



Highlands School Newsletter

16 September 2022

We have now completed this year's first two weeks of teaching (a full cycle of week A and week B). The start our students have made has been fantastic and the most positive we have had since I joined Highlands in 2018. I want to thank families for supporting us in making this first week such a success.

Following the assemblies I held with the school about the death of the Queen last week, this week I held our first ever house assemblies. I met each house in turn; Rowan on Monday, Beech on Tuesday, Willow on Wednesday and Oak on Thursday. I told them about our new house system and about some of the changes that have taken place, or will be taking place, this year. Our school looks quite different; we have a new school logo, the artwork on our corridors has changed and now features much more work produced by our students. We will be launching a new school website in October.

These changes and updates came about because, as Highlands approached its 20th anniversary in 2020, the governors felt it would be a good time, with school leaders, to take a look at all aspects of our school and ask what we should change, what we should keep and what we should improve. We posed these questions to students, parents and carers, staff, governors and even members of the public who live near our school. We learned a lot about perceptions of Highlands. Overall, there was a feeling that the school's identity was closely linked to the school setting, surrounded by trees and parkland. The colour green was popular, as was the acorn, the school logo. These have been retained and updated. The school's values of determination, aspiration, respect and equality were understood and supported universally, so these have been retained.

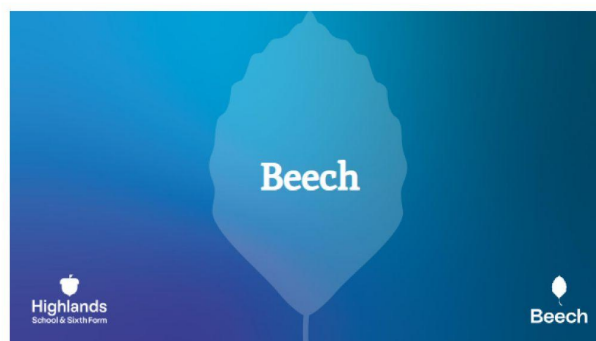
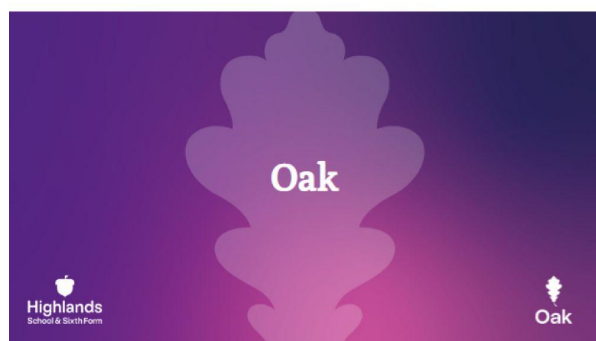
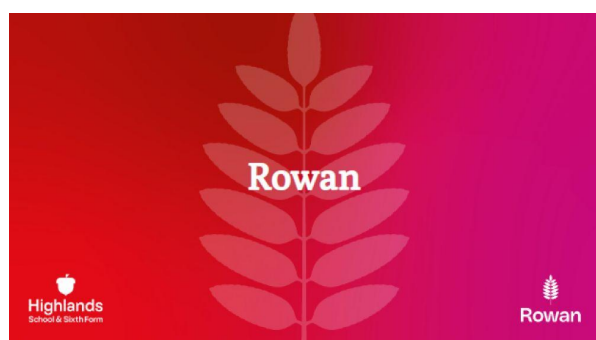
We were unusual as a school as we did not have a school motto. We do now: *Dare to Flourish*. We chose this very carefully. The word 'dare' was chosen as it links to our values. The word 'flourish' was also carefully selected. The origin of the idea of flourishing dates back to Aristotle, who believed that the human purpose is to try and flourish, or live well. The modern spelling of the word is derived from the Latin, *flos*, which means flower. We like this word because we want all of our school community to grow and to develop. We know not everyone will grow and develop in the same way, but we will support them and be proud of them regardless.

The final piece of feedback we received from our listening exercise was around our houses. The house system is long established at Highlands and the houses are named after trees: Beech, Oak, Rowan and Willow. Everyone was fond of the houses and wanted the names to be retained, but felt that the houses could underpin more of the work we do at Highlands, rather than just be focused on Sports Day. As a result, this year we are relaunching the house system. We will be inviting students in Years 10-12 to apply for the positions of house captains and vice captains, leading areas such as charity and fundraising, diversity and equality, wellbeing and sports. Students in Years 7-9 will be able to become house representatives and take an active role in student leadership. The house system will not just be about competition though, it will also promote students working collaboratively to support the values of the school.



Finally this week, if you have not had a chance to view them already, please watch our two results day videos (linked below). We had our best ever results at Highlands this year and we are proud to share these moments from our two results days. You can read more about our results and see some photos of our successful students later on in the newsletter. With those links, you can find links to our social media channels below. They have been relaunched this year and will be full of exciting content from our school.

Have a great weekend,
Mr McInerney



Watch our [GCSE](#) and [A level](#) results videos on our YouTube channel
Follow Highlands School on:

 Twitter [@Highlands_sch](#)

 Instagram [@highlandssch](#)

 YouTube [Highlands School Enfield](#)



House leadership opportunities

Students in Years 10-13 can apply for the roles from next week (Tuesday 20th September) using a link in their Google Classroom. Students in Years 7-9 will be able to apply for their roles a little later in the half term.

	Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Year 13	Year 13 will be invited to apply to be head students. From this field we will also appoint deputy heads students, and the sixth form executive committee.			
Year 12	Students can apply to be the captain and vice captain of: House Sport Wellbeing Charity / fundraising Environment Equality and diversity Performance	Students can apply to be the captain and vice captain of: House Sport Wellbeing Charity / fundraising Environment Equality and diversity Performance	Students can apply to be the captain and vice captain of: House Sport Wellbeing Charity / fundraising Environment Equality and diversity Performance	Students can apply to be the captain and vice captain of: House Sport Wellbeing Charity / fundraising Environment Equality and diversity Performance
Year 11				
Year 10				
Year 9	Students in KS3 will be invited to be house representatives	Students in KS3 will be invited to be house representatives	Students in KS3 will be invited to be house representatives	Students in KS3 will be invited to be house representatives
Year 8				
Year 7				



Results of week one of the inter house competition

The inter house competition will have weekly, half termly and termly prizes.

Each week a house that has performed well will be able to skip the break and lunch queues and go straight to the front, this is called *fast track Fridays*.

Each half term and term we will hold a special celebration event for a house that has done well.

The winner of the overall competition at the end of the year will be invited on a school trip to Thorpe Park.

This morning we shared with students the results from the first full week of the inter house competition. The points total for each student is made up of achievement points given in lessons and around school, minus any concern codes given for poor behaviour, lateness, missed homework deadlines etc. You can see these on the “my child at school” app. You can see the overall winner this week and the top students in the tables below.

This week’s overall house leader:

	Positive points	Negative points	Points overall
Rowan	6531	-264	6267
Willow	6035	-373	5662
Oak	5917	-297	5620
Beech	5734	-378	5356

Top students in year 7:

Adeoye	Aiden	7WMP	Willow	30
Boyras	Berol	7OAC	Oak	30

Top students in year 8:

Djemal	Perri	8ODC	Oak	55
Ozkaya	Duru	8ODC	Oak	51

Top students in year 9:

Leonidou	Laetitia	9OAB	Oak	47
Appiah-Gyebi	Leah	9RRS	Rowan	53



Top students in year 10:

Benbow	Lexie	10RTS	Rowan	42
Cattarossi	Elisa	10RTS	Rowan	42

Top students in year 11:

Hodges	Daisy	11OWM	Oak	38
Guven	Beirhan	11WLM	Willow	36

Top students in year 12:

Baloshi	Ergys	12RSL	Willow	11
Trathen	Freddie	12RSL	Rowan	11

Top students in year 13:

Avis	David	13BCR	Willow	6
Dervish	Emre	13BCR	Beech	6
Nicholas	Natasha	13BTD	Willow	6
Yarkan	Alara	13BTD	Beech	6
Chrysostomou	Marco	13OAL	Rowan	6
John	Leo	13OAL	Oak	6
Panayiotou	Christopher	13OAL	Oak	6
Altinay	Ayse	13OES	Beech	6
Burgess	Eddie	13OES	Oak	6
Gashi	Elvana	13RJB	Beech	6
Koumouris	Mary	13RJB	Oak	6
Pavlou	Michael	13RJB	Oak	6
Anastasiou	Andrew	13WMA	Rowan	6
Nicolaou	Georgia	13WMA	Willow	6
Saturnino	Paolo	13WMA	Rowan	6



Results day success

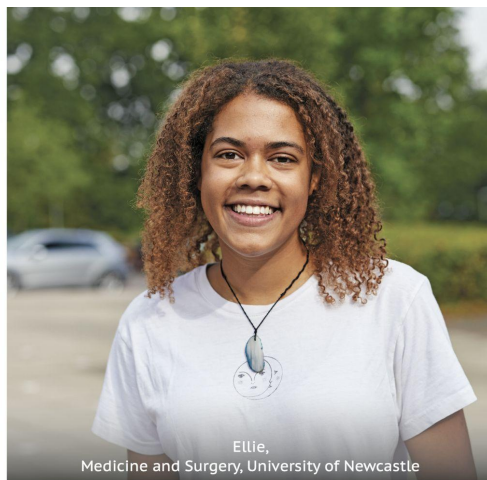
We are delighted that this year the partnership between students, their families and our school has led to students achieving the best results in our history. At A level nearly 69% of all A level grades were awarded at A*-B and 40% at A*-A. 24 students achieved at least three A*/A at A level and 18 students achieved distinction stars in their BTEC.

For the third year running, Highlands students will be heading to Oxbridge this September. 45 students are going to Russell Group universities; others are going on to high profile apprenticeships with companies such as PWC. The ALPS progress measure puts Highlands Sixth Form in the top 10% of sixth forms in the country. At GCSE, students got strings of As and A*s. We are also pleased that our SEN students performed well at GCSE and many of them are remaining with us to study A levels and BTECs.

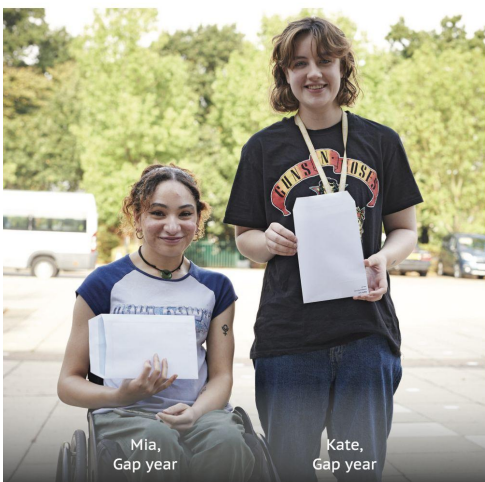
Overall, the number of students achieving grades 4 or above in English and Maths and 5 and above in English and Maths was the highest we have achieved.



Jocelyn,
Law, University of Leicester



Ellie,
Medicine and Surgery, University of Newcastle



Mia,
Gap year

Kate,
Gap year



Orla,
French, Oxford University



School term dates for 2022-23

Please [click here](#) to view the full academic year's 2022-23 term dates. Please note school will be closed on Monday 19th September for the Queen's funeral.

Online Safety Session

We are pleased to be offering all parents and carers a free, online information session on internet safety, led by safeguarding experts from ECP training. The course will provide helpful information and guidance to support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online. We encourage all parents and carers to attend. The information session is suitable for parents knowledgeable about online safety and those who feel there is more they could learn.

Date: Wednesday 28th September 2022

Time: 8.00 - 9.00pm

Joining instructions - please see the email sent out this week with the joining instructions.

We strongly advise all parents and carers to book a place as soon as they receive this notice. Once parents and carers have registered for the session, please then look out for a confirmation email from ECP (check your spam folder) as this will have a link to join the event. Reminders will be sent one day and one hour prior to the training start time.

- Please note that the session can only be accessed from a PC, laptop or a tablet. The session cannot be watched from a mobile phone
- Please can all parents and carers booking a place on this session, read the technical information attached to the email sent with the joining instructions.

Online Safety For Parents & Carers

Provided by a specialist from Education Child Protection Ltd.

What is covered in the session?

- What children are taught about online safety (specific to their age)
- Latest trends of what children are doing online
- Details of the current 'apps' & games that children are using & playing
- The issues & dangers children face online
- How we can make children safer online
- Details of what support is available for you & your family

What parents & carers who have had us deliver our sessions say...

- "I thought it was well-paced, useful and well-delivered"
- "Lots of clear information, well presented"
- "Although I attended as a parent, I am also a teacher. I will be recommending that we hold a session like this for the parents at my school"

Our online safety sessions are regularly updated to reflect the ever-changing online world & with children using devices to access the internet well before they start school, we would encourage all parents & carers to attend!

@ECP_LTD | Facebook | LinkedIn | www.ecplimited.com



Homework strategy launch

What happens if a student does not meet a homework deadline?

- If a student misses a homework deadline, the teacher will set another. Students should record this in their planners. A C1 will be logged.
- If the student fails to meet the revised homework deadline then a C2 will be logged. A C2 leads to a detention.
- Students will be rewarded for completing homework to a high standard or for 'going the extra mile'.

Parent and carers - SENCO events

Opportunities to meet the SENCOs this year, are open to parents of all students with Special Educational Needs (SEN), regardless of, if they have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). All of the dates for these events are below. There are a mix of morning and evening sessions. Each of these sessions will contain a short presentation and an opportunity to ask the SENCOs questions and meet other parents. Please note that some sessions have a pre-decided focus and may not be relevant to all parents.

Date and time	Focus
Tuesday 27th September 5-6pm	For parents new to Highlands, or who have not met the SENCOs previously
Friday 30th September 9-10am	
Tuesday 29th November 5-6pm	Interventions (open to all)
Tuesday 17th January 5-6pm	Revision and exams (Years 10 - 13)
Tuesday 21st March 9-10am	TBD (open to all)
Tuesday 2nd May 5-6pm	TBD (open to all)
Friday 23rd June 9-10am	Review of the year, plans for the future (open to all)

If you would like to attend either of the September sessions, please complete the following form: [September SENCO- Parent Events](#) to book your place.

Parent notices

Please ensure if you are dropping off and collecting students, please park considerably away from the immediate school area, please do not block residents' driveways, or the school roundabout area.



Highlands Parents and Friends Association (HPFA)

Dates for the Highlands Parents and Friends Association (HPFA) meetings can be found below. All parents are welcome to attend. Either turn up on the day or email in advance to hpfaeventtickets@gmail.com

The HPFA would like to invite **ALL** parents and carers to join the HPFA Committee. Your role can involve as much or as little as you like. If you are interested in supporting the school, please spend a few minutes completing this survey: [Highlands Parent & Friends Association Survey](#)

2022/2023		
HPFA Meeting Dates		
Date	Agenda	Time
15 Sept '22		6 - 7pm
13 Oct '22	AGM & Treasurers Report	6 - 7:30pm
10 Nov '22		6 - 7pm
8 Dec '22	Social Event	TBC
12 Jan '23		6 - 7pm
9 Feb '23		6 - 7pm
9 Mar '23		6 - 7pm
13 Apr '23		6 - 7pm
11 May '23		6 - 7pm
8 Jun '23		6 - 7pm
13 Jul '23	Social Event	TBC

Attendance and punctuality

At Highlands we believe regular attendance is vital for students to maximise their learning and to achieve their full potential at school. We encourage our pupils to strive for excellence and be the best they can be. We want to share our expectations around attendance with parents and carers to ensure we work together to support our students to flourish.



Why attendance is important

- The DFE outlines in its [working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance that ‘the pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage, compared to those with the lowest attainment’.
- Excellent levels of attendance provides routine and structure to students, making their experience of school life more enjoyable and stable.
- Attending school regularly and on time fosters positive habits around responsibility in preparation for later life and the working world.

Our expectations on attendance and punctuality

- Our aim is for all students to have an attendance figure of at least 97% to ensure the best possible outcomes for all.
- The government persistent absence percentage is 90% and all schools have to show that they have a robust system in place to track and support any attendance which falls below this level.
- We expect students to attend school every day unless there is a significant, valid reason for a student to be absent.
- We expect students to attend school on time every day. This means that students will arrive at school for when the gates open at 8:20am, and no later than 8:30am, when the gates close.

What happens when a student is late or absent?

- When a student is absent we will log this on our registers and decide whether the absence should be authorised or unauthorised.
- If no reason has been given for the student’s absence we will follow up with a text home to confirm the student’s whereabouts. This is both for registration and safeguarding purposes.
- If a student arrives late to school they will be issued with a same day 30 minute detention.
- Each week we monitor the attendance of all students using a centralised tracking system. Students are placed in one of five attendance groups below based on their cumulative attendance each week.
- We monitor declines in attendance each week and Heads of Year will take a stepped approach to responding to any declines in attendance. This will include:
 - Calls home to discuss attendance
 - Letters to highlight concerns
 - Meetings with the Head of Year
 - Meetings with a member of the senior leadership team
 - Attendance support plan

For more concerning cases, we may make a referral to the educational welfare service for additional support.

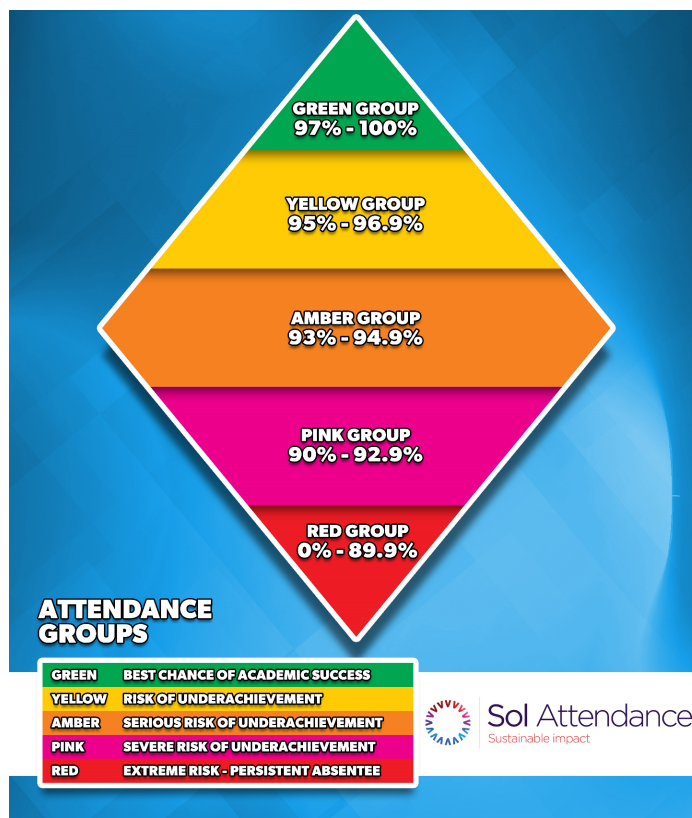
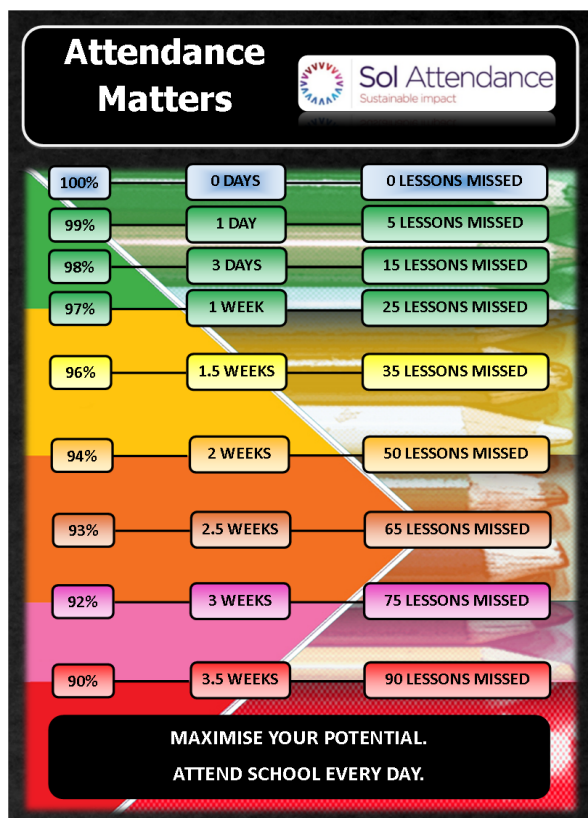
How parents and carers can help

You can support us with securing excellent levels of attendance in the following ways.

- Not booking holidays in term time - written requests must go to the headteacher before any travel arrangements are made.
- Not taking your child out of school unless in exceptional circumstances.



- Ensuring any medical appointments are booked outside of school hours where possible.
- Always contact the school to let us know where your child is and why they are absent.
- Always encouraging your child to attend school.
- Encouraging excellent punctuality and setting good routines, as persistent lateness will affect their attendance.



This week's PSHE topics

Year group	Unit title	W/b 12th September lesson title
Year 7	Unit 1: Transition and safety	Lesson one: Transition to secondary school
Year 8	Unit 1: Drugs and harmful substances	Lesson one: Illegal and prescription drugs
Year 9	RSE Unit: Healthy relationships	Lesson one: Recognising the features of unhealthy relationships
Year 10	Unit 1: Mental wellbeing	Lesson one: The challenges of adolescence
Year 11	Unit 1: Careers and next steps	Lesson one: Post-16 options
Year 12	Unit 1: Employment rights	Lesson one: Equality act 2010
Year 13	Unit 1: Financial planning	Lesson one: Managing money and budgeting



GCSE Dance rehearsal

GCSE Dance rehearsals will be running after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. If you are a GCSE Dance student in Year 11, please speak to Miss Brown to organise and reserve your slot.

Skills builder partnership

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved a Skills Builder Bronze Award!

We have been working with "The Skills Builder Partnership" over the previous academic year and have worked hard to embed the 8 essential employability skills being listening, speaking, problem solving, creativity, staying positive, aiming high, leadership and teamwork into a selection of activities to prepare students for their future study and careers, this included the Ed extra employability programme, STEM lego coding club, Year 12 work experience, 1:1 career interviews and Homezone.



This is a significant achievement and puts our school in a select group of schools and colleges who have demonstrated their effectiveness in building the essential skills of their students.

Following this success, we have gained a further year of funding for the Accelerator programme to continue working with the Skills Builder Partnership and work towards a Silver award, hoping to embed the 8 skills within the school environment so that students understand how they use them on a daily basis and how they can transfer these skills into their post education and future careers.

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides the national standard for teaching essential skills, breaking each skill down into steps to ensure students are able to easily understand and develop these. These will then serve the students well in their studies and when they move into employment after school.

Visit the Homezone page to start building the essential skills at home [here](#)



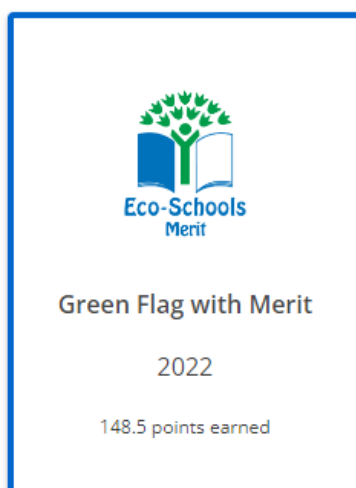


Dr Len's STEM announcements

Highlands School is awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag