

Highlands School Newsletter

22 April 2022

From the Headteacher

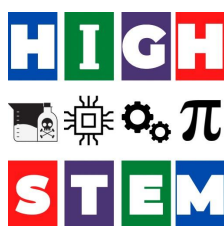
I was pleased to welcome back our students from the Easter break in assemblies for each year other than year 13, who I will see next week. In those assemblies I spoke about the half term ahead of us. At Highlands we have designed our calendar to keep the upcoming half term clear of parents and carer evenings and other major events and deadlines so that we can focus on preparing our year 10, 11 and GCSE students for their GCSEs. If you have children in these year groups I hope you will support us in helping students to find the right balance of revision and downtime in the final weeks before the exams start.

In assemblies I announced the students who had achieved the highest average scores in their DARE application scores (which can be seen on the back of our exercise books). These are the scores that we reported to parents, carers and students when we issued the mid year reports. The information was also shared on the My Child At School app. The students with the best overall scores in terms of their DARE application will receive prizes next week and I am going to write to the parents and carers of the top 100 students in each year group to thank them for their hard work and commitment. We are committed at Highlands to supporting the students who turn up each day, work hard and do the right thing. They embody our DARE values and we are pleased to recognise them.

Wishing you a restful weekend,

Mr McNerney
Headteacher

Dr Len's STEM announcements



CONGRATULATIONS to our Earth Day poster competition winner!

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break and enjoyed the sunshine during the Easter weekend.

Earth Day will be held on the 22nd of April this year. In conjunction with Pinnacle, our facilities management provider, Highlands school ran a competition to raise awareness of how important it is to invest in our planet to conserve and protect the precious environment we live in. I am very happy to announce the winner of this year's Earth Day poster competition is **Constantinos Socratous (7ODC)**. Constantinos will receive a £25 gift voucher from Highlands school and a tree planted by Pinnacle in the school grounds with his name on it. Well done Constantinos!





A message from EarthDay.org:

All TOGETHER now!

This is the moment to change it all — the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, our livelihoods... together, we must Invest In Our Planet.

Because a green future is a prosperous future.

We need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It's going to take all of us. All in. Businesses, governments, and citizens — everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the planet.

And while there is still time to solve the climate crisis, time to choose BOTH a prosperous and sustainable future, and time to restore nature and build a healthy planet for our children and their children, time is short.

The Earth Day 2022 theme is Invest In Our Planet. What will you do? Scroll down to find information on Earth Day events, activities, and what individuals and organisations can do to make a difference.

For Earth Day 2022, together, for everyone, everything, every day...

#InvestInOurPlanet

Update on our Eco Schools agenda



One of the 3 targets for our Eco Schools agenda is to look into strategies that will help our school reduce the consumption and wastage of energy. Our eco council members have been continuing to put up posters in over 80 of our classrooms and offices to remind staff and students to 'flick the switch' when a classroom, computer or projector is not in use. It is great to see that the posters are making a positive impact on our school's energy consumption.



STEM university and career opportunities

Medicine & Dentistry Admissions Seminar - an invitation from an Oxford medical student

Dear Sixth form student,

My name is Abdullah, and I've just sat (and passed!) my medical school finals at the University of Oxford having spent seven years there (due to an interesting choice of intercalated degree). I am writing to invite students at your school who are planning to apply to medicine or dentistry in the coming UCAS cycle to a free 2-hour seminar covering the personal statement and UCAT/BMAT admission tests. Please note this is for applicants in general and not specifically to Oxford. Please also note this opportunity is mainly for Year 12/13/gap year students who will be applying in the next UCAS cycle.

I ran the webinar last year and it was very well received by students and schools. I am regularly involved in outreach and have worked as an admissions consultant for various companies for whom I have delivered similar seminars at cost. I've been coaching students through medical/dental school admissions for over 5 years, and I am keen to offer help for free to students who may not otherwise be able to attend (although my offer is open for free to all students regardless of socioeconomic status). I have attached a copy of my enhanced DBS certificate. For safeguarding, please see the end of the email.

The seminar will be entirely delivered by me. It will cover the personal statement as well as the BMAT exam and the UCAT exam – I will provide all the tips and advice I have accumulated over the years. Much of what I have to say is unique and not shared by others, so I highly advise attending even if you think you are well prepared. There will also be a chance to ask any questions about the admissions process at the end. It will be delivered online via Zoom. It will last two hours and will run twice on the following dates:

Friday 29th April 17:00 – 19:00

or

Wednesday 4th May 17:00 – 19:00

Please register as soon as you can as I will obviously have to cap spaces at some point. (If you cannot attend on these dates please fill out the form regardless to express your interest and I will endeavour to offer alternative dates).

