



Highlands School News



27 November 2020



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headteacher

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winners

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Careers



@Highlands_sch



@highlandssch

SCHOOL CLOSURE FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

Today the boilers and heating system failed at school. As a result of this the radiators could not heat the school and we ran out of hot water. Consequently, we decided to shut the school at lunchtime. Making the decision to shut school is not one we take lightly. I want to acknowledge how maturely our students behaved as we dismissed those of them who had permission to leave school. The heating engineers have found the leak that was causing the system to fail and we will be open on Monday morning as usual.

DPR UPDATE ON STUDENT ACADEMIC

On page 5 of this week's newsletter is information on the DPR - our reporting system on academic progress. This is the programme that allows parents and carers to see how much of the curriculum students have learned, and how secure that learning is. Parents and carers should log in with their children and have a look at the data together. Please read page 5 for more details.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Next week each morning we will be collecting donations for our Christmas hamper appeal. Each year we ask students to bring non-perishable foods into school which we collect and then distribute as hampers to families or individuals who need them at Christmas. We ask parents and carers to support us by sending students in with donations next week. If parents and carers work for companies that make charitable donations at Christmas we would welcome their support to; we had a sizable donation from one such company this week and we are enormously grateful. If you know of a family or individual who might benefit from receiving a hamper, email staysafe@highlearn.uk.

MINI WHITEBOARDS

We will be giving all students at Highlands School mini whiteboards over the next fortnight. We are doing this because mini whiteboards are an excellent way of teachers' assessing the learning and understanding of students, especially as staff cannot circulate between desks because of COVID-19. Students will be responsible for keeping their whiteboards safe, they will be part of the school equipment list, required in every lesson.

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS AND NEXT STEPS

Today was the final year 11 mock exam. Over the next three school weeks students will receive feedback on their papers, but we will not be sharing the attainment grades or predicted grades with students before Christmas. In January we will invite parents and carers to a virtual parents' evening when staff, students and parents and carers can discuss the outcomes of the mock exams and post-16 options. In January our after school intervention programme will restart and we will ask certain students to remain in school after 2:30pm in order to attend catch up sessions. The year 11s approached their mock exams with diligence and maturity, thank you to parents and carers for supporting them with this. Students who missed mock exams due to being off school will have the opportunity to sit them next week.

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX EDUCATION, HEALTH EDUCATION AND PSHE POLICY

As well as the newsletter, you can see information on the consultation process for our new relationships and sex education, health education and PSHE policy [HERE](#). The information pack includes a link to our full policy, as well as a short survey for parents and carers to complete if they wish to. The deadline for this is Monday 7th December.

Vincent McLnerney, headteacher



Year 9

- ★ Estella Yilmaz, 9RGA
- ★ Freddie Annunziato, 9RGA
- ★ Ezeika Willoughby, 9RGA

Year 12

- ★ Layla Yamansef, 12RTA
- ★ Abigail Miller, 12RTA

ACHIEVEMENT POINT WINNERS

Year 7

- ★ Naa Shidaa Quartey, 7WSB
- ★ Eliz Mustapha, 7BNI
- ★ Sienna Francis, 7WSB

Year 10

- ★ Shania Kizito, 10BJT
- ★ Zeren Secgin, 10BSB
- ★ Daisy Peterson - Keith, 10BSB

Year 13

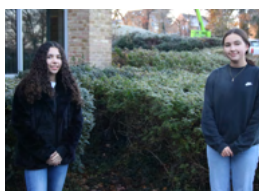
- ★ Moneera Ali, 13ODC
- ★ Sophie Rogers, 13ODC
- ★ Lauren Mulherin, 13ODC
- ★ Mia Garvey, 13RMC

Year 8

- ★ Suleyman Tunc, 8RTS
- ★ Megha Pithia, 8BRD
- ★ Harry Angelides, 8OKS

Year 11

- ★ Rohan Biswas, 11OSM
- ★ Saskya Omani, 11OTD
- ★ Melina Watson, 11OSM
- ★ Conor McCoolle, 11RCT
- ★ Nicholas Andreou, 11RKA
- ★ Hannah Griffith, 11RKA





HIGHLANDS CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

This year we ran a Christmas card competition, with the winning entry having their artwork printed on to our official school Christmas card.

We are pleased to announce that the winner was **Ellia Saat 7BNI** who will have her card printed as the Highlands School Christmas card this year. Well done to **Isaac Jones 7RRS** who is the runner up for the competition. Both will receive a headteacher's award. Congratulations to them both.

