child many opportunities to be happy doing things that they enjoy.



### Love learning

Our positive classrooms built on strong connections between teachers and pupils will ensure that pupils feel valued as learners. With routines for learning firmly embedded from the outset, pupils will understand how to be successful within the classroom. Our curriculum will be planned and sequenced carefully so that pupils can make connections between each topic that they learn and remember their learning more easily over time. We will make no excuses within the classroom – it is every child's right to acquire the best that has been thought and said about each subject and we will be relentless in ensuring that all children can acquire this knowledge and make excellent progress over time. Our specialist teachers will help pupils to foster a positive mindset and build resilience for learning alongside ensuring that pupils have as many opportunities as possible to make links between their learning and the real world. Our senior leadership team are highly skilled curriculum leaders who are passionate about teaching and learning; and who are excited to have been joined by teachers with excellent subject knowledge who are committed to ensuring your child loves their learning and makes excellent progress over time.



## Nurture and support



We will always champion your child. Our form tutors will be your child's chief champion and teachers will always champion their learning in lessons. We will have high expectations for your child, role modelling and showing them the ways of successful people within a strong culture and environment of care and support. Our staff will get to know your child very well over the next few years so that they too are proud of their journey and achievements. Our positive rewards system will always seek to celebrate how pupils are doing the right thing, as learners and as people. We will coach and encourage your child to be the best they can be, and like all great sports coaches, we will always be in their corner encouraging and guiding, role-modelling and showing them the way. Like all the best sports coaches and teams in the world, our staff will have high expectations of your child, teaching and role modelling the ways of successful people, so that they fulfil their potential. All we ask from pupils is for their best efforts - we will accept nothing less than their best, nothing less than 100%. At HLNA we are a team, a family, and the best teams and families do not let each other down, they are there for them, through times of celebration, and crucially when times are tough. We will not give up on your child. We know that everyone finds it tough on some days, we know that some pupils will find it harder than others to give 100%. We know that pupils will sometimes make mistakes in learning how to be the best versions of themselves over the next few years. If pupils find that they have made mistakes with their actions, we will work with pupils, and their families, to ensure that pupils take responsibility for their actions. Pupils will know we still believe in them. Pupils will know that they can still do the right thing. We will help give pupils ways back into being the proud and successful North star pupil that they want to be.

## Aspirational and ambitious



We will always believe in the potential of your child. Whatever your child's starting point, we will ensure that they are aspirational and ambitious for themselves. We know that self-esteem and confidence is inextricably linked to feelings of success, in whatever shape or form this takes. We will ensure that pupils repeatedly learn the many ways of successful people; from the classroom and beyond; and we will hold pupils to account in a supportive way to ensure that they have the highest expectations of themselves. Through the North Star Guarantee a range of opportunities, bringing together charity, community, culture, competition, creativity and leadership, will ensure that your child leaves us as a proud, confident, kind and compassionate human being with wisdom, gratitude and integrity who is ready to take their place within the modern world; ready to face challenges with perseverance and resilience; and ready to lead their lives in a fulfilling and meaningful way; in a way that will make them feel safe, and give them joy and happiness as young adults.



## Transition and induction from Year 6 Primary school to Year 7 HLNA North Stars

*'From one step to the next, we're ready to succeed!'*

A successful transition between primary school and secondary school is essential to ensure that your child wastes no time worrying about what lies ahead, but can instead use this time to super-charge their journey from the outset. Our transition is in three phases. Currently we are in phase one where in small steps we are working together to help encourage your child to think about their move to secondary school in a way that feels a manageable part of their Year 6/7 journey. You will see activities and events below that this takes. Please remember that there are also activities on the website for your child to complete as part of this.

Date	Activity
Monday 10th March	Welcome families event
Wednesday 12th March 9am - 10am	Coffee and Chat – informal drop-in at Higham Lane School's Library for any further questions/concerns
Thursday 13th March 1.15pm - 2.15pm	Coffee and Chat – informal drop-in at Higham Lane School's Library for any further questions/concerns
April - July	Encourage your child to complete transition activities on the website. These are aimed at being enjoyable and engaging, whilst also acting as a bridge between KS2 to KS3 learning. Keep these safe at home and ensure your child brings them to us when they meet us in July or September so that they can begin collecting merits straightaway to recognise their efforts and achievements.

### New beginnings and endless possibilities - Part Two Transition

Part two of our transition journey is May – July when we will visit your child in their school setting and where your child, and their family, will visit us at HLNA to meet key staff. Pupils will be shown our routines and ways of working. This means that they will be clear about what they need to do to be happy and successful at HLNA.



