



Highlands School News



12 FEBRUARY 2021

NEWS

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headteacher

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Awards:
head of year, english,
maths, science

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FOLLOW

Twitter: @Highlands_sch

Instagram: @highlandssch

LGBT+ awareness week

At Highlands School, equal opportunities are central to our ethos and values. We expect all students and staff to challenge and act upon racism, sexism, homophobia and all other forms of prejudice and discrimination, including bullying and harassment. Accordingly, this week we have been proudly celebrating LGBT+ History Month. This is one of many whole school awareness days we celebrate at Highlands. In October, we celebrated Black History Month, and in January, we marked Holocaust Memorial Day. Later this year, we will also be celebrating International Women's Day, Autism Awareness Week and Mental Health Awareness Week. These awareness days are part of our assembly and tutor time programme that we have designed to inspire and teach students the importance of our DARE values and embed British values into our curriculum. We have produced a special newsletter to celebrate LGBT+ awareness week; we hope you enjoy reading it.

Live lessons

We want to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the importance of students attending all live lessons. Our teachers have increased the number of live lessons, but student attendance is still lower than expected. Live lessons are a vital resource for final year exam classes, and we expect all students to attend. If your child is experiencing any difficulties attending live lessons, please contact your child's head of year.

Exams for years 10,11 and 13

Before school closure, we had planned that in early March students in final year exam classes would sit the second set of mock exams. We are writing to provide you with an update on this. We have decided not to hold mock exams in March, but we have not ruled out holding mock exams at a later point after Easter.

Please read on to the next page

The reasons for this decision are as follows:

- schools are still awaiting a decision from Ofqual on alternative assessments to replace the cancelled GCSE and A-level exams.
- we want to ensure that students receive the most suitable preparation for these alternative assessments. Therefore we are awaiting Ofqual's decision before we make any final plans on mock exams and interventions.
- the government has stated their intention to reopen schools from the 8th of March, but we have not received guidance yet on the process around reopening.
- we want students to spend their time focusing on course coverage through excellent participation in live and pre-recorded lessons.
- we do not want students to feel under additional pressure to sit a mock exam after a long period away from school.

Given these variables, we have decided that the best way forward is to wait for guidance from Ofqual and the DfE before deciding on mock exams and interventions. This, therefore, rules out the option of mock exams before the Easter holidays. This will ensure that any approach to assessment and intervention we take is aligned with students' national expectations.

We want to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the importance of students attending all live lessons. Our teachers have increased the number of live lessons, but student attendance is still lower than expected. Live lessons are a vital resource for final year exam classes, and we expect all students to attend. If your child is experiencing any difficulties attending live lessons, please contact your child's head of year.

Finally, we would like to praise all students who have worked so diligently during this challenging half term. We also would like to thank parents and carers for their support. We know the difficulties many parents are facing working from home and supporting their child's home learning. On behalf of everyone at Highlands School, I wish you a restful half term break.

Mr McInerney

Head of year email

If for some reason, your child notices that their learning is missing, they should contact their head of year by email immediately to let them know. Please also feel free to give us feedback, as it helps us improve our remote learning provision.

Year 7

Ms Halstead halsteadr@highlearn.uk

Mr Moustafa moustafaK@highlearn.uk

Year 8

Mr Joseph josephr@highlearn.uk

Ms Junker junkern@highlearn.uk

Year 9

Ms Berrill berrillv@highlearn.uk

Year 10

Ms Ace acen@highlearn.uk

Year 11

Ms Murdock murdockv@highlearn.uk

Year 12

Ms Theodorou theodorouj@highlearn.uk

Year 13

Ms Sheikh sheikhm@highlearn.uk

Vulnerable student and key worker on-site provision

- We will be offering in-school provision for children to meet the DfE criteria of vulnerable and the children of key worker parents.
- Parents/carers who have a change of circumstances should email jesuthasanc@highlearn.uk.
- Parents/carers should not send their child into school if they have not booked a place in advance.

