



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome everyone back after the half-term break and to share what a wonderful first week back we have had! Our students have returned with a fantastic attitude, showing excellent behaviour and a positive approach to their studies. Attendance has been particularly high, and this commitment is always appreciated, it is essential for achieving the best possible learning outcomes for our wonderful students here at Higham Lane School.

## **Sixth Form Open Evening Success**

Our recent Sixth Form Open Evening was a tremendous success, and I want to extend my deepest thanks to all staff involved. Their hard work in preparing, guiding and showcasing our Sixth Form made the evening enjoyable and informative for all. Last year, we saw record numbers of applicants and enrolments for A-level studies, a trend we're excited to see continue. Impressively, almost 60% of grades in Year 13 last year were A\*, A, or B, with close to 30% of those being A\* or A - a result well above the national average. These achievements are a testament to our students' hard work, the support of their families and the dedication of our staff. We are excited to see our Sixth Form thrive further and encourage our Year 11s to consider taking this next step with us.

## **TIAAS Training: A Trauma-Informed Approach**

I would like to express my appreciation to the staff who participated in our Trauma-Informed Attachment Awareness Schools (TIAAS) training on the final day of the last half which focused on emotion coaching, allowing our staff to gain deeper insights into brain function and how to effectively de-escalate situations where students may struggle with emotional regulation. Such knowledge empowers our teachers to build supportive, understanding relationships with students, enhancing their ability to succeed in a caring environment. We are committed to fostering an atmosphere where every student feels understood, valued, and empowered to thrive.

## **Geography Trip to Norway**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Geography team, who selflessly led the trip to Norway over the break, giving up their own holiday time to provide our students with an unforgettable experience. Their dedication is genuinely appreciated, and I know how enriching this opportunity has been for those who attended. We have received lovely emails from parents sharing how much their children enjoyed and benefited from the trip, which speaks to the positive impact these experiences have on learning and personal growth. I also want to commend our students for representing Higham Lane School so well on the trip, the feedback on their behaviour has been exemplary.

## Transition Back to School Routine

To help students ease back into the school routine, we held an extended tutor time for Years 7–11 on Monday 4th November during the first lesson of the day. This was an opportunity for students to re-establish routines, reconnect with their tutors and participate in a range of activities designed to support a smooth transition back to school. Both students and staff have provided positive feedback on this initiative, and we are proud of how well everyone has adjusted after the break.

## Celebrating Student Achievements

Our students continue to impress us with their exceptional achievements, and I would like to share some recent highlights:

- Zak (Year 10) and Archie (Year 7) in an exciting new film set to be shot in Nuneaton in November! The project is led by former Higham Lane student Phil Coates, now a successful Hollywood producer, and Rebecca Jackson (née Gage), another alum who is the Casting Director. It's amazing to see our students involved in a project with such strong ties to the Higham Lane community, and we're immensely proud of Zak and Archie for earning these prestigious roles.
- Bobbin (Year 9) and Cookie (Year 8) represented England at the European Wadokai Championships in Cyprus, competing against teams from 11 countries in Kata and Kumite events. England finished first in the medal table, an incredible achievement that our students were part of. Although they didn't place individually, Cookie came close to winning a bronze medal, finishing 4th after two impressive fights. We are exceptionally proud of their dedication and sportsmanship and look forward to seeing them continue to achieve in future competitions.



Ameerah (Year 10) and Nadiya (Year 8) have achieved remarkable success, becoming British Junior Squash Champions for 2024! Ameerah won the GU15 title, and Nadiya secured the GU13 title – outstanding achievements that highlight their talent and commitment. Well done Ameerah and Nadiya, we are incredibly proud of you both.

Visit from a former student – thank you to Hannah, another former Higham Lane student:



## Polite reminder

A quick reminder for parents and carers that all appointments with staff should be scheduled in advance. We strive to be accessible and supportive, but please understand that staff may not be available for unscheduled meetings.

## Uniform and Appearance Guidelines

A reminder that our school's uniform policy is designed to reflect the pride we have in our school community. Jewellery: Only a watch, school badges and one small plain ear stud per ear are allowed. Any others must be removed.

Hairstyles: Unnatural colours and shaved patterns are not permitted. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining these standards.

## Online Safety

Please take time to discuss online safety with your child. It is crucial that they understand how to stay safe in an increasingly digital world. This BBC article is a useful resource for addressing some of these issues.

## Remembrance Day

As we approach Remembrance Day on Monday 11th November, we will be holding assemblies to honour those who have served.

At Higham Lane School, we will remember them, with a 2 minutes silence on Monday at 11am. We will also remember with a series of tutor time activities, activities in History lessons and a week of assemblies to ensure that our young people understand why never was so much owed by so many to so few. On Sunday, I have the privilege of laying the wreath along with our Head Students at the War Memorial in Nuneaton. We will remember them.

We are also proud to have created a Corridor of Remembrance in tribute to soldiers from Nuneaton who lost their lives in the First World War.



## House Competitions and Reminders

Our House Competitions are well underway, and we encourage students to participate fully and represent their House with pride.

## Donations for Local Causes

Thank you for the generous contributions already received for the Nuneaton Food Bank and Doorway. We will be accepting further donations until 2nd December, and every contribution makes a difference to those in need.

