

Highlands School Newsletter

01 April 2022

From the Headteacher

Today we ended term with our usual celebration assemblies. Each year group came to the hall and we announced the winners of individual awards and updated students on the inter house competition. Overall this term there has been much to celebrate at school. We are proud of the money that students have raised for good causes, this includes the bake sale for the 'Love Is Kind' charity which supports victims of domestic violence and the non uniform day to raise money for victims of the war in Ukraine. We had a wonderful year 11 GCSE dance and music recital evening. We were pleased with the roll out of our new reporting processes that fed into our virtual parent and carer progress meetings. Large numbers of our year 11 students and many students from outside Highlands have signed up to our sixth form for September 2022. We remain the most popular school in Enfield for year 6 families applying to secondary schools. Overall, our school attendance remains significantly better than national averages. Our girls' football team won the Middlesex Cup and our boys team have their final after Easter.

We have a stated aim at Highlands to try and be an example of best practice in education. We know that this is ambitious and sometimes we fall short, but we want to set our standards high. We are pleased that this year some of the work we have done in a range of areas has been picked up by others in the education sector. Our technology leader, Ms Armenay Jeynes, was invited to discuss her curriculum on an education podcast and David Didau, a leading English curriculum specialist, based some of his recent research on his work with our English department. Other schools have asked Ms Phillips to work with them on developing their safeguarding systems and this week we were featured in the online education magazine sec-ed.uk; you can read the article [here](#).

Our whole school development priorities will remain the same next term as they have been all year:

- Improving SEN provision across the school
- Improving outcomes for pupil premium students at all key stages
- Rolling out our new assessment, reporting and data strategy
- Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of students
- The continued implementation of the whole school reading strategy

Alongside this I have asked one of our deputy headteachers, Mr Hurst, to review our homework provision. He wrote to all parents asking them to complete a homework survey this week. There is a link to it [here](#). Please take a moment to complete this as it will help us shape our homework provision for September 2022.

Today we say goodbye to our SENCO Ms Adu and our SEN teacher Ms Ghotbi, both of whom have made a significant contribution to the SEND provision at Highlands School. We all wish them well in their new ventures, and thank them for their dedication and hard work over the years. We would also like to introduce and welcome our two new SENCOs, Dr Tsoni and Ms Edwards. You can read about them and their background and experiences below.

We wrote to parents and carers about the summer DARE days this week, which take place at the end of June. At Highlands we believe that trips and visits are an entitlement, not a privilege, and we are committed to giving every student access to 26 days of carefully selected trips and visits over the seven years they are with us from year 7 to year 13. We have announced the trips early so that we can stagger parent payments, as we understand there is a cost of living crisis nationally. If, despite this, you feel you will struggle to pay for the trips, please contact the school and we will try to provide financial support. No child should miss out on our trips and visits programme for reasons of cost, or for any other reason.

We had an internet security breach yesterday. Someone got access to a member of staff's Google account and posted inappropriate content into Google classrooms. We believe we have deleted all of the inappropriate material, but if you are made aware of any further inappropriate posts, please let the school know.

Finally, this week we held our year 7, 8 and 9 Easter discos. Post-COVID we are committed to bringing fun activities back to school. The events were well attended and I want to thank Ms Michealides for arranging them as well as the staff and sixth formers who supported the events. I attended the year 8 disco on Wednesday and was reassured (as I am sure many of you will be) that alongside the many modern songs I had never heard before, our students were dancing and singing along to Rick Astley, the Macarena and the Village People. Some things change in schools, but some things stay the same!

Wishing you all a relaxing Easter break. Please note that the summer term starts on Tuesday 19th April.

Mr McNerney
Headteacher

Our new SENCOs:

Dr Tsoni

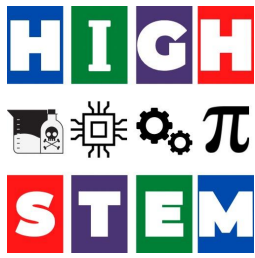


Dr Tsoni joined Highlands school last September as the science SEND coordinator. Dr Tsoni graduated with a PhD in biomedical sciences and has been passionate about SEND and science. Prior to her training as a secondary teacher, Dr Tsoni worked within the science field for more than twenty years across academia and the private sector including five years as an assistant professor and lecturer at a university. Dr Tsoni will be responsible for EHCPs in years 7, 8 and part of year 9. She will also line manage our deaf provision and she will be responsible for the school's SEND intervention programme.

Miss Edwards



Miss Edwards started her teaching career as a history teacher, after graduating from the University of Oxford with a degree in history and politics. Having worked in a variety of schools, including inner city academies and selective sixth forms teaching both history and maths, she has always enjoyed working with diverse and varied groups of young people. Since joining Highlands as director of early career education Miss Edwards has taught maths and has worked closely with many of our students with SEND and is excited to get to know more of our students as SENCO. Miss Edwards will be in overseeing teaching and learning in the mainstream classroom, and working to improve the classroom experience for our students with SEND, she will also be responsible for EHCPs in half of Y9 and key stages 4 and 5.



CONGRATULATIONS to our Highlands British Biology Olympiads!