School counselling

- The school counsellor will move all counselling appointments to video or phone call appointments.
Students who are not currently seen by the school counsellor, but would like to, should email staysafe@highlearn.uk

Mentoring

- Key workers will offer virtual mentoring sessions for students on their caseload.

Free school meal students

- Families eligible for free school meals will continue to receive vouchers from Edenred.
- If your child is on our free school meal register but you are experiencing any issues receiving these vouchers please contact jesuthasanc@highlearn.uk

Safeguarding

- There will be a safeguarding team available each day.
- Our staysafe@highlearn.uk email address will be checked throughout the day.
- Students and parents/carers can use this email address for any safeguarding or welfare concerns.

IT support for students working from home

Our IT team will be working during office hours and can be contacted on the email address itstudent@highlearn.uk. They can help with login problems that can not be resolved online.

There are several initiatives in place to support IT provision for home learning and resources are beginning to reach school for distribution.

Students must have:

- a suitable device to access the internet with a keyboard. This may be windows or chrome based laptop, a tablet device or other device with a built-in web browser. Some games consoles offer browser access but will need a keyboard to fully engage with the material.
- a connection to the internet. The use of video can increase the data consumed.

If either of these are proving a barrier to learning it is important that you communicate with the school. We have already given out Chromebooks to support learning at home and have just received a further batch from the government. We have a small number of mobile data devices that generate local wifi and provide internet access.

If you wish to discuss any issues relating to the accessibility or affordability of internet access or devices please contact the behaviour mentor or head of year in the first instance so that we can consider how best to support your child.



QUESTIONS

I think my child is being set too much/too little work.
How much work should students be set each day?

Why is Highlands School not offering more live teaching?

What should I do if my child finds the work too difficult or they do not understand the work?

What are the deadlines for the classwork set each day?

Where do I go for support IT issues or support with a laptop to access remote learning?

ANSWERS

All students are set five lessons per day, apart from on a Wednesday when they are set four lessons. These lessons are released according to the day the students would usually be taught their lesson. The school has recently reviewed the amount of work being set for years 7 and year 8 students and all teachers will be reducing their narrated lessons to 40 minutes. This includes approximately 20 minutes of teacher instruction and 20 minutes of student independent work. Each student is an individual and may take longer or shorter amounts of time to complete the work set. For GCSE and A-Level subjects, we are continuing to provide students with 65-minute lessons of remote learning.

We have increased the amount of live teaching and most students should be getting a mix of live and pre-recorded lessons. We try to have an evidence-based approach to our teaching decisions and principles and, at present, there is not a sufficient body of research to suggest that live teaching supports learning better than pre-recorded lessons. However, students and staff have been very positive about live teaching and we understand that live lessons can have a positive impact on student well being, particularly as it gives them an opportunity to interact with their teacher. We have increased the proportion of lessons that are being taught live and this will continue to increase. We expect students to log in to Google Classroom and join their lessons when they are live.

The type of work set will be specific to each subject. If students do not understand a specific piece of work then they should contact their class teacher through Google classroom or their highlearn Gmail and request further clarification. If your child is having issues with a specific subject then please contact the school via the postbox with details of the subject and the teacher and your query will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

To enable students to manage their workload each day and to easily see work deadlines on Google classroom, we have asked all teachers to set a work completion deadline for the day the work was set. This only applies to classwork and not homework. For homework, which might be a weekly exit ticket, an essay or a longer piece of work than would usually be done in a lesson, the teacher will set an appropriate deadline.

For technical issues such as passwords and logins, please use the IT support email (itstudent@highlearn.uk). Please contact your child's head of year or the school postbox to ask about the availability of devices.

QUESTIONS

Why am I receiving CR codes via the My Child at School app and through an email?

My child is experiencing emotional challenges, what support can the school offer?

My child has an EHCP/SEND and they need additional support with their remote learning, what support can the school offer?

I am not happy about my child's predicted grades, can these be changed?

ANSWERS

Whilst students work remotely, we are letting parents/carers know when a teacher has reported that work for a specific subject has not been completed; this will be in the form of a 'CR' code.

We have made some changes to the alert emails we send to parents/carers, regarding students who receive a CR code. The following changes have been made: Alert emails will be now sent twice a week (Wednesday and Friday), students will only receive an alert email if they accumulate more than 3 CR codes within a two-day period, you can still view CR codes daily via the, 'My Child at School app' (MCAS).

If you do not have the MCAS app please contact:
itstudent@highlearn.uk

We have a range of pastoral support services on offer. These include appointments with our school counsellor, mentoring support from a behaviour mentor, welfare check-ups from form tutors, and support from our family liaison officer. Where needed we can make referrals for support to external agencies. We have weekly assemblies and PSHE lessons to support students' well-being. Heads of year also have two weekly drop-in sessions a week where students can access support or use this as a time to have some interaction with their head of year and peers. Our live lesson offer is increasing which also supports student well being. To share information with us about your child's welfare or to request support you may either email you child's head of year directly or email **staysafe@highlearn.uk**

Each LSA offers bespoke support to their key students. This will include one or more of the following depending on the student's needs; email support, phone call support, additional scaffolded resources, video meeting support. We have also launched our Lexia reading intervention to targeted year 7 and year 8 students. Targeted year 10 and year 11 students have been invited to booster maths and English sessions. Please email the school post box for requests of support for SEND students, and a member of our learning support team will be in contact.

The reason for sharing predicted grades is to support student progress and identify ways to improve. These January predictions cannot be changed unless there has been an administrative error, and we would ask that you do not request changes from teachers. This is not the final GCSE grade but is an indicator at this point, midway through this academic year, and we would expect that some students make further progress before June. Where predicted grades are lower than expected, staff will support students by highlighting gaps and identifying additional revision material.

QUESTIONS

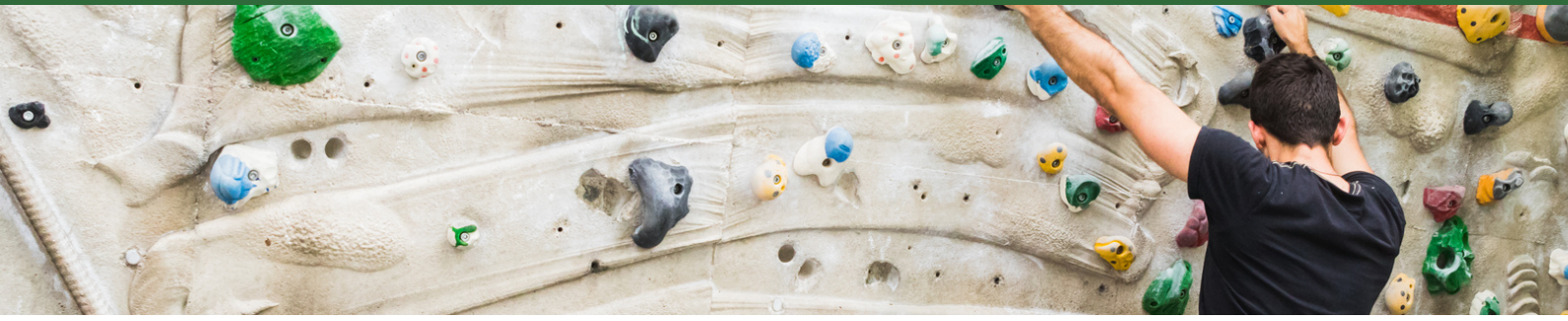
How will GCSE, BTEC and A-Level students be assessed?

What do the grades on my year 10 or 11 child's results sheet tell us/mean?

ANSWERS

Although the planned examinations have been cancelled, we believe that final grading will still include formal assessments under exam conditions in the summer. However, the amount and timing of these assessments are under review. We will share information when we have it. It is important that students continue to work on all tasks set to the best of their ability and to continue revising previous work on a regular basis. Coursework should continue as directed by teachers.

Target grades are calculated using prior attainment (usually year 6 SATs) and represent the exceptional performance of students compared to students at similar starting points. (Performance in the top 20% of the band.) Mock grades are an indication of the standard of the work included in this assessment. They do not indicate a grade that would be awarded to a student in a full set of assessments or a grade that would be attained if the final assessment were taken at this point. Predicted grade ranges are given as an indication of likely attainment at the end of the course based on the evidence available at this stage. They are not final assessment grades and may rise or fall depending on performance during the course. We will not be sending mock papers home at this stage because students require the teacher's explanation to understand what they need to do to improve. When we know more about what the summer assessment will involve, and when we will be returning to school, we will make any necessary decisions about mock papers that have not yet been returned to students. For further information, please refer to our [18th Jan](#) letter to year 11 parents and carers and the [narrated slides](#).



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

A huge congratulations to the following year 12 students who have recently completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this will be presented with their certificates and badges when returning to school.

- Laura Brodie
- Isabel Galano
- Molly Gill
- Molly Lewis
- Emily McGovern

Well done!

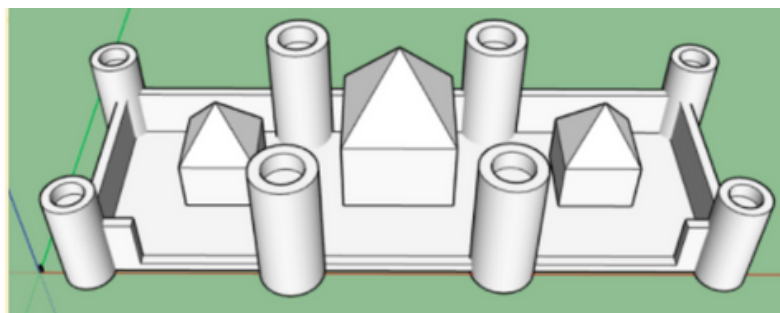
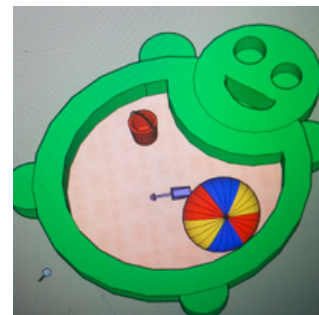
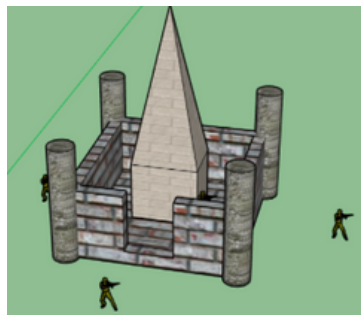
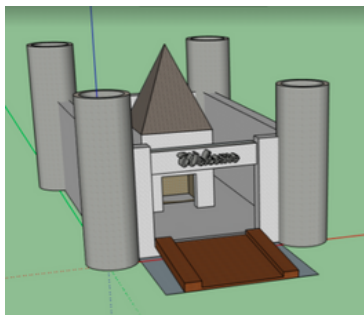
Mrs Walters



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: STUDENT WORK

Our year 9, design technology, resistant materials class have been learning to use computer-aided design software. The software is free to download and can be found in google apps; Sketchup for schools.

Here are some lovely castle and sandbox designs:



These CAD drawings have the potential to be 3D printed at school!

Mrs Harbour-Cooper

DESIGN

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

A huge congratulations to our design technology students who have been producing some amazing work this term! Our students of the month are listed below.

KS3

- Millie Kataria
- Selina Bolat
- Nataniel De Almeida
- Lydia Wright
- Daisy Webb
- Daniel Lam
- Brij Mahtani
- Jessica Smyth
- Daisy Annett



KS4

- Skye Chambers
- Aden White
- Steven Malickis
- Ryan Caddle
- Eleni Demetri
- Eniola Showunmi
- Jenna Trautner
- Claire Palmer
- Jumaanah Hussain
- Kalina Nuckowska
- Zueb Valiji
- Stefan Bezzina
- James Wright
- Duygu Ozkor



KS5

- Hala Abughazza
- Joe Penn





HEAD OF YEAR AWARDS

Over the past term of school closure, we have asked a great deal from our students, and they have risen to the challenge admirably. We are incredibly proud of all of our students who have continued to be determined to do their absolute best. We are very fortunate to be able to work with such dedicated and hardworking students.

- Sophia Charalambous
- Lillie Collins
- Isaac Jones
- Lucy Lord
- Anna Shaw
- Josephine Jones
- Daniel Lennon
- Ayla Okanay
- Joshua Bagulay
- Dylan Christie
- Sophie Gerrish
- Steven Malickis
- Holly Miller
- Joseph Penn
- Karan Singh
- Yagmur Haydaroglu
- Kristiana Alexandrou
- Francesca Bocchetti
- Josef Maruszczuk
- Abigail Parris
- Arthur Shehu
- Eden Cozier
- Ali Hassan
- Joshua Northrop
- Grace Chandler
- Molly Gill
- Abigail Miller
- Thea Haines



SCIENCE AWARDS

A special well done to the below students who have been recognised for their fantastic efforts in science.

- Ethan Baxter
- Anna Shaw
- Elisa Cattarossi
- Daisy Webb
- Christopher Chrysafi
- James Janczur
- Christy Michael
- Hazel Gulem
- Arran Knight
- Laveen Omar
- Alara Yarkan
- Kuncha Ako
- Emir Husseyin
- Naomi Leighton
- Amelia Mills



ENGLISH

ENGLISH AWARDS

A special well done to the below students who have been recognised for their fantastic efforts in English.

- Anthony Andreou
- Ellia Saat
- Eliza Hanks
- Luke Tyrimos
- Joshua Bagulay
- Candice Grossmann
- Francesca Bocchetti
- Ellie Nicolaou
- Ali Hassan
- Gabrielle Sells
- Sophie Doogal
- Anna Jones-Owen
- Nicholas Papanicolaou
- Constance Smith



MATHS AWARDS

A special well done to the below students who have been recognised for their fantastic efforts in maths.

- Sophia Charalambous
- Eliz Mustapha
- Stephania Chrysanthou
- Suleyman Tunc
- Hannah Bernasconi
- Christy Michael
- Naveed Boyde
- Maizie Mae
- Phillips Woodley
- Sienna Beekmeyer
- Jamie Grant
- Anaya Allen-Adelu
- Isabel Zambito
- Hala Abughazza





DESIGN COMPETITION

Highlands School has been contacted by the Design Museum in London, as they have a fantastic opportunity for students in year 7 and 8. They are running a design competition for all year 7 and 8 students across the country.

The Design Museum would like students to design a new product to be sold in their gift shop. [This link](#) gives details of the competition and how you can enter.

Please remember that The Design Museum is home to many quirky and inspirational products. Take a look at the [gift shop](#).

Entering is optional, however it would be great to see if we could get several designs entered from our school community!

Each fortnight they will announce a winner via Twitter/Instagram (@DesignVentura) and prizes will be sent in the post.

Good luck!
Mrs Jaynes

the
DESIGN
MUSEUM



Creative

MUSIC WORKSHOPS

Enfield Music Service are delighted to run a variety of online workshops for students during half term.

The workshops include several sessions aimed at secondary students.

- Performance & Stagecraft, including techniques for overcoming nerves
- Using Logic Pro (Beginners)
- Using Logic Pro (Intermediate)

There is also a session on breaking down barriers to reading musical notation, including help for those with dyslexia.

Parents and carers can [click here](#) to find out more.

Mrs D Maple



FEB 15TH
1:30 - 2:15

TIPS AND TECHNIQUES
FOR PERFORMING LIVE
OR ON CAMERA

BREATHING AND
MINDFULNESS
TECHNIQUES TO
HELP NERVES

**STAGECRAFT &
PERFORMANCE**
AGE 14+

CLICK HERE
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

OR VISIT
TRADED.ENFIELD.GOV.UK/MUSICSERVICE/CONCERTS



FEB 16TH
2:00 - 2:45

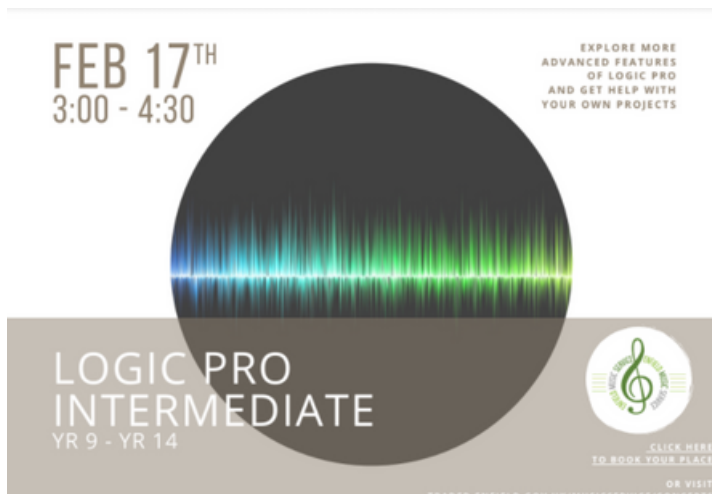
BREAKING DOWN
THE BARRIERS TO
UNDERSTANDING
MUSIC NOTATION

HELP FOR THOSE
WITH DYSLLEXIA

**NOTATION
UNLOCKED**
AGE 8+

CLICK HERE
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

OR VISIT
TRADED.ENFIELD.GOV.UK/MUSICSERVICE/CONCERTS



FEB 17TH
3:00 - 4:30

EXPLORE MORE
ADVANCED FEATURES
OF LOGIC PRO
AND GET HELP WITH
YOUR OWN PROJECTS

**LOGIC PRO
INTERMEDIATE**
YR 9 - YR 14

CLICK HERE
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

OR VISIT
TRADED.ENFIELD.GOV.UK/MUSICSERVICE/CONCERTS



FEB 17TH
1:30 - 2:30

FIND OUT HOW TO
USE SOFTWARE TO
CREATE, EDIT &
PRODUCE YOUR
OWN MUSIC TRACKS

**LOGIC PRO
FOR BEGINNERS**
YR 7 - YR 14

CLICK HERE
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

OR VISIT
TRADED.ENFIELD.GOV.UK/MUSICSERVICE/CONCERTS





STEM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Allied Health Mentor Programme

Allied Health Mentor Programme is the new mentoring arm of Medic Mentor and will sit alongside Dental Mentor and Vet Mentor. To support all of our aspiring healthcare students with work experience opportunities during the pandemic students will continue to have access to their own specific work experience programme that are highly relevant to the following healthcare careers:

- nursing
- midwifery
- paramedics
- physiotherapists
- occupational therapists
- radiographers
- art, drama and music therapists
- dietitians
- operating department practitioners
- radiographers
- podiatrists
- osteopaths
- orthoptists
- prosthetists and orthotics
- speech and language therapists



You can learn more and register for the programme [here](#).

Students will receive certificates upon completion, but places are limited and therefore they will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis to keep this fair. If you are interested you can register through the website link above.

Places are just £10 a day to cover administrative costs. If you or your parents are unable to cover the costs please [click here](#) to apply for a bursary to cover the cost.

Education in Action

In the first billion years after the Big Bang, the first stars ignited and lit up the darkness of the Universe. This is the frontier of modern astrophysics: detecting signals so distant that they have taken almost the entire age of the Universe to reach us. Advances in modern technology have now brought us to the brink of unlocking it.

Join Imperial College astrophysicist Dr Emma Chapman at Physics in Action ONLINE on 17th March on a journey of discovery to witness the dawn of the Universe.

[Click here](#) to book.



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 - 3:30am.

Visit www.childline.org.uk



LIBRARY NOTICE

The library have published several news articles online. Please encourage your child to use 'The Day' when researching contemporary topics. See below for the links.

Online newspaper (The Day) [CLICK HERE](#)

Storytelling week [CLICK HERE](#)

Free online books [CLICK HERE](#)