Date	Activity
May - June	<p>Mrs Robinson and other HLNA staff will be visiting all children in their primary school to get to know them better. We will give your child a 'Get to know me' activity to complete to help us recognise them as individuals.</p> <p>All children with more complex needs will be supported by our SENDCO Miss Rounce. We will be sharing some of our ways of working through our transition activities so that pupils are prepared well for the KS3 journey.</p>
Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July	SEND events for children and families
Monday 7th July	<p>Meet your Champion Form Tutor at HLNA.</p> <p>Our staff will get to know your child better and you will be able to complete practical arrangements, ahead of joining HLNA in September.</p>
Monday 7th July - 3.45pm	'Meet, Mingle and Make Memories' - for single primary school children to meet others
Thursday 10th July	<p>North Stars transition day at HLNA – all children will spend time with their tutor, meet other pupils, and learn about what will make HLNA special for them alongside experiencing some taster lessons.</p> <p>Please ensure that your child has their trainers with them so that they can be the first to use some of our amazing facilities.</p> <p>If your child plays a musical instrument, please also encourage them to bring this with them.</p> <p>Optional: 3.15 – 4pm: Super-curricular activity: Choose from Music, Art, Sport or School Club. More details to follow.</p>
Thursday 10th July from 5pm	Family information evening and a tour of the school. This will involve a key presentation from Mrs Robinson where full transition and practical information will be available. Please bring your child with them so that they can complete an activity with their form tutor. All staff will be available for you to meet them.
Tuesday 15th July - 3.30pm - 4.45pm	Sports/Performing Arts/Crafts/Wellbeing activity
Summer Holiday	Relax, Re-charge and BE NORTH READY for September!



## ‘New beginnings and endless possibilities’ - Part Three Transition

Date	Activity
Friday 29th August	<p>Drop-in from 10am – 2pm. Come in and talk to us about any questions/concerns. Have a tour of the school with your child at 11am/12pm/1pm.</p> <p>SEND drop in 10am – 2pm. All SEND families are welcome to speak to our SENDCO and SEN support team about any questions you have alongside a further tour of the school if desired. Tours at 11am/12pm/1pm.</p>
Tuesday 2nd September 1pm - 2pm	Drop in to see Senior Leadership/SENDCO with or without your child for any final questions/concerns.
Wednesday 3rd September	<p>Our very first day at HLNA! Staff will be at the gates to greet all children. Please ensure that your child arrives between 8.20am - 8.35am.</p> <p>Pupil inauguration day 1 – learn all about how we will do things at HLNA. We will help and show HLNA pupils how to be successful North Stars.</p>
Thursday 4th September	<p>Our second day at HLNA! Staff will be at the gates to greet all children! Please arrive between 8.20am - 8.35am.</p> <p>Pupil inauguration day 2 – learn all about how we will do things at HLNA. We will help and show you pupils how to be successful North Stars.</p>
Friday 5th September	<p>Our third day at HLNA! Staff will be at the gates to greet all children! Please arrive between 8.20am - 8.35am.</p> <p>Pupil inauguration day 3 - Year 7 photos (individual and year group photo)</p>
Thursday 11th September	Year 7 friendship disco 3.30 – 4.30pm - a chance to meet new friends and get to know each other better.
September - October	Year 7s will be writing a letter to their Primary School teachers and Year 6 children to share their experience of secondary school so far. This will also help support Year 6 children as they think about their next steps.



Date	Activity
September - October	Year 7s can take part in our first inter-form sports competition
Tuesday 30th September	SEND café for families – meet the team and have a ‘coffee and chat’ with us. We will share SEND updates and you can ask us any questions about your experience of HLNA so far
Thursday 2nd October	Year 7 family review evening 4pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 9th October	HLNA Open Day and Evening for 2026 applications – our Year 7 Northern Stars can volunteer to be helpers
Wednesday 22nd October	SLT coffee morning for families – meet the team, ‘coffee and chat’ where we will share updates and you can ask us any questions about your experience of HLNA so far
Friday 24th October	Staff INSET day - children do not attend school
Monday 27th October	Half-Term break begins

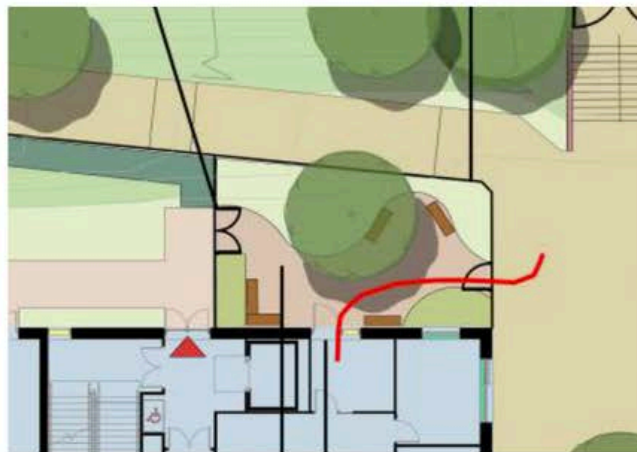
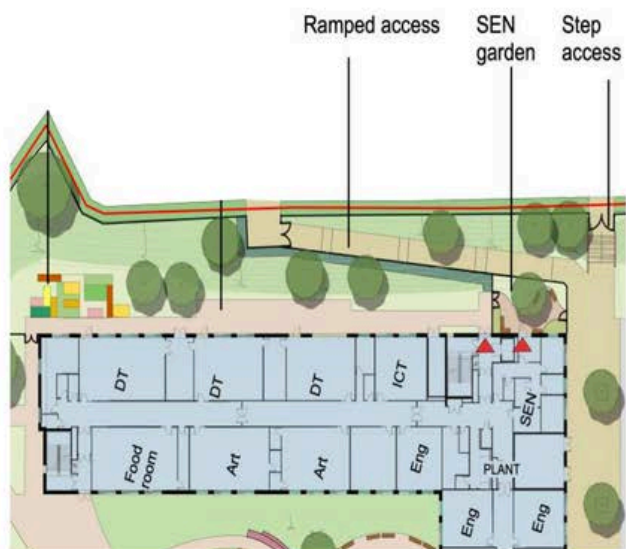