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkXp80uTd44FTzofH5Qg8e16zhjylsFhWh4Rzmm0I7xiXfkQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

To register please simply fill out the following google form and I will be in touch with final details and the zoom link. There is no set deadline but please apply as soon as possible as spaces are capped.

Best wishes,

Abdullah

Safeguarding policy:

As I am organising this as an individual and not an organisation I don't have a safeguarding policy per se but here are the safeguarding steps I have in place:

1. My enhanced DBS (including child workforce) is available and can be provided upon request.
2. I have completed child protection training as part of my clinical practice.
3. Link to the seminar can be provided to a member of staff upon request and they are welcome to join – but please refrain from participating/asking questions as this can detract from students' opportunity to do so as there will be quite a few students and limited time to answer questions.
4. Seminar will be recorded. Settings will be set such that participants' video cameras are disabled.



Message from Dr Siva, Chief Mentor and host of Medic Mentor's Get into Medicine Conference;

'As we approach exam season, I strongly encourage all students applying to medicine to attend our FREE Get into Medicine on:

Sunday 24th April 9:30am - 1:30pm.

We host these conferences to help students prepare for their upcoming exams, UCAS application, personal statements, UCAT and BMAT entrance exams, and university interviews.

I would like to ask you to flag this opportunity to your students. Many have requested that we run a conference on a Sunday, so that's exactly what we're doing this week.

It's crucial for your students to speak to as many Doctors and medical school students as possible to gain insight into what will make their applications stand out.

Students can register for this Sunday's conference using this link:

<https://medicmentor.co.uk/medicine-national-healthcare-weekend/>

In addition to the Get Into Medicine Conference, students also have access to our FREE Insight into Medicine Conference on:

Saturday 23rd April: 2:00pm - 5:30pm

We've invited 3 Doctors to speak about their careers and day-to-day life in their chosen fields. Gaining insight into a variety of medical perspectives is highly beneficial to both university applications and interviews.

Attendees will hear from:

Dr Nicole Dhillon on Maxillofacial Surgery

Dr Luan Tong on General Medicine

Dr Ross Pointon on Emergency Medicine

Students can register for Saturday's conference using this link:

<https://medicmentor.co.uk/insight-into-medicine-conference/>

Students who stay for the entirety of either conference will receive a Certificate of Attendance - a great addition to their UCAS application. They are very welcome to attend both conferences and will receive a certificate for each.'

Happy STEMing!

Dr Len

Message from the Highlands Parents and Friends Association (HPFA)

Please [click here](#) to view information regarding Amazon Smile - please sign up to help the HPFA with their fundraising.

Message from the Welfare officer

Year 9 Senior Booster (DTP & MenACWY vaccinations are on the 4th May. The e-consent has been emailed to all Year 9 parents. Please complete by Thursday 28th April.

Football results

Year 11 boys football recently played Winchmore school - the results were Highlands 4-1 Winchmore. Congratulations to players of the match - Warren and Alex.

Your contact details

Every time we email parents we get a number of emails bounce back as "undelivered". Many of these seem to be work email addresses which are no longer relevant - please ensure you are receiving emails by letting us know of any changes to your email address.

Lunch accounts

Please can you regularly check students' lunch accounts are topped up so they have sufficient funds for the week.

Food technology



Last term in food technology lessons, year 7s made savoury pinwheels and year 8s made cheesecakes. Pictured here are some of their excellent efforts.

Covid update

Below are the latest positive cases of covid. Please do not send your child to school if they have any Covid symptoms or if they test positive.

	No. of cases
Year 7	2
Year 8	1
Year 9	2
Year 10	-
Year 11	1
Year 12	-
Year 13	-
Staff	1

Safeguarding contacts

If there is a concern about a Highlands School student, please contact the school on 020 8370 1100 or email the DSL at staysafe@highlearn.uk.

If the school cannot be contacted, please contact Enfield Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 020 8379 5555.

If a student is in immediate danger, call the police on 999 straight away.

Helpful numbers and websites

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC help line: 0808 800 5000

The police: (if you are in danger): 999

LGBT switchboard: 0300 330 0630

Kooth: (www.kooth.com) support service for students wellbeing

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0300 500 80 90

Barnardos: 0800 008 7005

Talk to someone:

- if you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- if you feel sad, anxious or unable to cope
- if someone has hurt you physically, emotionally or mentally
- if you feel worried about someone at home
- if you are being threatened or forced to do things
- if someone has done something to you without your consent
- if you feel unsafe in school, at home or on the streets
- about anything else worrying you