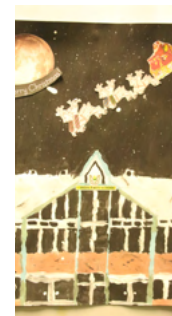
FIRST PLACE



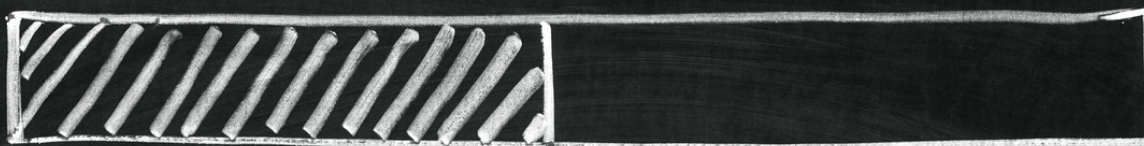
Runner up



Thanks to the following students who also took part in the competition: **Nicole Zeka, Niamh McDonnell, Megan Faulkner, Nehir Cetin, Jessica Smyth, Matilda Gant, Elise Soon, Jack Trautner, Eva Chrysostomou, Emily Palkowska, Emma Simon, Evie Whitbread, Imogen Ganvir, Anastasia Katz, Louis Barker, Isabelle Panteli, Sophia Charalambous.**



PROGRESS...



PROGRESS REPORTING AT HIGHLANDS SCHOOL

Last week we released the latest application grades for students through the [Dynamic Progress Report website](#).

There is now a single log in for each student linked to their school Google account. To log into the DPR click on the Google link at the bottom of the login page and enter the student's school Google email and password.

The report also includes subject lists of the key learning objectives to be covered by students throughout the academic year and allows you to track progress towards meeting these objectives.

Teachers will make judgements throughout the year on progress towards these key objectives and update these regularly.

The report uses 4 colour coded judgements:

white	N		Not yet taught	
blue	E	Emerging	The objective has been taught but understanding is not yet developed.	Help will be needed from the teacher or online.
amber	D	Developing	The objective is understood but it is not yet secure.	Further independent practice is needed.
green	S	Secure	The student can reliably meet the objective most or all the time.	Revisit regularly to keep up this standard.

The DARE and homework application codes, at the bottom of each subject page, measure attitude to learning. They are judged on a 4-point scale. The full descriptors for the grades are written on the back of every exercise book.

O	Outstanding	G	Good	I	Inconsistent	C	Cause for concern
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To help understand any reasons for a judgement of inconsistent or cause for concern, the teacher may have selected a comment code from the list below to highlight the most significant factor affecting progress.

- 1. Concentration:** Easily distracted in lessons
- 2. Behaviour:** Inappropriate behaviour in lessons preventing progress and that of others
- 3. Attitude:** Arriving for lessons in a manner which makes focusing on learning difficult
- 4. Equipment:** Not bringing pens, pencils and other equipment to lessons
- 5. Classwork:** Not always completed to the best of ability
- 6. Previous knowledge:** Not using knowledge and skills learned in previous lessons
- 7. Independence:** Not able to work unsupervised either in class or at home
- 8. Coursework:** Not completing coursework or Controlled Assessments on time and/or to the best of ability
- 9. Absence:** Work missing due to poor attendance/punctuality and failure to catch up
- 10. Extenuating Circumstances:** There are issues which the school is aware of that has an impact on progress





CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

We are aware that with the current circumstances many households are finding themselves in a very difficult position running up to the festive period. We know some families found half term week challenging and are concerned about the impact of the Christmas holiday. The Highlands School community wants to help by providing food hampers for those families. If you feel your family would benefit from one of these hampers, please complete the online form attached [HERE](#) and return by **Friday 27th November** at the latest.

To fulfill these requests we need the help of the Highlands School Community!

We would ask that, if you are able, you donate food suitable for a hamper for a family in need this Christmas. We then hope to make up Christmas hampers to distribute the week prior to the holidays. We are looking for items such as:

 *Non perishable food such as: tinned beans and pulses; soup; tinned vegetables; cereal; tinned pies; tinned meat and fish; rice; pasta; long life custard; sponge pudding; rice pudding; biscuits; crackers; tinned fruit.*

 *Christmas items such as: chocolate selection boxes/chocolates; christmas puddings; christmas themed cakes; christmas crackers; mince pies.*

 *Drinks such as: squash; long life fruit juice; hot chocolate; tea and coffee; UHT milk.*

Also, we are looking for monetary donations to help complete the hampers. You can do this via ParentPay - just look for the Christmas Hamper Appeal. Please make all donations by **Friday 4th December**.