## SEND - special educational needs and disabilities

*'Everyone is included and everyone belongs.'*

We are committed to creating an inclusive environment that supports every pupil's unique needs, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We recognize the importance of diversity and aim to provide personalized learning opportunities for all pupils, ensuring they can reach their full potential. Our staff members are trained to adapt teaching methods and resources, offering additional support where needed, whether through specialized interventions or tailored teaching strategies. We foster a culture of empathy and understanding, encouraging all pupils to appreciate the value of inclusion. By promoting accessibility, collaboration, and positive relationships, our school ensures that every pupil, regardless of their challenges, feels valued, respected, and empowered to succeed.

Robyn Rounce, is our highly skilled and experienced SENDCO who will be working with pupils and families to ensure that SEND children fulfil their potential. Ms Rounce will be joining us in May and will be speaking with pupils and families over the coming months to support transition from Year 6 to Year 7. Every term we will offer opportunities for families to talk to us with our 'coffee and chat' events - in our 'SEND cafe' so that we can regularly hear your views and seek to strengthen our home-school partnership.

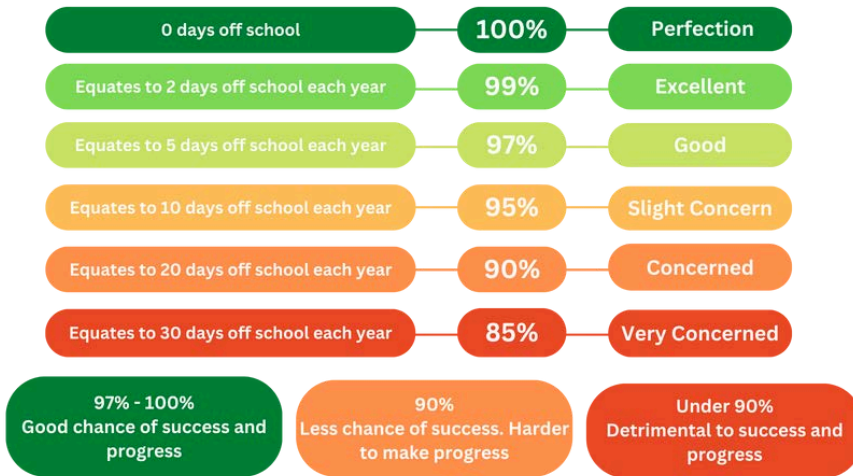


## Every day counts, every moment matters – attendance and punctuality

At HLNA we always aim for 100%. We want every child to be in school every day. Being at HLNA every day means that we can ensure your child's safety. Being at HLNA every day means that your child has the best chance of success both in their academic outcomes and to develop their character in a fully-rounded way. When a pupil is not in school, we cannot ensure their safety. This is why we will always be committed to ensuring that your child's attendance is excellent. We do understand that sometimes pupils will feel unwell and be unable to attend school. In these instances, there will be a system to follow so that we can keep in touch with you as a family during their absence from school (details on website and we will share this with you in July).

As part of our commitment that HLNA is a place 'where everyone belongs and everyone is included,' we will ensure that your child feels safe and happy to attend school. We will also positively reward excellent attendance in the following ways:

- Termly certificates for 100% attendance at our termly rewards assemblies.
- 100% attendance badges – be the proud wearer of the 100% gold attendance badge. These are loaned for the term for those pupils whose attendance is 100%
- During key times we will run attendance competitions. For every 10 days of continuous excellent attendance, your child will be entered into the termly prize draw – the more 10 continuing days of attendance, the more chance to win a prize!



## EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

### LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

(FIGURES BELOW ARE CALCULATED OVER A SCHOOL YEAR)

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
25 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

## North Academy Uniform

We are very proud of our uniform which was designed with careful thought to ensure that HLNA pupils feel a strong sense of belonging and pride when they wear it. A uniform not only promotes this sense of belonging and pride; a uniform can be used to foster a great team spirit, to be a leveller within society where everyone feels included and belongs because of the shared identity a uniform brings; and a uniform is also important for safety and protection. From the best sports teams and companies in the world to professional and business leaders, to our emergency services wearing a uniform, successful people know that the clothes they wear represent the values and ways of working that they are proud to represent. A strong uniform helps us to feel purposeful with our intentions for the day and this is why the HLNA uniform is an important part of the culture at our school.

### Uniform checks

Every morning the senior leadership team and form tutors will meet and greet pupils on the playground. We will check uniform and give all pupils the chance to be North-ready with their uniform and personal appearance before the day officially begins. If any pupil does not meet the uniform guidelines within our policy after this point, staff will take appropriate actions, which may include addressing the issue and issuing sanctions as necessary. However, our aim is that this daily checking time gives every pupil the chance to be North-ready and to take responsibility to address any minor issues so that every pupil is proud and ready for the day ahead, without the need for sanctions.

### Uniform Policy

The uniform list is compulsory and all pupils must follow the uniform policy at all times. The policy in full can be found on the school's website. Please refer to this for full details.

In summary, here is the uniform that all pupils will wear:

- Navy blue HLNA branded blazer
- HLNA clip-on tie
- Plain white shirt with a collar (not a polo shirt)
- Trousers: Plain navy blue, polyester trousers in good condition, not fraying. Trousers should be a loose-fit tailored style and be suitable for a professional school environment. Unacceptable trousers include: cords, cotton, skin-tight or denim or flares. The trouser length should meet the school shoe.
- Skirt: Either the official branded plain navy blue pleated HLNA skirt with school logo. Or: a plain, navy blue, pleated skirt with no logo that is of an appropriate length - that sits just on or above the knee and is not rolled up or worn high above the knee. Skirts should be a loose-fit tailored style and be suitable for a professional school environment. Unacceptable skirts include the skater or pencil style skirt.



- Jumper (optional): Official branded HLNA plain, navy blue, V-necked sweatshirt or sweater with embroidered HLNA logo. Unacceptable items include: any other sweater, sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan.
- Socks/Tights Plain black/navy blue socks only should be worn with trousers. Plain black/navy blue opaque or flesh coloured tights or plain black/navy blue ankle socks should be worn with the skirt. No socks with lace trims or frills are allowed.
- Shoes and Boots Flat-heeled, plain, smart black leather or leather-look formal shoes. Shoes should be worn with trousers covering ankles and have only black laces. No trainers, heels, pumps, canvas, patterns, heels, accessories. Please see the Uniform Policy on the School website for further information.
- Coats A plain, full-length black or navy/dark blue coat or anorak, covering the top of trousers/skirts.
- A rucksack or bag of a suitable size and style for the pupil to carry their books and equipment for each day. No other type of bag is permitted.

For HLNA branded items, our uniform suppliers are:

**The Schoolwear Centre**, Newdegate Street, Nuneaton and **Match Fit Kit**, 9 Weddington Road, Nuneaton.

Please remember that many items of our school uniform can be purchased from the High Street and/or supermarkets.



## PE Kit

- Training shoes, clean and appropriate for indoor use
- Navy blue/gold leggings OR navy blue/gold shorts with HLNA logo (2 styles available, 1 with lycra undershort. Or navy blue/gold plain shorts without HLNA logo
- Navy blue/gold HLNA polo shirt with HLS logo
- Navy blue/gold sports socks with HLNA lettering or plain black sports socks
- Navy blue/gold ¾ zip track top hoodie with HLNA logo

Optional: Plain, black/navy blue track suit bottoms, plain white/black/blue base layer, the HLNA sports bag, Football boots for football sessions which will be held on the school playing fields.

Optional: Plain, black/navy blue track suit bottoms, plain white/black/blue base layer, the HLNA sports bag

## Jewellery and accessories

- Hair must be tidy, should not cover the eyes and should be tied up for certain lessons with health and safety reasons. Hair bands must be a single colour and be discrete.
- No obvious make-up should be worn in Years 7 and 8. A discrete amount is allowed in Years 9 -11. No fake lashes or fake tan is allowed.
- One plain, single, small stud is allowed in each ear. No other piercings, including nose piercings, are allowed.
- Nail varnish, acrylic or extended nails are not allowed.
- An analogue watch is allowed. No smart-watches can be worn.
- Religious headwear: pupils are permitted to wear plain white, blue or black headwear with a recognized religious meaning. No other colours are permitted.



## Essential equipment for the day

We all know that it is really important to have the right equipment to be able to learn well in school and be successful. To emphasise this, we will share messages similar to this one with the pupils: If you are playing in a football match, you will take your football boots, if you are performing in an Orchestra, you will take your musical instrument! Without equipment for these examples, we all know that performance wouldn't be 100%.

In life, we all need essential equipment to be successful. A surgeon needs their surgical equipment to perform life-saving operations and firefighters use a range of specialist equipment in fire engines to save lives. Where would a hairdresser be without their tools? How would an electrician or plumber fix broken equipment without their toolbox of essential equipment?

Therefore, at HLNA, we must all be 100% with our equipment. Your form tutor will check daily to ensure that you are fully equipped for school. When we have the right tools for learning, including a positive attitude, you too will learn to be very successful.

For every day of learning at HLNA, pupils will need:

- Black ballpoint pens (make sure you have a spare)
- Pencil
- Green pen (for self-checking and building learning independence)
- Ruler
- Reading book (We will provide you with a library book/you can bring your own)
- A pair of compasses
- Protractor
- Scientific calculator (we recommend: CASIO FX-83GTCW or the CASIO FX-85GTCW)
- Glue stick
- Eraser

Teachers will provide pupils with a pencil sharpener if required.



## The day at North Academy

We follow a two-week timetable, beginning in the first week of September with a Week A. The second week will be Week B. This is indicated in your child's school organiser.

Timings	The School Day
08:00	Morning club in the Library
08:33	All students arrive and assemble on the school playground
08:35	SLT and duty staff: Welcome to the Day
08:40 - 09:10	Attendance Registration, Morning Welcome and Activity
09:10 - 10:10	Lesson one
10:10 - 11:10	Lesson two
11:10 - 11:25	Break
11:25 Movement matters	Safe movement to lessons including year line-up with Head of Year/SLT and subject teachers
11:35 - 12:35	Lesson three
12:35 - 13:07	Lunch
13:07 Movement matters	Safe movement to lessons including year line-up with Head of Year/SLT and subject teachers
13:15 - 14:15	Lesson four
14:15 - 15:15	Lesson five
15:15 - at least 16:00 (clubs ending times will vary, see schedule for details)	The North Stars Guarantee: 'everyone is included and everyone belongs'. Charity, Competition, Creativity, Culture – choose which session to attend.



## **Arrival to Higham Lane North Academy**

All pupils should arrive via the main gate between 08:25 and 08:33. The morning club is open from 08:00. At the morning club, pupils will be able to read, use the computers, complete activities or play quiet board games. If your child is arriving before 08:25 this is the only area that is supervised, and so to ensure that your child is safe on the site, they must go to the Library.

There will be other activities available on some mornings and these will be confirmed in due course. Depending on staffing and weather conditions, further sports facilities may also be used from 08:00. We will let pupils know in advance of this.

We will always greet every child in the morning so that pupils feel welcomed and included at HLNA. This will also give your child's champion (their form tutor) a chance to ensure that they are focused for the day and to sort out any potential uniform/equipment issues before we begin our main morning activity.

## **Registration and Morning activity – Welcome to the Day**

We will begin most mornings with a focus on one of our school values so that we can support pupils to be focused on doing the right thing during each day. This helps to remind them of how they can be successful. Following this, during most mornings we will all be reading. We know the link between strong academic outcomes and literacy and reading skills – and we know that if we practice reading every day, ensuring that pupils' literacy skills constantly develop through this deliberate practice of reading, then we are helping them to become the successful learners, and therefore citizens, that they want to be. Some children will be supported outside the classroom during this time during their reading. As a parent you will be informed of this, if it applies to your child. We will also have a weekly assembly which will be led by SLT/Head of Year and will be closely aligned to our school values.

## **Movement matters**

It is your child's right to feel safe in school at all times. We know that in schools many children say they feel unsafe on school corridors when they are moving to and between lessons. This is when corridors can get busy and overcrowded, and when unsupervised, this is when pushing and shoving can arise which leads to not only injuries, but of children feeling unsafe at school.

Therefore, to ensure that your child is safe at these key points of movement during the day, we will do the following:  
·When the whole school is gathered together such as at the start of the day, break and lunchtime, SLT and duty staff will gather each year group together in designated areas, and ensure that each class is dismissed in an orderly way and supervised by their class teacher. During the morning welcome this will be by their form tutor.

·SLT, teaching and non-teaching staff will always be visible on corridors at lesson changeover. Between lessons 1 and 2, and 4 and 5, teachers will stand at their classroom door to dismiss pupils, checking that the corridor is clear before they dismiss their class. Teachers will be at their classroom door to meet and greet their next class. Our staff will be visible and proactive in helping to ensure that your child feels safe and ready for their next stage of learning through the day.



## The North Star Guarantee

We are committed to ensuring that your child develops the character and culture that they need to build and sustain their self-esteem, to develop their confidence and resilience to know that they are valued at HLNA. As part of the North Star guarantee, we will offer opportunities in the following areas over the next five years so that all pupils leave us as well-rounded individuals who are successful citizens within society.

### Competition (including practice)

Sports practice – a range of sports to try including representing the school at sport  
Trampolining Club  
Spelling Bee  
Maths mastery  
Inter-form sports events  
School sports day  
Poetry competition  
Bake-a-cake competition  
Design a Christmas card competition  
Performance team



### Creativity

Choir  
Orchestra  
Create a school music group/band  
Art club  
Cooking club  
STEM club  
Reading Larks and Owls  
Mindful Colouring  
Art Club  
Gardening Club  
Wellbeing Club  
Christmas Crafts Club  
Easter Crafts Club



### Charity and Community

Remembrance Ceremony  
Open Evening ambassadors  
Children in Need Charity Day  
House charity events  
Community support – local charity event  
International School links



### Leadership

Form Captain  
House Captain  
Sports captains  
Junior Leadership Team  
Charity ambassadors  
Reading mentors  
Teaching and Learning ambassadors  
IT technician team  
Library team  
Admin team  
Games club leaders  
Schools event team  
Duke of Edinburgh scheme



## Culture

Word club  
Books and Biscuits  
History film club  
Geography explorers  
RSC Theatre visit  
Bletchley Park visit  
University visits  
Jurassic Coast trip  
2026 Northern France trip  
London museums  
Local history exploration  
Art Gallery visit  
Big Bang Fair 2026  
Visitors and speakers



## School Events

Friendship Disco  
Children in Need Charity Day  
Remembrance Ceremony  
Open Evening  
Christmas Fayre  
Summer Fayre  
HLNA's got talent!  
Christmas and Summer Performance Arts evenings  
and exhibitions  
School play (with HLS)  
House charity events  
Community support  
Local charity events  
International School links  
School sports day



## Rewards for North Stars!

Even as adults, we all like to be recognised and rewarded when we do well. We therefore want all pupils to be successful and to feel valued. We want all pupils to be recognised for their efforts as we know that self-esteem and confidence can often be linked to how we believe others perceive us. We will find many ways each day to recognise efforts. Sometimes for children, saying 'well done' is enough for them to feel valued; but we also know of course that they enjoy tangible rewards as well. We will reiterate to pupils that successful people create habits and ways of working linked to discipline and resilience that enable them to do well. For instance, we will begin with explaining to pupils the following, with real-life examples: If you have a role model, someone who is successful, you will know that this person tries very hard. If we think of the greatest sportspeople for instance, they don't just rely on talent alone, they are very often the first ones to turn up to training, the last ones to leave, and in between, they listen hard and try their best.

