



End of Term

20th July 2021

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Headteacher's Introduction

Today is the final day of the 2020-21 academic year. Yesterday was sports day and it was great to see one aspect of our school return to post-COVID 'normal' as years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 took to the school field to compete in our track, field and team events. The weather was great, our students and staff were fully in the spirit of friendly competition and a great day was had by all. The overall winners of sports day are listed below, and photos of the day are included further on in this newsletter and the photo gallery is available on the school website [HERE](#). Last night, following sports day, we held the year 11 prom. Like sports day this was an event that we had to cancel last year. This year we nearly had to cancel it but we managed to squeeze it in between the end of restrictions and the end of term. Again, students and staff had a great time. Thanks to everyone involved in both events.

In September more parts of our school will return to normal. As you will see in the timings of the school day section below, the government's decision to no longer ask schools to have staggered starts means that form time and morning break will return from September and all students in years 7-11 will attend school from 8:30am - 3:15pm each day (apart from Wednesday). Our clubs and Edextra will be fully re-launched. We have a series of other exciting initiatives and developments that will be new to Highlands School in September 2021. To make sure families are on top of the priorities for the upcoming academic year we ask that parents and carers to attend the online year group information evenings that we will be holding from 1st - 6th September. Details can be found below. Please put the dates in your diaries now and we will send links at the end of the summer holidays.

Please read the full contents of today's newsletter carefully. There is a lot of information about the start of term; please note that we have to carry out an onsite Covid test for all students before they return to school which will mean that returning all students to school and to full time lessons will take several days.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing A level and GCSE students on results days and all other students back at school in September.

Vincent McNerney
Headteacher



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Term Updates

INFORMATION REGARDING END OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

Winners of headteacher DARE awards

At the end of term teachers at school used the DPR (dynamic progress reporting) to let students and families see what parts of the curriculum have been learned over the course of the term. You can read about how to log into the DPR below. When filling out the DPR, teachers also assess students against the DARE application and homework matrices (these matrices are shown on the back of all exercise books). We have ranked the students in each year group, with the students with the best overall performance in the application and homework matrices at the top. Today in the celebration assemblies Mr McNerney shared names of the top students in each year group and explained the rewards they will get. The top student in each year group will receive £50 vouchers, second place £30 and third place £20. Well done to those students and keep up the good work. The names of the students are listed on the next page.

Why have we done this? Schools often reward students for academic achievement, or achievement in the arts or sports. However, the rewards announced today are for the students who turn up each day, work hard, are nice to each other and embody our values of determination, aspiration, respect and equality.

Congratulations to the students who came first, second and third (sometimes tied for these positions) in each year group.

Interform and sports day results

The overall results for Sports Day are as follows:

Total	Rowan	Oak	Willow	Beech
7	342	243	302	274
8	328	236	190	295
9	338	235	317	294
10	255	204	238	145
Total	1263	918	1047	1008

Congratulations to Rowan for winning in every year group and winning the overall Sports Day competition. Sports Day only plays one part in the house competition though. Every achievement point logged this year (of which there are thousands) contributes. Overall, the final result of the 2020-21 house competition is:

Beech	45399
Rowan	42430
Oak	42408
Willow	38834

Term Updates

INFORMATION REGARDING END OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

End of year reports

The end of year report for students is now available on the **DPR** website. To log in families should use the student google login details.

The DPR will give you an insight into the following information for your child in each subject they study:

- Judgments on key subject objectives (the main topic or themes taught this academic year)
- Application grades - how well your child has applied themselves in each subject
- Homework application grades - how well your child has applied themselves towards homework
- Comment codes - codes that can give additional information on your child's performance if required

Judgements on the key objectives are made based on a student's performance within each subject. Students will either be:

- Emerging
- Developing
- Secure

The **DPR** must be accessed by clicking on the google bar at the bottom of the web page and using your child's school Google login details.

Year 10 students have completed end of year assessments* and these results will be accessed on the '[my child at school' website / app \(MCAS\)](#).

