



Highlands School News



25th June 2021



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Thank a teacher day

Wednesday this week was national 'thank a teacher' day. Last week all of our students had the chance to write postcards of thanks to their teachers. This week we gave out the postcards to staff. Nearly 2000 cards were distributed to teachers, LSAs and support staff. The messages were wonderful and staff were overwhelmed by the positive messages from students. We have included some images of staff receiving their cards on the next page.

Sports day

We are pleased to confirm that we will be able to run sports day this year. The PE department is working on plans to make the event COVID-19 safe and we expect to be able to share the date and plans with the school community next week. Highlands School is committed to restoring as many of the events and activities that were paused because of COVID as possible. Ed-extra has been up and running on Wednesdays for some time. We ran our year 11 and 13 leavers' events at school last month, and we have managed to squeeze the year 11 prom into the window between the planned easing of restrictions and the end of the school term.

School survey

We are asking parents and carers to take part in our annual school survey. This year our survey is being conducted by an external agency that we are working with on a special project to celebrate 20 years of Highlands School being open. As part of this project the governors and leaders of the school are reviewing all aspects of the school to find out what is working well and should be kept, and what could be improved or refreshed. That is why, in the second part of the survey, there are questions about perceptions of the personality or character of the school, and about the school uniform. The responses to this survey will be presented to the leaders and governors along with the results of other forms of research and will play a part in shaping our school for the next 20 years.

The survey will take ten minutes to complete – your responses will make a big difference to our understanding. All responses to this survey will be entirely confidential and anonymous as the survey is being conducted by an external agency.

Please complete the survey straight away if you can – or by Friday 2 July at the very latest.

Click [HERE](#) to tell us what you think.

Thank you

Vincent McNerney
Headteacher
Highlands School

FOLLOW

Twitter: @Highlands_sch

Instagram: @highlandssch

THANK YOU!

THANK A TEACHER DAY



We are so grateful to all of the amazing faculty members who have shown dedication and commitment beyond measure to our students. They have seen us through some of the most challenging times. In preparation for thank a teacher day, students have shown their appreciation by writing a personal message to their teachers. We have seen some lovely messages to staff at school thanking them for all the hard work and the care and support given to our students. Thank you teachers. This week, we celebrate you!



CHALLENGE

NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST INTERACTIVE CHALLENGE



Highlands School will be undertaking an exciting opportunity this summer, and we would like to get all of our students involved in the national literacy trust interactive challenge. Are you willing to take part?

In line with the UEFA EURO 2020 tournament and as part of the FA's UEFA EURO 2020, there are many free live event; a free 'live' Euro story, a free UEFA EURO 2020 reading challenge and a free online Euro 2020 football reading game video.

This reading challenge is among 11 other exciting curriculum-based challenges, which you can access for free from **The FA website**.

Featuring characters from Tom's **Roy of the Rovers** books, Roy and his sister Rocky, the story is being written in 13 'live' chapters by Tom Palmer.

Chapter 1 was published in advance within the UEFA EURO 2020, and can be found [HERE](#). Every week in the newsletter and on the school website, we will be attaching links to the next chapter and with a challenge. Follow the links and complete the challenge by submitting to: **MehmetE@highlearn.uk** and at the end of the summer we will showcase the students that have undertaken the challenge.

The final chapter, chapter 6, will be published on **Wednesday 23 June 2021**.

We challenge you to take part in the amazing quiz about football and reading.



ROY OF THE ROVERS.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Year 7 have settled well into the textiles practical room and have worked hard to create some excellent results. We wanted to share some of their fantastic designs. Well done.





DESIGN A TRAINER COMPETITION

Olympic season is almost here! In support of Team GB and Paralympics GB, we are encouraging students at Highlands school to show their support and be a part of the action as they go for gold in Tokyo this summer.

It's time to get creative and design your very own trainer for an Olympic or Paralympic athlete.

Take part in the **design a trainer challenge** as part of the get set summer competition. Once you've made your trainer as unique and colourful as possible, email them to getset@getset.co.uk for the chance to win a pair of Adidas trainers!

TIME REQUIRED: 60 - 120 minutes

EQUIPMENT: Art materials: paper, pens, paints, pencils, crayons

CHALLENGE OUTCOMES



- Plan and develop an eye-catching trainer
- Choose a slogan to include on the trainer showing support for Team GB and Paralympics GB
- Consider the use of red, white and blue to complement the Team GB and Paralympics GB kit for Tokyo 2020
- Please click [HERE](#) to use the attached template and see the competition entry form. Once complete, email them to getset@getset.co.uk for the chance to win a pair of Adidas trainers
- The competition is open until **Friday 18th July 2021**

WH SMITH FREE VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOL SCHEME

WH Smith are supporting our school with their free vouchers for school scheme and we need your help to make it a success!

We have signed up to a new scheme to earn free vouchers for our school. WH Smith has agreed to donate 10% of the value on all our Parents/Carers spending's between 1st June – 30th September 2021 on books and stationery as WH Smith vouchers, which will be used to reward and acknowledge students achievements. After the 30th September 2021 we will receive 10% of the value of the spend on books and stationery earned by everyone that has participated, back in vouchers for the school.

How to support our school:

- **Shopping in store:** please print and take the below barcode in to a WH Smith High Street store and ask the cashier to scan the barcode along with your items at the checkout or scan at the self-service tills
- **Shopping online:** When completing your purchase, simply enter the barcode number below into the 'do you have a promo code' box

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STEM

GCSE SCIENCE IN ACTION

Want to learn how animals in the ocean use physics?

Dr Liz Kalaugher is joining GCSE science in action this autumn to talk about the physics of animal life in the oceans.