As part of our promise that everyone is included, and everyone belongs, we know that there is no limit to the opportunities and ways that pupils can be successful and be rewarded and valued for their efforts.

Some North Star reward examples:

- Receive merits from teachers for effort and achievement
- Receive the North Star effort and achievement badges: bronze, silver, gold, platinum for the amount of merits you achieve during the term and year
- Receive a weekly postcard from a teacher/other member of staff for your efforts
- Receive certificates and badges for 100% attendance
- Receive certificates and badges for 100% punctuality
- Receive termly certificates for improved and excellent effort
- Receive a certificate for being a 'Zero Hero'
- Hear your teacher or another member of staff compliment you on your hard work and effort, your appearance and your kindness, manners and politeness.
- Become a Word Millionaire on our Accelerated Reading scheme
- Represent the school in an activity/event/performance
- Complete the North Star guarantee
- Take part in our termly and annual rewards and prize-giving ceremony
- Have done so well during Year 7 that you are invited to take part in our North Star celebration day in July



## The North Way – expectations

We are a positive and supportive school with clear expectations for success. All of our staff want our pupils to be the best that they can be, they will always champion your child, they will get to know them, make connections and build an effective rapport with them. We will help HLNA pupils to be ‘proud because they always do what is right.’ Through our STAR values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Resilience, we will teach pupils the ways of successful people so explicitly that pupils will always know to do the right thing. Our focus will be to teach pupils how to be successful, and actively reward them for being so. Our pupils will be hard-working, confident and compassionate. Most importantly, they will understand why it is important to do the right thing. Our STAR values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Resilience will be explicitly taught and woven through the academic curriculum and the care and support curriculum so that we can develop your child’s character resulting in a culture of success for your child. We fully understand and will actively promote the partnership between school and home to ensure that together we are shaping your child to be the very best version of themselves.

We understand too that children will make mistakes. When this happens, the consequences will not be punitive, but our expectations and policies will help prepare and build resilience for your child so that they can learn from incidents, put things right, and crucially move on with their self-esteem intact. HLNA is a place where everyone has the right to learn in a safe and calm environment, and as a school, we will always uphold this. Our policy will be available on the website to view in full. In summary, this is a stepped-approach where if a pupil has received a sanction, there is an opportunity to serve this straightaway, with opportunities built in to make better choices to prevent situations from escalating. Crucially this is built on having a positive and restorative conversations with us so that the next lesson and interaction is a fresh start.

As a summary, (this list is not exhaustive) we will do the following:

- Merits for positive actions, behaviours, contributions (see rewards section). Together all staff will make it their mission to notice and reward pupils for positive ways of working.
- De-merits for smaller and first-time misdemeanours. For instance, repeated incorrect uniform or equipment, off-task behaviour, first time disruption or distraction of others, first time poor attitude to learning.
- 15-minute same-day break/lunchtime reflection for being late to school.
- 30-minute same-day reflection is given for 2 de-merits in a lesson or for an incident such as repeated refusal to follow an instruction or missing uniform/equipment (you will be notified by Class Charts), for being late to school and lessons.
- 45-minute same-day reflection for more serious incidents such as repeated refusal to follow an instruction, threatening behaviour, bullying or other harmful behaviour, including behaviour that poses a health and safety risk, extreme rudeness/defiance and so on.



- Longer reflection for any pupil that misses a reflection without a valid reason.
- Break and Lunchtime SLT reflections for repeated poor behaviour/missing a reflection without valid reason.
- In the most serious of incidents, pupils will be removed from lessons and will work with members of the Senior Leadership Team alongside completing reflection time at the end of the school day.
- In all instances, we will work positively and supportively with families where pupils need more intensive support. This will involve meetings alongside clear 'I CAN...' plans to support your child to make more positive choices for their success.



## Higham Lane North Academy Curriculum

Over the next few weeks, you will be able to see the curriculum plans (what your child will learn) for your child at HLNA. Your child is so fortunate to be in the safe hands of our highly skilled teaching team at HLNA. We are very ambitious to ensure that your child learns the best of what has been thought and said in each curriculum area and we take very seriously the fact that we are preparing your child to aim high and achieve the best outcomes for themselves to lead a meaningful life that will make them happy. Not only are we able to use the very successful curriculum model that we have led on at HLS, but we are also committed to further enhancing their learning so that it is even more engaging and memorable for them.

We know that you will appreciate the importance of ensuring that your child is KS3 ready at this key time for them as they begin to think about moving to secondary school. Completing the activities that we have put on the website will help your child manage this process more smoothly. Please encourage your child to complete as many activities as they are able to. If they bring us their work in September, they will be able to earn merits and certificates for their efforts.

All activities can be found on the pupil page at: [www.hlna.co.uk](http://www.hlna.co.uk)

In the Autumn term, following the national curriculum, these are the topics that your child will be studying:

Subject	Topic
English	The year seven English curriculum will explore the presentation of heroes throughout time.  The Beginning of English How were heroes presented in some of the first literature ever written? Find out with a study of 'Beowulf' and recreate a key event from the story in your own words  Romeo and Juliet What is a tragic hero? Discover the features of tragic heroes and evaluate how far Romeo fits this criteria.
Maths	Numbers and Operations, Introduction to Algebra, 2D Shapes, Factors, Multiples and Types of Number.
Science	Cells and movement; Particle model and separation; Forces.
Art	Pupils will study the seven formal elements in Art: Tone, Line, Colour, Pattern, Texture, Shape and Form.



Subject	Topic
Computer Science	Using computers safely (Digital Literacy) and understanding computers (Hardware and software).
Design and Technology	Food safety and hygiene - learn food skills for life using our amazing food technology rooms!
French	<p>Term 1: All about myself, including basic greetings, age, birthday, colours, animals, family, physical description, personality, favourite hobbies and opinions</p> <p>Term 2: my school, including school subjects and opinions, time, timetable, break and lunch activities, future plans</p> <p>Term 3: my free time, including online activities, sports and opinions, weather, and more on future plans.</p>
Geography	<p>What On Earth- Earth Structure, Continents, British Isles, Geological Timescales, Ice Ages and Fieldwork.</p> <p>Mastering Map Skills- Grid References, Symbols, Scale and Latitude &amp; Longitude.</p>
History	All about Romans and Vikings.
Music	During year 7, students listen, compose, perform and appraise many styles of music relating to classical and modern as an individual or ensemble, building upon various skills as we journey through each topic.
P.E.	<p>Girls' lessons will feature: Baseline, football, netball and table tennis</p> <p>Boys' lessons will feature: Baseline, rugby, badminton, football</p>
Religion	Understanding religious and non religious worldviews. Using a multidisciplinary approach students will explore a range of worldviews responses to ultimate questions.



## Safeguarding at Higham Lane North Academy – a family guide

### Keeping Each Other Safe

Safeguarding pupils is everyone's responsibility and at Higham Lane North Academy it is our absolute priority. We know that when pupils feel safe and happy, that they will thrive as learners and people, and therefore be successful. This guide for families is aimed at helping you understand how we will protect your children and keep them safe, and how you can work with us in partnership from home to support with this.

### What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding involves everything we do to ensure that your child is safe and protected from harm while at school. It is a priority for us to ensure that your child can learn, grow and develop without any form of abuse or harm. This includes keeping pupils safe and protecting them from physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and any other risks, both in person and online.

### How we will keep your child safe

- Recognise signs of harm and abuse Our staff are trained to recognise and respond correctly to these signs. Staff report any concerns to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) Romayne Charles (Deputy Headteacher)
- Clear systems We have clear procedures in place for reporting any concerns about a child's welfare. If there are any signs of harm or if a child is at risk, staff know how to take appropriate action. This includes notifying the safeguarding lead, who may then involve external agencies like social services or law enforcement.
- Policies and procedures We implement child protection policies to ensure that all staff and volunteers are properly vetted (e.g., background checks), and that there are guidelines for responding to suspected abuse. These policies also set out how the school will handle disclosures made by children, ensuring they are taken seriously and acted upon promptly. We also have clear policies to prevent bullying, discrimination, and other forms of harm. Staff are fully trained to spot signs of harm and abuse, and to respond quickly.
- Training and Awareness Teachers, school staff, and volunteers receive regular training on child protection issues. This training ensures that everyone is aware of the risks and knows how to respond in a way that supports the child and helps to prevent harm.
- Safe Environment We are fully committed to providing a safe environment for all children. This includes monitoring safety on the school premises, ensuring appropriate supervision, and addressing bullying or harassment. We will ensure that all areas, including classrooms, social spaces and online working areas, are safe for your child. We teach children how to keep themselves safe and from harm through our personal development curriculum, through our daily messages to children, and through our assemblies.
- Supporting Vulnerable Children Some children are more vulnerable to abuse due to factors like disability, family circumstances, or social isolation. We have clear processes in place to identify these children and provide extra support, such as our Mental Health Champions, ensuring their protection and well-being. We will also work closely with mental health services such as MHST and RISE.



## How you can support to keep your child safe in school

- Understand and Support School Safeguarding Policies Read our safeguarding policy which can be found on the school website. This will help you to understand our ways of working to protect all children.
- Encourage Open Communication with Your Child:
  - Talk regularly: Make it a habit to have regular conversations with your child about their school experience. Ask them about their day, any challenges they might face, and whether they feel safe in school.
  - Create a safe space for sharing: Let your child know they can talk to you about anything, and that you will always listen and support them. Encourage your child to speak up if they are ever worried or feel unsafe at school.
  - Teach your child to recognize boundaries: Help your child understand what healthy relationships and boundaries look like, both at school and online. Let them know it's ALWAYS OKAY to say no if something feels wrong or uncomfortable.
  - Mobile phone management: Remember that the minimum legal age to be on social media sites is 13 years old. This law is designed to protect and keep children safe from harmful online content. If your child does have a mobile phone, talk to them regularly about how to communicate kindly on phones. Check their phone regularly to ensure that they are being kind on their phone, but also that they are not on the receiving end of any unkindness.
- Support School Initiatives: Support any safeguarding initiatives that the school organizes, such as anti-bullying campaigns, mental health awareness programmes, or online safety workshops.



## **Support a positive school culture**

- **Promote Respect and Kindness:** Encourage your child to be respectful, kind, and considerate toward others. Teach them about the importance of inclusivity, empathy, and standing up against bullying or harmful behaviour.
- **Model Positive Behaviour:** Children learn a lot from observing the actions of adults. By modelling respectful, safe, and healthy behaviors yourself, you reinforce these values for your child.

## **Help create a safe home environment**

- **Promote Emotional Safety:** Safeguarding isn't just about physical safety. Emotional well-being is equally important. Provide a loving, supportive, and stable home environment where your child feels safe to express themselves and be heard.
- **Teach personal safety:** Help your child understand personal safety, such as the importance of privacy, how to recognize unsafe situations, and how to speak up when something feels wrong.
- **Support healthy peer relationships**
- **Foster friendships:** Encourage your child to develop positive, healthy friendships with peers who share similar values of kindness, respect, and empathy.
- **Monitor peer interactions:** Keep an eye on the dynamics between your child and their friends or classmates. Pay attention to any unhealthy or exclusionary behaviors, and talk to the school if you believe there are issues.
- **Encourage Reporting:** Let your child know that it is important to report any incidents or concerns to a trusted adult in school. This will most likely be their form tutor, class teacher, or a support worker, but every adult at HLNA is a trusted adult and will follow the correct procedure for safeguarding.

By actively engaging in your child's education and well-being, you are playing an essential role in supporting safeguarding efforts within our school. Together, we can create a safe and supportive environment where all HLNA children can thrive, learn, and grow with confidence.

## **What should you do if you're worried?**

If you ever have concerns about your child's safety, it's important to reach out immediately. You can:

Contact our Senior DSL: Romaine Charles, Deputy Headteacher or DSL, Robyn Rounce, SENDCO

Report Concerns: If you prefer, you can report concerns through the school's website or by contacting the school office.



## ‘New beginnings and endless possibilities.’

Date	Event
Tuesday 2nd September (INSET day for staff)	1pm - 2pm: Drop in with or without your child with any questions/concerns
Wednesday 3rd September	Pupils arrive at school between 8.20am – 8.35am Pupil inauguration day 1
Thursday 4th September	Pupils arrive at school between 8.20am – 8.35am Pupil inauguration day 2
Friday 5th September	Pupils arrive at school between 8.20am – 8.35am Pupil inauguration day 3 Year 7 Tempest photos – individual and year group
Thursday 11th September	Year 7 friendship disco 3.30 – 4.30pm
Monday 15th September - Friday 3rd October	Inter-form football and Reading Rewards Challenge 1 begins Bake-a-Cake Competition
Friday 26th September	Macmillan coffee morning
Tuesday 30th September	SEND coffee morning for families – meet the team, ‘coffee and chat’
Thursday 2nd October	Year 7 family review evening 4pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 9th October	HLNA Open Day and Evening for 2026 applications
Tuesday 21st October	Poppy-making activities
Wednesday 22nd October	SLT coffee morning for families – meet the team, ‘coffee and chat’
Friday 24th October	Staff INSET – pupils do not attend school



Date	Event
Monday 27th – Friday 31st October	HALF – TERM
Monday 3rd – Friday 14th November	North Stars Revise and Practice weeks
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance Ceremony with representatives from the local service community
Monday 17th – Thursday 27th November	Assessment Weeks
Friday 21st November	Non-school uniform day: Children in Need day
Monday 24th November - Friday 12th December	Inter-form basketball
Thursday 27th November	Christmas Crafts Club
Friday 28th November	Pupil wellbeing day post-assessments and staff INSET day. Pupils do not attend school
Friday 5th December	School and families Christmas Fayre
Monday 8th December	Christmas Bake-a-Cake Competition
Tuesday 9th December	SLT coffee morning for families – meet the team, ‘coffee and chat’
Tuesday 9th December	HLNA Christmas Carol Service TBC
Thursday 11th December	‘HLNA’s got talent!’ Lunchtime talent show
Monday 15th December	Pupils and staff Christmas Dinner
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas Performing Arts Evening showcase

Date	Event
Wednesday 17th December	Staff and pupils lunchtime Christmas Karaoke
Friday 19th December – school closes at 12.40pm	Christmas assembly and Charity Christmas Jumper/own jumper day

### Spring term 2026

**Starts:** Monday 5 January 2026

**Half term:** Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

**Ends:** Friday 27 March 2026

**Spring (Easter) holiday:** Monday 30 March 2026 to Friday 10 April 2026

### Summer term 2026

**Starts:** Monday 13 April 2026

**Half term:** Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

**INSET Day:** Friday 13th June - staff training day (pupils do not attend school)

**Ends:** Friday 19th July 2026





**HIGHAM LANE**  
**NORTH ACADEMY**

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