



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the halfway point of the school year, it's a great time to reflect on what a fantastic term it has been. We have seen some incredible achievements from our students and staff, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing students and incredible staff for all of their hard work over the first 6 months of the school year.

**Year 10 Boys' Football Team** - A huge congratulations to our Year 10 boys' football team, who have made it to the last eight of the National Cup, a competition that started with over 1,000 schools! This is an incredible achievement, and we are so proud of them. To celebrate, the team enjoyed a well-earned chip batch lunch together. Good luck in the quarter-finals!



**Sixth Form Art Workshop** - On Thursday, we welcomed a local artist to deliver a workshop for our Year 12 and 13 students. It was an inspiring experience, and the students engaged brilliantly with the creative process.

**Year 9 Options Evening** - Thank you to all the staff who organised our fantastic Year 9 Options Evening and to all the parents and carers who attended. Your support is invaluable as students make these important decisions about their future GCSE choices.



## Exciting Developments

**Table Tennis Tables** - The new table tennis tables introduced for students at break and lunchtime have been a huge success! They've been so popular that we've raised additional funds to purchase more, which arrived this week and are already being enjoyed by students in the sunshine.

**Student Leadership Opportunities** – After half term, we are launching our new Student Leadership structure. Assemblies will introduce this to Years 7-9 in the first week back and to Year 10 after their mock exams. Positions include Head Student, Literacy Leader, and Prefect. Please encourage your child to apply—more details to follow.

### **School and Home Partnership**

- Appointments with Staff – If you need to meet with a member of staff, please contact the school to arrange an appointment; please do not arrive unannounced unless there is an immediate safeguarding risk to a child. In a school of nearly 1,500 students, this helps us manage requests effectively. Please respect this process.
- Respectful Communication – We expect all communication, whether face-to-face, by phone, or in writing, to be courteous and respectful. Staff have been instructed to terminate conversations if they become confrontational and to disregard inappropriate written communication. Thank you for your understanding.
- Detentions and Appointments – Please avoid booking medical or other appointments for your child before 4:00 pm, so that they can attend a detention if required. School will only reschedule detentions in exceptional circumstances. Schools have a legal right to issue sanctions, with or without parental consent, so we appreciate your support in maintaining high standards of behaviour.

### **Online Safety & Behaviour**

- Safer Internet Day – Thank you to staff who led discussions on online safety this week. We encourage parents to speak with their children about staying safe online. Modern mobile phones are, in reality, mini-computers with access to a vast range of content, some of which may be inappropriate. They can also be misused for harmful communication. We strongly recommend that parents regularly check their child's phone to ensure their safety and well-being and discuss how they can stay safe and be the best that they can be with their online presence.
- Behaviour Monitoring – Please review your child's behaviour record on Class Charts. Celebrate their house points and discuss any areas for improvement if negative points have been recorded. Our school motto is 'Be the Best That You Can Be,' underpinned by the values of Work Hard, Be Kind, and Take Responsibility. Your support in reinforcing these values at home is greatly appreciated.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Read-a-thon Challenge – This term, we are participating in Read For Good's Read-a-thon, encouraging students to read for pleasure while raising money for children in hospital. Students who take part will have the chance to attend the Read for Good Summer Party in June. We hope many will get involved in this fantastic initiative!
- Year 10 Trial Exams – These begin immediately after half term, so good luck to all Year 10 students as they prepare.
- Key Stage 3 Design Festival – Running from Monday 24th February to Friday 14th March.
- Year 13 Student Progress Evening (SPE) – Thursday 27th February.
- Year 9 Careers Trip (Teen Tech at MTI) – Also on Thursday 27th February.

## Returning After Half Term

School Reopens: Monday 24th February 2025.

Higham Lane Gate Only on Monday 24th February – When students return, only the Higham Lane gate will be open. Staff will be greeting students as they arrive, checking uniform, ensuring that mobile phones and ear pods are put away, and conducting random screenings for prohibited items to maintain a safe school environment.

## Wishing You a Great Half-Term

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another successful half term. Hopefully, as the weather improves, students will be able to enjoy time outside on the field at lunchtime.

Kind regards,



Michael Gannon  
Headteacher  
Higham Lane School



**REMEMBER YOU ARE NEVER FAR AWAY FROM SOMEONE WHO WILL LISTEN AND PROVIDE SOME SUPPORT, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**



### CHILDLINE

You can talk to us about anything. No problem is too big or too small.  
Telephone 08001111



### SAMARITANS

24 hour service offering emotional support.  
Telephone 116123 email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

**EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR ANYONE AFFECTED BY A MENTAL ILLNESS**



### SANELINE

Telephone 0333 010 4600  
[www.lookahead.org.uk](http://www.lookahead.org.uk)



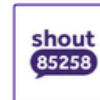
### ANXIETY UK

Telephone 03444 775 774  
[www.anxietyuk.org.uk](http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk)



### RETHINK MENTAL ILLNESS

Telephone 0300 5000 927  
[www.rethink.org](http://www.rethink.org)



IF YOU ARE IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AND NEED SUPPORT TEXT AFC CRISIS MESSENGER ON 85258



### PAPYRUS

Telephone 0800 068 4141  
Text 07786209697  
[www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)



### CRUISE BEREAVEMENT CARE

Telephone 0808 808 1677  
[www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)



### DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE - REFUGE

Telephone 0808 2000 247  
[www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)



### NATIONAL GAMBLING HELPLINE

Telephone 0808 8020 133  
[www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk)



### HELP AFTER CRIME - VICTIM SUPPORT

Telephone 0808 168 9111  
[www.victimsupport.org.uk/](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/)



### CONCERNED ABOUT A CHILD? NSPCC

Telephone 0808 8005000  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

LINKS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON  
[WWW.HIGHAMLANESCHOOL.CO.UK/PARENTS-AND-STUDENTS-HEALTH-AND-WELLBEING-HUB](http://WWW.HIGHAMLANESCHOOL.CO.UK/PARENTS-AND-STUDENTS-HEALTH-AND-WELLBEING-HUB)



78,353



73,462



73,303



## National Apprenticeship Week 2025 - Information for parents/carers.

Please note that you can find more information about apprenticeships on our school website.

[www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/teaching-and-learning-careers-information](http://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/teaching-and-learning-careers-information)

### Rolls Royce Apprenticeships

We are super excited to announce that applications for our Advanced Level 3 Apprenticeships are now live! These apprenticeships are such a fantastic opportunity for your students to learn on-the-job, gain valuable skills and begin their career journey at Rolls-Royce, and we can't wait to see their applications come through.

As a reminder, our Level 3 apprenticeships require a minimum of 4 GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade 4, including Maths, English Language, Science (excluding Biology) and one other subject. At Rolls-Royce we are committed to supporting students through the application process as much as possible, so for a reminder as to what to expect when they apply, take a look at our assessment guides here: <https://careers.rolls-royce.com/united-kingdom/students-and-graduates/preparing-to-apply>

[https://rollsroyce.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/Apprentice/job/Barnoldswick/Rolls-Royce-Advanced-Engineering-Apprenticeship---Barnoldswick--UK\\_JR6128826](https://rollsroyce.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/Apprentice/job/Barnoldswick/Rolls-Royce-Advanced-Engineering-Apprenticeship---Barnoldswick--UK_JR6128826)

Our applications close on March 28th, however please note that we reserve the right to close applications early depending on number of applications.

## Dates for your diary

Friday 14th February - Last day of term

Monday 24th February - Back to school after half term holiday