## Collaboration with Warwickshire Police

As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety, we are working with Warwickshire Police to help reduce vulnerability to knife crime. Higham Lane School has agreed to participate in an initiative involving a walk-through metal detection arch (similar to those used at airports), which will be set up next week (week beginning 11th November). This activity is designed to be positive, educational and discreet, and we hope it will reinforce important messages about staying safe.

To accommodate this, all students must enter through Brookdale Gate in the mornings next week. Please remind your child to allow extra time if they typically use Higham Lane Gate, which will be closed. This initiative is part of our comprehensive approach to educating students on personal safety, with discussions on knife crime prevention scheduled during tutor times.

## Upcoming Events and Reminders

- Remembrance Assemblies: This week, we honour those who served.
- Non-Uniform Day: Friday 15th November for BBC Children in Need.
- Nuneaton Food Bank Donations: Final date for contributions is 2nd December.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to keep Non Uniform Day for Children in Need on Friday 15th November, this is to raise funds for BBC Children in Need, an initiative supporting children to overcome the challenges they face and reach their full potential. We ask students to contribute a suggested £1 donation via [ParentPay](#) if they'd like to take part. Students not participating should attend in normal school uniform.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in school life. We are excited about the progress this term and look forward to many more successes together.

Warm regards,



Michael Gannon  
Headteacher, Higham Lane School



32,493



30,627



30,475

# Dates for your diary

Monday 11th – 15th November – Year 10 VR Knife Crime  
Thursday 14th November – Year 13 Student Progress Evening  
Wednesday 4th December – Year 13 Information Evening  
Thursday 12th December – Year 11 Student Progress Evening  
Tuesday 17th December – Christmas Concert  
Monday 23rd December – Christmas Holidays Start  
Friday 3rd January – Christmas Holidays End  
Monday 6th January – Inset Day



## Together with Autism Conference 2024

**FREE Event**

For professionals, parents and carers of autistic children, adults and for anybody wanting to better understand autism.

Please join us for inspiring talks, workshops and meet with your local services representatives.

**Workshops include:**

- Sensory support
- Adult services
- School challenges
- Autism and girls
- Autism and ADHD
- Supporting meltdowns

**Stalls include:**

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)
- Autism Central
- Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust All-Age Neurodevelopmental Service
- Education Services
- Community Autism Support Service (CASS)
- Dimensions of Health and Wellbeing
- And many other service providers

Workshop bookings will be shared with those registered to attend 2-weeks before the event.

**NB:** Lunch is not provided

**FREE Tea & Coffee**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November: 9.45am - 4.00pm**  
North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College  
Hinckley Road, Nuneaton CV11 6BH

This is a funded event, open to Coventry and Warwickshire residents only.  
Entrance only with a ticket from:

<https://bit.ly/TwAC2024Nuneaton>

**Tickets available Now**

Leamington will be the last of the 3 events taking place in 2024

**Leamington 7<sup>th</sup> December**

For queries and information: [info@actforautism.co.uk](mailto:info@actforautism.co.uk)  
[actforautismnow](#) [@actforautism\\_](#) [actforautism1](#)

[www.actforautism.co.uk](http://www.actforautism.co.uk)



Department  
for Education



November 2024

## Winter HAF 24/25 Holiday Activities & Food (HAF)

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Department for Education (DfE) funds the Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) programme across the United Kingdom. At its core, HAF provides young people the opportunity to access enriching activities alongside healthy meals over the **main school holidays in Winter, Spring and Summer.**

**Please note that this programme is entirely separate from the Local Welfare Scheme's household support funding (i.e. supermarket HUGGG vouchers).**

Each eligible young person (in full-time education from Reception to Year 11 who receives benefits-related free school meals) with a HAF code can access a maximum of **4 sessions** over the winter holidays. Families have the flexibility to book with multiple activity providers if desired. All providers can request additional funding for 1-to-1 support if this is required, however this will depend on their staff availability and qualifications. We do have a number of SEND-specific activities which may be a more suitable option.



**Family Information Service**

0800 408 1558

[fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Facebook: @WarwickshireFIS





Department  
for Education



Eligible families need to request a HAF Code via a brief online form. This can be found at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/haf) or you can scan the QR code below. HAF codes are valid for the academic year, so if you've had a HAF code starting with a 'W' before, the same code can be used. If you need codes to be re-sent, just send us an email via [hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk)

For families not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, we can release a limited number of HAF codes for each delivery period. A separate referral form will need to be completed on behalf of your family, if you're facing a significant financial barrier and one (or more) of the following criteria apply:

- Have an allocated family support worker or social worker
- On an open early help plan
- Your child(ren) acts as a young carer

The referral form is available upon request from a professional/allocated worker on [hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Winter activity listings will be available online from Monday 25th November 2024. Contact providers directly to discuss booking.

**Scan the QR code below to visit the HAF website.**

Thank you for your continued engagement with the Warwickshire HAF programme. Please contact us directly if you have any queries related to the HAF scheme.



Warwickshire HAF Team



**Family Information Service**  
0800 408 1558  
[fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
Facebook: @WarwickshireFIS