On the 9th of March 26 of our A level Biologists took part in the British Biology Olympiad which is run by the Royal Society of Biology. All 26 students put in their best effort and I am super proud of them all.

A special mention to Joe Overton of year 13 was awarded a silver award and came in the top 10% of 10,000 students from 700 schools that competed. Also, Sanjana Persand, Vanshi Gunesh and Zunara Kaisar who were commended for their results came in the top 15%. An amazing effort and well done to these four students.

I am very excited for the next Olympiad round coming in June so watch this space for our amazing A level Biologists.



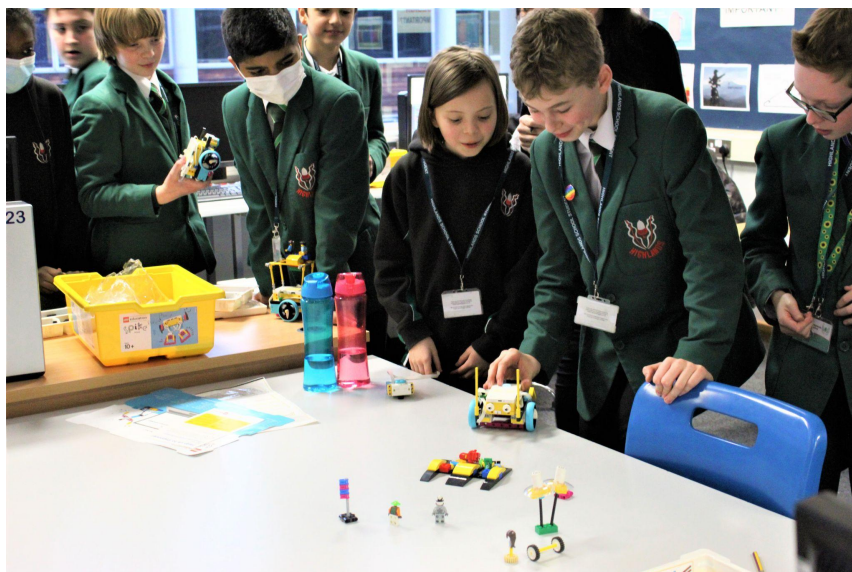


Joe Overton (left) our Silver award winner, Vanshi Gunesh (middle) and Sanjana Persand (right) who were awarded a commendation.

LEGO Robotics update

Our year 7 lego robotics team presented their robots and discussed what their robots utility is this and last week. Ms Casimir- West, Ms Laurenzi and I were totally blown away by their creativity, innovativeness and their clever ideas on how their robot would protect and conserve our planet. We are in the process of judging which pair will win the challenge award and the winners will be announced after Easter break so watch this space - It is going to be a mighty hard task to judge!

We would also like to send a special thanks to Ethan White of year 13 who came every week to work with and support the year 7s. All pupils really appreciated all the help he provided them.



Science student shout out

A special shout out to Mir Zahran Ali in year 7 who has started his own youtube science channel! He has put a series of fun videos together on topics he's learnt in his Highlands Science lessons with Ms Lakhani who says 'Zahran has gone above and beyond with his revision and has produced excellent videos - they're amazing!'

Here are the links to his videos;



[Animal Cell and Plant Cell](#)

[Evaporation Experiment: Salt & Water](#)

[Can Crushing Experiment](#)

We are very much looking forward to seeing more fantastic content being produced by him.

Upcoming science webinars/seminars/talks

Here are some science talks (some may need to be paid for) that you or your child can attend in the upcoming weeks. If you or your child would like to attend you can go ahead and book them yourself.



About this day

Climate change impacts just about every aspect of our lives and will determine the societies of the future. Using the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as a blueprint for how we want the world to look, we will welcome experts to not only discuss the impact of climate change, but to show us the options for developing a more sustainable world. We will explore geography, economics, science, infrastructure and society as we look to the future and discover the ways the next generation can enact real change.

Join us in London or online for a wide-ranging and fascinating programme and discover how the world could look in 2050 with your input!

If you would like to book please follow this [link](#)



Upcoming live and online talks delivered by international high calibre scientist can be found [here](#)

Have an eggcellent Easter break!

Smiles, Dr Len

Highlands Parents and Friends Association

Thank you to all who donated to our Easter Raffle - together we raised £174.00. The winners are:

1. Tiffany Eley (hamper) - ticket number 4
2. Louisa Boon (H&B voucher) - ticket number 34
3. Karen Palmer (Lindt Lindor Easter egg) - ticket number 95
4. Anonymous (Waitrose truffle egg) - ticket number 101

Someone from the HPFA will be in contact with you to pick up your prize.

HPV2 vaccinations for year 8

The immunisation team will be in school on Friday 22nd April to administer the second dose of the HPV vaccine to year 8s who have had the first dose.

Message from Smith's uniform shop

Smith's uniform shops are offering 10% off all orders online and in store between 15th and 18th April. Use EASTER10 - www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk. They are also running an Easter competition to win £40 and an Easter egg - please look at their instagram page for more details - @smithsschoolwear

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	7
Year 8	1
Year 9	3
Year 10	1
Year 11	1
Year 12	0
Year 13	0
Staff	3

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