We will collect food donations from the 30th November - 4th December at the beginning of the students' school day. Please put items in a bag so students can deposit them in a collection box as they enter the school building. There will also be a box in the sixth form area for year 12s and 13s to make food donations.

The upcoming holidays are a great opportunity for the Highlands community to come together and support one another. We know that you as a community will want to help support our appeal and help all families look forward to the holiday season. With your help we can really make a difference!



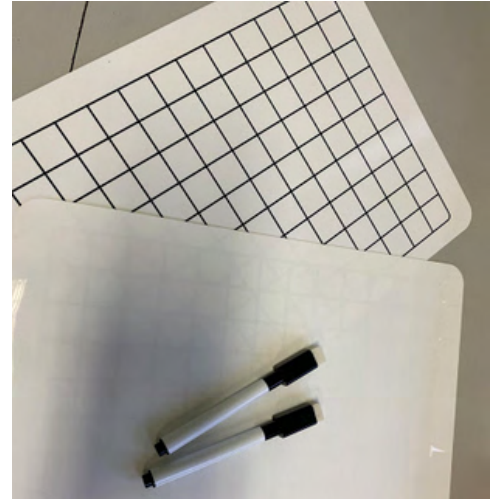


NEW EQUIPMENT - 'THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE IN EDUCATION SINCE THE SLATE'

We are excited to be introducing a new piece of equipment to our lessons at Highlands School, the mini whiteboard!

Mini whiteboards are a great tool for teachers to receive feedback from their class in a way that is COVID safe and includes all students. Teachers can ask key questions to assess student understanding, allowing them to write their response on the mini whiteboards and hold up their answers. This enables teachers to spot misconceptions in the moment and adapt their lessons accordingly. Mini whiteboards can also be used to plan and work out difficult questions, giving students more confidence to make mistakes.

Over the next 2 weeks all students in years 7-11 will be given a folder containing a mini whiteboard and dry wipe pen which will become part of their required equipment for every lesson.



NOTICES

STAY SAFE

We are always here to support our students whenever they need it. If students feel like they need any kind of support, please speak to a member of staff on the school premises so we can help.

Alternatively, when off school premises or if you would like to speak to someone anonymously, you can also call or chat online with trained professionals at Childline.

www.childline.org.uk



TOPPING UP YOUR CHILD'S PARENTPAY LUNCH ACCOUNT

Please can you check weekly to ensure your child has enough credit on their parentpay account for their lunches if they wish to purchase food from our canteen.



MULTICULTURAL MENU IN CANTEEN

To celebrate the upcoming cultural celebrations, our school canteen will be serving food from different countries once a week until the end of the year.



Japanese: 3/12/2020

Main: Teriyaki chicken with noodles

Vegetarian: Macaroni and cheese

Dessert: Vanilla sponge served with custard



Thailand: 10/12/2020

Main: Thai beef and coconut

Vegetarian: Thai yellow vegetable curry

Dessert: Carrot cake served with custard



Greek: 17/12/2020

Main: Lamb moussaka

Vegetarian: Vegetable moussaka

Dessert: Olive oil cake served with custard



CAREER OF THE WEEK

British armed forces



The British armed forces are responsible for the safety and security of the UK. They are involved in combat and peacekeeping duties as well as things like providing humanitarian aid. They offer the chance to see the world in many jobs you could choose to do in civilian life, like being a chef, a nurse or an engineer. They also have lots of roles that you'll only find in the forces, like tank crew or military intelligence specialists.

For some jobs, you do not need a lot of qualifications. Wherever you start, you'll have the chance to build a career, get more qualifications, and move up through the ranks. You'll have to commit to a minimum length of service which can be from 3.5 to 6 years depending on which of the forces you want to join.

Read more [HERE](#), and visit the careers websites of the Army [HERE](#), the Navy [HERE](#) and the RAF [HERE](#).



MOOC (massive online open courses) of the week

Logical and critical thinking

We are constantly being given reasons to do and believe things: to believe that we should buy a product, support a cause, accept a job, judge someone innocent or guilty, that fairness requires us to do some household chore, and so on.

Assessing the reasons we are given to do or believe these things calls upon us to think critically and logically. Improve your logical and critical thinking skills in this free online course [HERE](#).



Apprentice nation

Apprentice Nation offers free inspiration and career advice/training for anyone aged 16+. Once you've joined, you'll be able to start your journey by setting up a profile. Then you'll get access to the six keys to success programme where you can watch webinars and on demand videos. By taking part, you can earn credits to unlock rewards. These include vouchers, merch, mock interviews, or the ultimate prize: a video call with an artist from the livestream.

Watch on-demand video sessions full of future shaping career advice featuring Tinie, Raye, Ms Banks and Krept & Konan simply click [JOIN](#) and follow the steps.



University of East London - Making the most of a gap year

Have you ever thought about a gap year? Or considering taking a gap year before university? Are you concerned about how the year will go, and if it will impact on your studies?

Join UEL on the 7th of December for this webinar. You'll get top tips and tricks to make your gap year a head start! You'll learn how to make the most out of the opportunities available to you in your gap year and how to keep up with your studies along the way. Covering the do's and don'ts of getting work experience, how to keep connected to your studies and resettling into academic life. Register [HERE](#).



Engineering in action online

ONLINE, JANUARY 20TH 2021

We are delighted to announce the return of our popular engineering in action enrichment programme for KS5 students. In response to tremendous demand, and because we know timetabling is a particular struggle this year, engineering in action will take place online as a special half day programme on January 20th 2021.

Join award-winning Structural Engineer Roma Agrawal to discover the recipe for a skyscraper, and find out how to engineer a spacesuit with Dr Jackie Bell (who you may have seen as a contestant on BBC's "Astronauts: Do you have what it takes"). With one more session to announce plus a special panel session "I'm an Engineer, ask me anything", we have an unmissable programme planned for your students. Don't miss out!

Tickets to join us online are priced at £8 plus VAT each (each student will require a ticket). The programme can be viewed at school or at home, broadcast in a class/hall or accessed on individual computers, and if timetabling is a real struggle the recording can be viewed for up to a week after the event.

For more information and tickets click [HERE](#).



GREEN GROWTH: HOW THE NEXT GENERATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A 15-year-old school girl ignored the advice of her parents to sit outside Swedish parliament with a painted banner. On her banner were the words skolstrejk för klimatet: school strike for climate. Little did she realise that her small act of rebellion would trigger a youth movement with global reach. The school girl, Greta Thunberg, has become an icon for the climate movement which has been gaining momentum in the UK.

Following this, thousands of young people across the UK took part in climate change strikes. A climate emergency was declared by the government, the Green Party saw its best results in its 46-year history in the local elections, and the UK had its first week without using electricity from burning coal since the 1880s.

Penguin have published two topical books: a collection of Greta Thunberg's speeches entitled [No One is Too Small to Make a Difference](#), and activists' handbook [This is Not a Drill](#) by Extinction Rebellion.

If these events have proven anything, it is that the next generation are growing increasingly dissatisfied about the state of the world they will inherit.

With this in mind, let's take a closer look at the growing demand for jobs in the environment and energy sectors; jobs which will become critical in the next few decades.

Ecologist

Ecologists help to protect the natural world by investigating the relationship between living organisms and their environment. Ecologists are vital for helping us understand the consequences of human activity on the environment, as well as finding solutions to help us conserve our fragile ecosystems. Significant funding for environmental projects has been provided, including £13.1 million to support urban parks and green infrastructure. Ecologists will be key figures in these projects, supporting and tracking our progress over the next two decades.

If you are interested in pursuing a career in ecology, find out more information on the British Ecological Society website [HERE](#).





Energy Engineer

Energy engineers are involved with the extraction of oil and gas and the production of energy from renewable sources. The UK's last coal-fired power plants are planned to be phased out by 2025, to help reach the government's goal of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. As a result, renewable energy has become one of the fastest growing industries.

Wind energy is the most cost-effective renewable in the UK, currently producing around 15% of the UK's energy. A national study conducted by energy & utility skills predicted the requirement for an additional 36,000 workers in the offshore wind industry by 2032. Find out more information about careers in the renewables sector [HERE](#).

Recycling officer

Recycling officers are responsible for developing waste management and reduction policies such as recycling initiatives. The UK's shift to a more circular economy has increased the value of recycling as a way to keep resources in circulation for as long as possible. The UK now recycles almost 45% of its waste.

The resource and waste management industry supports around 106,000 jobs across the UK. Green Alliance and WRAP estimate an additional 200,000 jobs could be created by a circular economy by 2030. The workforce is becoming highly skilled as innovative solutions for creating valuable resources out of waste are sought.



Information about the resource and waste management industry can be found on the [Chartered Institution of Wastes Management \(CIWM\)](#) website.

The jobs above provide only a snapshot of the many 'green careers' set to grow in the next few decades. These offer a rewarding career option for students passionate about the environment and go some way to affirm, as Greta Thunberg put it, that no one is too small to make a difference.