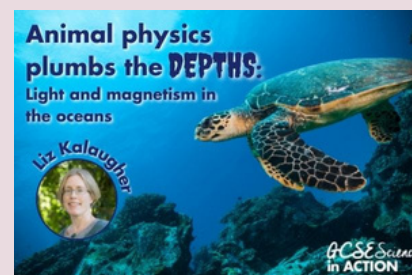
How does a turtle hatchling from Florida circle the Atlantic before returning to the very beach it started from? Why do giant squid have eyes three times bigger than those of any other animal? These puzzles – and many more besides – are explained by physics. Find out more as we span the world's oceans and cover light and magnetism, with a touch of sonar on the side.

Liz Kalaugher is a science writer and author of *Furry Logic: The Physics of Animal Life*. Don't miss her GCSE Science in Action debut this autumn, in London, the Midlands, or online!

Liz will be joined by four more engaging scientists at GCSE science in action, giving students a full day to immerse themselves in the excitement of science. A special session on exam success will also help them to prepare for the return of external exams in 2022.

Event Details

- Online, 10th and 16th November 2021
- To book a tickets or find out more information, click [HERE](#)



OUTBOX 2021-STEMETTES SUMMER PROGRAMME

The STEMette's are showing the next generation that girls do Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) too. Join them this August, for FREE, as they virtually bring together girls, young women, and nonbinary people from across the world to learn about STEM through four weeks of daily sessions, group work, certifications, and downtime. If you are interested please visit this site;

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Outbox 2021 Dates

Sprint A

- Week 1: Aug 3rd-6th
- Week 2: Aug 10th-13th

Sprint B

- Week 3: Aug 17th-20th
- Week 4: Aug 24th-27th

Applications open now



STEM

MEDICINE IN ACTION



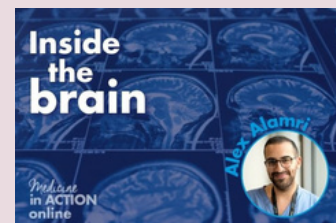
What is the future of neurosurgery?

We are delighted to announce that neurosurgeon Dr Alex Alamri will be joining medicine in action online. Alex will be talking about the technological innovations that have allowed neurosurgeons to peer into the brain before, during, and after (often) life-changing surgery.

Join this event to find out about the latest developments in neurosurgery, ask questions about life as a neurosurgeon and explore career pathways into this exciting field!

Event Details

- Online, **Friday 2nd July 2021**
- Suitable for Year 10 and Year 13
- To book a ticket or find out more information, click [HERE](#)



CHEMISTRY IN ACTION

How does ice break the rules?

We are pleased that Professor Andrea Sella is returning to chemistry in action this autumn. This programme which is suitable for A-Level and IB students will hold events in London, the Midlands and, for the first time, streamed live online!

Professor Andrea will explore how we know about the properties of frozen water, how it compares with other ices, and the way in which it may be the canary warning us that our futures may be much less certain than we imagine. Ice may seem very familiar to us, but it breaks almost every rule in the textbooks. Come and find out why!

Tickets for venue-based events are strictly limited, so we recommend booking early to avoid disappointment. Bookings for in-person tickets can be amended up to 45 days before the event.

Event Details

- **17th and 29th November 2021**
- To book a tickets or find out more information, click [HERE](#)



KS3 STEM IN ACTION

There is just one week left to book for KS3 stem in action online! This special event brings together top science communicators to introduce students to the wonders of science and encourage curious thinking about the world. Students will be able to participate in polls and quizzes and pose their questions live directly to the speakers.

Book now, and don't miss out on this exciting enrichment experience designed to show KS3 students how thrilling science can be!

Event Details

- Online, **30th June 2021**
- Click [HERE](#) to book today

REMINDER



STUDENTS' LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Please check your child's lunch account each week via Parentpay to ensure that it is topped up in order for them to buy lunch.

EDEXTRA

The next round of Ed-Extra has commenced from the beginning of this term and has returned to full capacity. Reminder to those students taking part in the current outdoor activities, wear your PE kits to school and be sure to carry a bottle of water with you during this hot weather!

STUDENT EQUIPMENT

From 19th April 2021 whiteboard pens will become a part of student equipment that will need replacing at their expense, in the same way as other pens and pencils. Mini whiteboards have quickly become part of our classroom routines and are a fantastic way for teachers to assess learning and spot any misconceptions. They are especially useful whilst COVID-19 measures are in place, but we will be continuing their use once things return to normal and into the next school year. Multi-packs of whiteboard (dry erase) pens can be bought at an affordable price from Amazon, most supermarkets and stationery stores. For any student who has lost a mini whiteboard, we will be selling replacements from the school office from 19th April 2021, with the cost still to be determined.

PARENTAL EMAILS

We are getting several bounce backs from parents' emails, many of which seem to go to work place email addresses, if you are not receiving our emails, please can you ensure we have an up to date email address for you.



DON'T FORGET

NOTICES & CONTACTS



CHILDLINE

Childline is a free, private and confidential service where you can talk about anything.

Important update: Childline is working a little differently because of Coronavirus. However, you can still speak to a counsellor every day from 9am to 3:30pm.

Visit www.childline.org.uk

SHOUT

Shout is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help.

Text **SHOUT** to 85258

shout
85258
here for you 24/7



LGBT+ SWITCHBOARD

The LGBT+ helpline provides a safe space for individuals to discuss anything they like, including; sexuality, gender identity, sexual health and emotional well-being.

Their mission is to ensure LGBT+ people are informed and empowered.

Call 0300 330 0630 or visit www.switchboard.lgbt