



# Highlands School News



26 FEBRUARY 2021



## WHAT'S INSIDE

Message from the headteacher

PE students of the week

Photography competition winners (year 10)

STEM events

Mental health

Notices and contacts

**FOLLOW**

Twitter: @Highlands\_sch

Instagram: @highlandssch

This week the government made announcements about students returning to school and about how grades will be awarded this summer for GCSE and A levels. We have been working this week to respond to these announcements. We will be writing to all students, parents and carers on Tuesday next week (2nd March 2021), with detailed information around students returning to school. Although the final details have not been agreed upon, students should prepare to return to school on a staggered programme from Monday 8th March, with those year groups sitting exams this summer returning first, towards the start of the week. We expect all students to be in school attending all lessons by the end of the week. In preparation for this, students should make sure that they have a full school uniform and PE kit and that they have all equipment ready for learning to recommence. Students have been asked by the government to wear masks in lessons, all students should make sure they bring masks to school with them.

The announcement about GCSE and A level exams was made yesterday. As we expected, teachers will play a key role in the awarding of grades, as they did last year. We will be communicating plans around how the grades will be awarded soon. In the meantime, students should make sure they are attending all of their live lessons and completing all assignments set on Google Classroom.

After a challenging half term working from home, I know I can speak on behalf of all staff at Highlands and say that we are pleased and looking forward to welcoming students back to school as soon as possible.

**Mr McInerney**  
**Headteacher**  
**Highlands School**

## REMOTE LEARNING

### 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](mailto:halsteadr@highlearn.uk)

Mr Moustafa [moustafak@highlearn.uk](mailto:moustafak@highlearn.uk)

#### Year 8

Mr Joseph [josephr@highlearn.uk](mailto:josephr@highlearn.uk)

Ms Junker [junkern@highlearn.uk](mailto:junkern@highlearn.uk)

#### Year 9

Ms Berrill [berrillv@highlearn.uk](mailto:berrillv@highlearn.uk)

#### Year 10

Ms Ace [acen@highlearn.uk](mailto:acen@highlearn.uk)

#### Year 11

Ms Murdock [murdockv@highlearn.uk](mailto:murdockv@highlearn.uk)

#### Year 12

Ms Theodorou [theodorouj@highlearn.uk](mailto:theodorouj@highlearn.uk)

#### Year 13

Ms Sheikh [sheikhm@highlearn.uk](mailto: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 and carers who have a change of circumstances should email [jesuthasanc@highlearn.uk](mailto:jesuthasanc@highlearn.uk).
- Parents and 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](mailto: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](mailto:jesuthasanc@highlearn.uk)

### Safeguarding

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

## IT SUPPORT

Our IT team will be working during office hours and can be contacted on the email address [itstudent@highlearn.uk](mailto: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 a 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.



# WELL DONE!

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Well done to all students who have been completing their fitness logs! Below is a list of students who have been nominated for a special mention following the completion of their fitness logs. Teachers have nominated one student per class.

- Raphael Richter
- Jonathan Cooper-Dobson
- Lottie Price
- Danielle Montes Lopez

- Tom Kennedy
- Joshua Bagley
- Greta Fusco
- Simona Berndes

- Ayaan Ahmed
- Matthew Moran
- Lara Dogan
- Ellie Nicolaou

- Jayden Asante
- Alex Stelmach
- Aisling Brennan
- Emma Lord

- Zacariya Iqbal
- Nicole Zeka
- Nicholas Georgiades
- Michaela Aristodemou
- Nicky Eastwood
- Nehir Cetin
- Dayal Matharu
- Evie Ferguson

- Aiden Cela
- Nicolette Charalambous
- Nathan Fisher
- Aisha Sediq
- Ashley Cullen
- Daisy Warner
- Christopher Anastasiou
- Ayla Okanay

- Henry Jones
- Khaya Dondo
- Trinity Williams
- Nagham Hassan

- Sophia Themistocleous
- Eddie Burgess
- Melina Watson
- Mary Koumouris



## YEAR 10 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS

Our year 10 students were challenged to an 'out and about' photography competition. Students produced some amazing work which made it so difficult to pick winners so a huge well done to all. A special well done to our winners listed below.



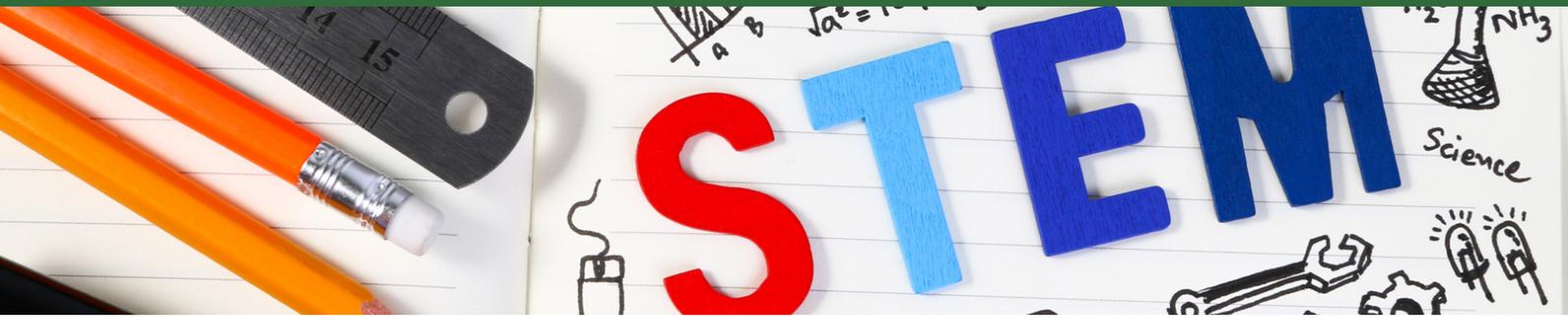
Eloise Shearman



Billy Melbourne



Tallulah Barron



## STEM EVENTS

Following on from Medic Mentor's successful launch of UHB & Medic Mentor's work experience programme in October 2020, they are now launching 2 brand new, live virtual work-experience programmes. This is a great opportunity for our aspiring vet and dental students!

The process to join will be the same as the existing work experience programme and will showcase the same high fidelity patient simulation, in order to allow students to complete up to 30 hours of work experience in their chosen career field! This will be suitable for students between years 10 - 13, S3 - S6.

Dental students have a big launch first. Saturday 13th March is the date for the work experience programme, and on Sunday 14th March, students can also participate in the 'Get into Dentistry' conference!

If you are interested, please [apply](#).

Following on from the dentistry weekend will be the vets weekend. The 'Get into Veterinary' conference will be hosted on Saturday 20th March and the exciting launch of the work experience programme will be on Sunday 21st March.

If you are interested, please [apply](#).

VET  
MENTOR   
YOUR MEDIC FAMILY

DENTAL  
MENTOR   
YOUR MEDIC FAMILY

# Mental Health

## MENTAL HEALTH

The wellbeing of our students is highly important to us at Highlands School, we have listed some helpful strategies below for students to use, in order to look after their mental health during times of unprecedented change.

- Practice breathing exercises and mindfulness: this can really help to calm your mind.
- Focus on positive thoughts: returning to school will give you the opportunity to reconnect with friends, see teachers and will also be a change of scenery.
- Get organised: organising your bag before returning to school can help you to feel more prepared and in control.
- Talk to someone about any worries you may have: your peers may be feeling the same way even if they don't show it.

See you soon!

Ms Polak



# 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 - 3:30pm.

Visit [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up to date with what is happening at Highlands School, follow us on social media for exclusive content. Click on the links below to be directed to our social media channels.

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

## NSPCC

The NSPCC helpline is staffed by trained professionals who can provide expert advice and support.

If you're worried about something, you can contact the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free, call the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000**.

The NSPCC are temporarily operating a reduced telephone service. You can call Monday to Friday 8am to 10pm or 9am to 6pm on weekends.

Visit [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) for more information.