*For subjects where students have completed their final GCSE exam and will be receiving the GCSE results this summer, these will not be available via MCAS as these will be shared on results day.

For more information on how to access the MCAS app please watch our support video [HERE](#).

As a school we have reviewed our current approach to assessment and reporting and have made some changes that will be shared at our parent and carer information webinars in September 2021. As part of some of the changes to be made, this will be the last academic year we will be using the DPR as a platform to report on students progress. We will retain a similar approach to reporting on progress but this will be accessed via the MCAS website or app and student portal.

A level results day

A level results day is Tuesday 10th August. Ms Husseyin has written to all year 13 parents with details of this event. Any questions please contact the school office: post.box@highlearn.uk

GCSE results day

GCSE results day is Thursday 12th August. Ms Exley will be writing to all year 10 and 11 parents with details of this event. Any questions please contact the school office: post.box@highlearn.uk

Student Achievement



Congratulations to the students who came first, second and third (sometimes tied for these positions) in each year group. We have also listed the other students making up the top ten in each year group.

YEAR 7

Position	Name
1	Matilda Gant
2	Emma Simon
3	Parla Ghanipour

YEAR 8

Position	Name
1	Arnelijus Mankevicius
2	Suleyman Tunc
3	Yagmur Olcay

YEAR 9

Position	Name
1	Holly Miller
1	Peyton Morton
2	Ruby Horn
2	Sam Michael
3	Ally Griffith
3	Emily King
3	Eleanor McHale

YEAR 10

Position	Name
1	Rosina d'Agostino
3	Ava Wynter

YEAR 12

Position	Name
1	Malik Abidi
1	Anaya Adelu
1	Matthew Alderman- Harris
2	Lydia Alexandrou
2	Tiffany Alexandrou
3	Tyler Collins
3	Athena Nicolaou
3	Arvin Omar



New Term Updates

INFORMATION REGARDING THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Term dates

Below are the term dates for the upcoming academic year. Please note that due to the requirement for all schools to test all students before they come back to school, the return to lessons will be staggered in September 2021, as it was in September 2020. Please also note that the school is putting its disaggregated inset days together and adding them to the October half term, meaning that the October half term holiday will be two weeks long in 2021.

Autumn term

Staff Training Day: Wednesday 1 September 2021

Student testing and induction days (see below): Thursday 2 September 2021 – Monday 6th September

Full teaching of all year groups begins: Tuesday 7th September 2021

October half term: Monday 25 October 2021 – Friday 5 November 2021 (two weeks)

Last day of term: Friday 17 December 2021

Christmas holidays: Monday 20 December 2021 – Monday 3 January 2022

Spring term

Tuesday 4 January 2022 – Friday 1 April 2022

February half term: Monday 14 February 2022 – Friday 18 February 2022

Easter holidays: Monday 4 April 2022 – Monday 18 April 2022

Summer term

Tuesday 19 April 2022 – Friday 22 July 2022

Bank holiday closure: Monday 2 May 2022

May half term: Monday 30 May 2022 – Friday 3 June 2022



New Term Updates

INFORMATION REGARDING THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Changes to timings of the school day

The requirement to have staggered start and end times was removed by the government earlier this month. This means that AM registration and break time will return to the school day. We have extended form time from ten to twenty minutes as we understand the importance of this time in supporting students' pastoral wellbeing in the mornings.

Year 7 students stay on site to carry out Edextra activities each Wednesday. The activity list and booking form will be shared with families in September.

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays		Wednesdays	
The school gates open at 8:20am. Students are expected to arrive by 8:30am. Students not in school by 8:30am are late.			
AM Reg	8:40am	AM Reg and PSHE time.	8:40am
P1	9:00am		9:00am
P2	10:05am		10:05am
Break	11:10am	Break	11:10am
P3	11:35am	P3	11:35am
P4 / lunch*	12:40pm Y10+11 lunch 1:10pm Y7 lunch 1:40 pm Y8+9 lunch	P4 / lunch*	12:40pm Y10+11 lunch 1:10pm Y7 lunch 1:40 pm Y8+9 lunch
P5	2:10pm	PM registration / end of day / Ed-Extra activities	2:10pm
End of day	3:15pm	Staff CPD	2:30pm
		End of staff CPD	4:30pm

*As is the case this year, period 4 is divided into three half hour sections. Year groups are taught for two of them and have their lunch during the other.

Parent information webinars

We will be holding parent and carer information webinars in September to make sure parents and carers are aware of the priorities for the upcoming year for each year group. Please make a note of these times in your diaries. We will send links to the meetings before term starts. Students are encouraged to watch along with parents and carers.

Year 7	Wednesday 1st September 5:30pm
Year 8	Wednesday 1st September 6:30pm
Year 9	Wednesday 1st September 7:30pm
Year 10	Thursday 2nd September 5:30pm
Year 11	Thursday 2nd September 6:30pm
Year 12	Monday 6th September 5:30pm
Year 13	Monday 6th September 6:30pm

Sports Day



September Return

SEPTEMBER COVID TESTING, INDUCTION AND RETURN TO LESSONS

September COVID testing, induction and return to lessons

At the start of the new academic year we are required to test students on site for the corona virus using lateral flow tests. We undertook this in March when we reopened and the process this September will follow a similar format, with students attending school for an initial test, then returning home to await the result. The second test will take place during the school day. Once again, we would appreciate parent volunteers to assist with testing and who can work between the 1st and 7th September - please email czupichs@highlearn.uk if you are able to help on our rota.

Return to school schedule (students should attend school for testing in school uniform)

	Wednesday 1st September	Thursday 2nd September	Friday 3rd September	Monday 6th September	Tuesday 7th September
Year 7	INSET School closed to students Y7-12	COVID testing 1:00pm Surnames A-K 2:00pm Surnames L-Z	8:45am -12:00 midday Induction day part 1	8:30am -3:30pm Induction day part 2 and second COVID test	Normal school day
Year 8			COVID testing 9:00am - Oak and Rowan 10:00am - Beach and Willow	9:20am-10:50 am Induction morning	Normal school day
Year 9			COVID testing 11:00am - Oak and Rowan 12:00 midday - Beach and Willow	9:45am - 11:15am Induction morning	Normal school day
Year 10			COVID testing 1:30pm - Oak and Rowan 12:30pm - Beach and Willow	10:10am - 11:50am Induction morning	Normal school day
Year 11		COVID testing 11:00am - Oak and Rowan 12:00 midday - Beach and Willow		10:35am -12:05pm Induction morning	Normal school day
Year 12		9:30am - COVID testing	9:45am - 3:15pm Induction	8:40am -3:15pm Lessons	Normal school day
Year 13	3:00pm COVID testing		10:20am - 3:15pm Y13 induction	8:40am -3:15pm Lessons	Normal school day

September Return

SEPTEMBER COVID TESTING, INDUCTION AND RETURN TO LESSONS

Equipment and uniform

School uniform is an important part of our high standards and expectations. Please make sure students are ready for school in appropriate uniform in September.

Please note students will continue with their current lanyard colours, and should therefore bring their current lanyards with them in September.

Students are also expected to follow these uniform rules:

- Skirts worn full length, modestly, just above the knee
- Blazer and shirt sleeves unrolled
- Shirts fully buttoned up and tucked in
- Ties worn down to the waist
- If a t-shirt must be worn underneath a shirt it must be white and non-visible.
- Black coloured belts only and black shoelaces
- No extreme hair styles, no brightly coloured hair (e.g. pink, blue, green), no shavings, and no tracks (including eyebrows)
- No nail extensions, false eye lashes or coloured nail varnish
- No make-up, apart from natural/subtle foundation/face powder

With regards to religious jewellery, parents and carers who wish their child to wear religious jewellery other than a chain with a small symbol, must make a request to the headteacher in writing. The school reserves the right to challenge any jewellery that does not meet our uniform expectations.

All students are expected to carry their everyday equipment (PE kit, pencil case, books, etc) in a bag of suitable size. Students should also bring their mini whiteboards, board marker, board rubber and a scientific calculator.

GIRLS	BOYS
Black school shoes (not canvas, trainers, Converse, pumps or boots)	Black school shoes (not canvas, trainers, Converse, pumps or boots)
Black socks or plain black tights	Black socks
Plain green skirt or black trousers (no jean style trousers or chinos)	Plain black trousers (no jean style trousers or chinos)
White school shirt or blouse (long or short sleeved blouse or collared shirt)	White school shirt (long or short sleeved collared shirt)
Green blazer (with school badge)	Green blazer (with school badge)
V-necked green jumper (optional)	V-necked green jumper (optional)
School tie (optional, with house colour)	School tie (with house colour).
Single ear stud per ear. No hoop earrings. No piercings other than the ear. A necklace with a small religious symbol (if required) must be worn inside a blouse/shirt.	
Headscarves worn for religious reasons should be black/green.	
Blazers must always be worn when moving around the school building unless otherwise advised by the headteacher.	
Students are required to wear their lanyard at all times when in classrooms and when moving around the building.	

Students should bring a pencil case, which should include the following	
30cm Ruler	2 HB Pens
Pens black / blue and green	Eraser
Sharpener	Protractor
Compass	Colouring Pencils

September Return

SEPTEMBER COVID TESTING, INDUCTION AND RETURN TO LESSONS

Behaviour policy

The vast majority of our behaviour policy will remain in place next year. However, we have made a few adjustments.

Morning routines

Year 11 will no longer be required to line up in the mornings. Instead, upon arrival at school in the morning, year 11 will go to our main hall. This decision has been taken in recognition of their maturity and to prepare students for being in the sixth form in the following year. Staff will use this time each morning to ensure year 11 are in the correct school uniform.

All other year groups will continue to have a line up each morning at 8:30am before their daily tutor time session. However, students will not be required to take out their equipment while on the lines. Form tutors will conduct daily equipment checks, as was previously the routine prior to COVID-19

Achievement points

We will be adding new ways for students to earn achievement points, to ensure that more students are recognised for their good behaviour and commitment to the school's values.

Safeguarding

For any safeguarding concerns over the summer holiday, please contact staysafe@highlearn.co.uk. Safeguarding information can also be found on our website.

Staffing update - heads of year for September 2021

Year 7: Ms Murdock

Year 8: Ms Halstead and Ms Junker

Year 9: Mr Joseph

Year 10: Ms Berrill

Year 11: Ms Hutchinson

Year 12 and 13: Ms Sheikh



Summer Reading

READING FOR PLEASURE PROGRAMME

Reading for pleasure programme

Highlands School is committed to providing students with the opportunity to read high quality literature. Engaging with such literature not only supports students' learning in English, but across the curriculum as a whole. It also plays an important role in fostering a life-long love of reading. It is for this reason that the English department has published its list of suggested reading.

We ask that parents and carers select a book from the English department's list. From September 2021 all students will be required to bring their reading book to school. These books will support the English department's new literacy-based curriculum. Parents and carers of students in year 7 to 11 will receive a letter containing the English department's list of books along with further information. This list is also included in today's newsletter. Years 12 to 13 will be provided with further information in September.

Key Stage Three

Quick reads:

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper
King Arthur and the Knights of the round table by Marcia Williams
Sir Gawain + the Green Knight (illustrated) by Michael Morpurgo
The Humiliations of Welton Belt by Alex Wheatle
Usborne Illustrated Grimm's Fairy Tales by Ruth Brocklehurst,
Gill Doherty, and Raffaella Ligi (illustrator)
Frankenstein for young readers by Rosie Dickins
The Count of Monte Cristo for young readers by Rod Lloyd Jones
Our Day Out by Willy Russell
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Reading list:

My Swordhand is Singing by Marcus Segdewick
Grendel's Wife by Susan Signe Morrison
The Short Knife by Elen Caldecott
The Princess Bride by William Golding
SkyWake: Invasion by Jamie Russell
Here Lies Arthur by Phillip Reeves
Shakespeare by Bill Bryson
Twilight by Stephenie Meyer
Rani and Sukh by Bali Rai
Our Beautiful Game by Lou Kuenzier
The Crossing by Manjeet Mann

Reading list:

In a Glass Grimly by Adam Gidwitz
We Played with Fire by Catherine Barter
A Castle of Otranto by Horace Walpole
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs
The Sound of the Waves by Yukio Mishima
Our Town by Thornton Wilder
The Supreme Lie by Geraldine McCaughrean
Burning Sunlight by Anthea Simmons
The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna
The Boy I am by K.L. Kettle
The Coral Island by R.M. Ballantyne
The Last Hawk by Elizabeth A Quiet Kind of Thunder by Sara Barnard
Echo Mountain by Lauren Wolk
The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys Wein
Nevertheless, she persisted by Jon Walter

Challenging reads:

Jane Eyre by Emily Bronte
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
1984 by George Orwell



Summer Reading

READING FOR PLEASURE PROGRAMME

Key Stage Four

Reading list:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time - Mark Haddon
 Banquo's Son - T. K. Roxborough
 Enter Three Witches - Caroline Cooney
 Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by David Edgar
 Educating Rita - Willy Russell
 The Lovely Bones - Alice Sebold
 Gone Girl - Gillian Flynn
 The Shadow of the Wind - Carlos Ruiz Zafon
 The Watcher in the Shadows - Carlos Ruiz Zafon
 Clap When You Land - Elizabeth Acevedo
 The Boxer - Nikeshe Shukla
 The Dark Lady - Akala
 Natives - Akala
 Billy Elliott - Melvin Burgess
 The Poet X - Elizabeth Acevedo
 The Fat Black Woman's Poems - Grace Nichols
 The Mysterious Affair at Styles - Agatha Christie
 Born a Crime - Trevor Noah
 Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine - Gail Honeyman
 Such a Fun Age - Kiley Reid
 The Beekeeper of Aleppo - Christy Lefteri
 The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo - Taylor Jenkins Reid
 Little Fires Everywhere - Celeste Ng
 The Help - Kathryn Stockett
 Falling Leaves - Adeline Yen Mah
 Where the Crawdads Sing - Delia Owens
 Big Little Lies - Liane Moriarty
 Animal Farm - George Orwell
 Blood Brothers - Willy Russell
 Power - Naomi Alderman
 A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens

Challenging reads:

The Picture of Dorian Gray - Wilde
 Frankenstein - Mary Shelley
 Dracula - Bram Stoker
 King Lear - Shakespeare
 The Mask of the Red Death - Poe
 Paradise Lost - John Milton
 The Da Vinci Code - Dan Brown
 Rebecca - De Maurier
 Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte
 The Island of Doctor Moreau by H G Wells
 The Woman in Black - Susan Hill
 The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini
 The Turn of the Screw - Henry James
 The Time Traveller's Wife - Audrey Niffenegger
 Queenie - Candice Carty-Williams
 Purple Hibiscus - Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche
 Cather in the Rye - J. D. Salinger
 The Great Gatsby - F. Scott Fitzgerald
 The Old Man and the Sea - Ernest Hemingway
 Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck
 1984 - George Orwell
 Atonement - Ian McEwan
 White Teeth - Zadie Smith
 Small Island - Andrea Levy
 Slaughterhouse Five - Kurt Vonnegut
 In Cold Blood - Truman Capote
 Wide Sargasso Sea - Jean Rhys
 The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo - Stieg Larsson
 A Thousand Years of Solitude - Gabriel García Márquez
 The Alchemist - Paulo Coelho
 A Modest Proposal - Jonathan Swift
 The Midnight Library - Matt Haig
 Things Fall Apart - Chinua Achebe
 Captain Corelli's Mandolin - Louis de Bernières