

Highlands School Newsletter

28 January 2022

From the Headteacher

This week I was pleased to be asked to present assemblies to the school on the topic of International Holocaust Day. International Holocaust Day is held on 27th January each year to mark the liberation of Auschwitz - Birkenau, by the Red Army, on that date in 1945. On International Holocaust Day we do not just remember the victims of the Holocaust, but we reflect on other genocides that have taken place since then. When I spoke to students about examples of genocide we noted that, despite them happening in different places and at different times, there were commonalities. These were that early on in the story of all these atrocities one group within a society started to discriminate against another. Cruelty and hatred was not challenged and checked. Hatred was allowed to fester and grow until it turned into violence. As a school community we spoke about the importance of challenging discrimination and hatred and not allowing any group within our school community to be excluded or isolated.

We ended the assemblies by reflecting on this quotation:

“The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing”

Year 8 options

Year 8 students are about to start the process of choosing their GCSE options, which they will study in years 9, 10 and 11. Parents of students in year 8 should carefully read the information below from Mr Tuton.

PE kit

At Highlands we ask students to wear their PE kit on the days they have PE. Some students, mainly boys in years 10 and 11, have been wearing other sportswear and tracksuits, rather than Highlands PE kit. I have checked with our uniform suppliers and they are fully stocked with our PE kit, so all students should have full kit. From Monday, students who do not have full PE kit should come to school in their normal school uniform, bring their kit in a bag, and get changed in PE. Students who come to school in other sportswear / tracksuits / non Highlands PE kit will be removed from lessons and we will ask their parents or carers to bring their uniform to school, which they can then wear for the rest of the day.

Whatsapp

This week we were made aware of a year 7 whatsapp group with some very unsavoury messages being shared in it by a few students. The messages were being sent and received when students were not in school. However, we have sanctioned students who have sent inappropriate messages as they caused distress to other students. Our behaviour policy applies to students in and out of school, and in and out of school uniform. I ask parents and carers to carefully monitor students' use of social media to make sure they are not being exposed to inappropriate material when using their phones outside school.

Arriving to school on time

I ask parents and carers to remind students that the gates close at 8:30am. Please make sure your child is at school in good time and has gone through the gate before 8:30am.

Wishing you all a restful weekend,

Mr McNerney,

Headteacher

COVID UPDATE

In line with the Government announcement on 19 January, face masks are no longer compulsory in classrooms and from yesterday in communal areas, but are now optional. We ask that students continue to test at home twice weekly to help ensure we are all safe. Test kits are being distributed in assemblies in the next week. Also a reminder that the Enfield immunisation team will be on site administering covid vaccines for 12- 15 years olds on 10th February - click [here](#) for further information. Any queries about vaccinations should be directed to the Enfield immunisation team.

This week we were advised of the following COVID cases:

| | Positive cases |
|---------|----------------|
| Year 7 | 10 |
| Year 8 | 4 |
| Year 9 | 21 |
| Year 10 | 4 |
| Year 11 | 6 |
| Year 12 | 2 |
| Year 13 | 3 |
| Staff | 3 |

Year 8 options process

Evening Wednesday 2 February 2022 - 5:00pm to 6:30pm

We are coming into an important period for year 8s as they make option choices for the next stage of their school education and we would like to warmly invite you to our Options Evening. Due to the ongoing prevalence of Covid we are running a modified version of our previous event but aim to provide you with the same level of information and support.

On Friday 28 January we will release a recorded presentation on the option process for you to review at home. In the presentation I will describe the key stage 4 curriculum, the option choices available, the restrictions in choices and explain how to return the option form online. We will also release an information booklet to guide you through the subjects and choices.

On Wednesday 2 February you have an opportunity to speak to the teachers who deliver the GCSE and BTEC option subjects. These teachers will be available in the subject classroom to answer general questions about the course. Please note that they may not have specific knowledge about your child and will usually be talking to small groups of parents/carers and students. There will be no general presentation to parents during this event as information will be provided in advance as described above.

If you plan to attend this information evening [please complete this form](#) to help us gauge numbers.

Please note that students are required to wear school uniform (not PE kit) when attending the options evening.

On Monday 28 February we are offering optional appointments to support parents and carers complete the online option form or to provide guidance on broader aspects of option choices. These will be held online. Further details will be sent after half-term.

By Tuesday 1 March the online options form must be completed. Further details and the link to the form will be sent before half-term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr K Tuton
(Deputy Headteacher)

Highlands Parents and Friends Association - Amazon Smile

Highlands Parents and Friends Association are now on Amazon Smile.

When you shop on Amazon via this link smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to HPFA, at no extra cost! Simply sign up for Amazon Smile and select 'Highlands Parents and Friends Association' as your charity of choice.

A great way to make your shopping count this year!

Can you shop on Amazon Smile to help fundraise for your school?



The Highlands Parents and Friends Association is a registered charity (no. 1160888) and aims to raise funds to benefit Highlands School pupils.

- It's **simple to shop** on Amazon Smile and it **raises funds for the HPFA**.
- **Amazon Smile donates** 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products **to the HPFA**.
- It's the **same products and prices** and experience as shopping on the main Amazon site.
- To **sign up for Amazon Smile**, visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk.
- To **shop at Amazon Smile**, simply visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk on your computer, mobile or tablet.
- Search for '**Highlands Parents and Friends Association**' in the '**pick your own charity**' search bar on the right-hand side of the screen.
- **Click to accept us as your chosen charity** and you're ready to start shopping!
- If you have **any questions or need further help** in accessing Amazon smile, **please get in touch at** HPFA.eventtickets@gmail.com

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Ed Extra - Cooking Champions

Another great week of cooking

Where do we get the food from?

Cooking Champions rely on food donations from The Felix Project, Paul The Veg Man and public donations.

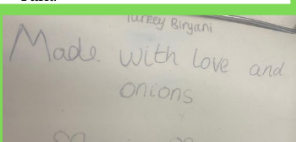
The Felix Project are a food distribution charity, we collect from their warehouse three times a week and use the food for cooking or give directly to families that need support.

Paul The Veg Man (aka Paul Wheeler) is a fruit and vegetable supplier. Once we have decided what we are cooking for The Little Things each week he provides whatever fruit and vegetables that we need free of charge.

Members of the public drop off dry goods at St. Peter's Church, Grange Park.

Each week the students write a little message for the homeless people receiving these meals. They really like the kind messages.

This one was our favourite this week



Cooking Champions



cookingchampions



@cookingchampions

Turkey Biryani

For 2 people

Ingredients: Cooked turkey or any left over cooked meat (or leave out for a vegetarian option), 1 onion, 2 cloves of garlic, handful of mushrooms, 1 pepper, a handful of green beans, 1 tsp curry powder and cooked rice (enough for two people).

Instructions:

1. Peel and chop all vegetables into small pieces.
2. Heat a frying pan and add the vegetable oil.
3. Fry the onions for a few minutes and then add garlic.
4. Then add the vegetables and stir in the curry powder.
5. Add the cooked rice and meat (if you are using any). Make sure everything is mixed in well and serve.
6. You may want to add coriander or toasted cashew nuts.

STEM

Eco-Schools

We have recently enrolled on the Eco-Schools programme, which is designed to raise environmental awareness amongst young people and is run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. Internationally, the programme is the largest educational programme in the world present in nearly 70 countries with millions of young people participating.



The Eco-Schools programme empowers pupils, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and can also lead to financial savings. It aims to put young people in charge of raising environmental awareness by planning and implementing environmental actions that get the whole school and its community involved.

First meeting (15th December 2021): STEP 1 "Setting up the Eco-Schools Committee"

Prior to the end of term the eco-schools committee had their first meeting to establish key roles and responsibilities and to come up with the committee's motto. Students were elected to take on roles such as; Primary liaison, requiring students to work as a go-between for the committee, school staff and potentially other schools in the local area, Communication Officer, producing newsletters and creating key content across Highlands social media to promote eco-friendly behaviours and action members, who are at the heart of the committee, coming up with ideas and helping to implement them across the school.

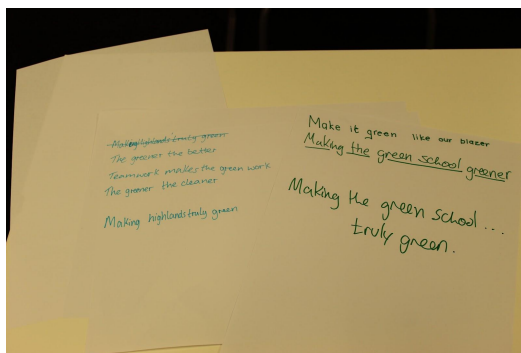
After a group deliberation we arrived at an apt motto;

'Making the green school... Truly green'

It is safe to say this was a great start to the eco-schools journey and look forward to the upcoming sessions and to implementing eco-friendly practices across Highlands over the coming years.

Second meeting (12th January 2022): STEP 2 "Carrying out an environmental review of Highlands School"

The Eco Schools committee met up to carry out an environmental review of Highlands School. They split themselves up into three teams and walked around the school, scoring Highlands's eco-friendliness in 10 categories; biodiversity, energy, global citizenship, healthy living, litter, marine, school grounds, transport, waste and water. At the end of the session, the scores were collated and the pupils found Highlands School to be the most eco-friendly in the 'water' category and the least eco-friendly in the 'marine' category. Another step towards becoming an Eco School has been completed. Well done to all!



Cargo Connect

As part of our STEM education programme, we are pleased to announce that we have started to run the FIRST® LEGO League challenge. A group of year 7 students, working in teams were introduced to the high-quality, project-based-learning experience as well as being able to build on essential skills for the working world - teamwork, problem-solving, creativity and leadership.



The theme for this year's challenge is 'Cargo Connect'. Students will learn about how cargo is transported, sorted, and delivered to its destinations. As more demands are placed on transportation systems, the teams need to rethink how cargo is transported from place to place.

In the first session, students worked in pairs and were each given a LEGO SPIKE Prime robotics kit. Their first mission was to organise 528 pieces in a range of shapes and vibrant colours, three motors, three sensors, a series of data cables and a multi-port Hub that serves as the brain of the set which can be commanded to light up and play sounds.

Now that we have everything in order, students will begin designing and building their first creations using coding in order to eventually develop a robot that can complete the missions in the Robot Game. Stay tuned for their lego robot builds!

Happy STEMing!

Dr Len - Whole school STEM leader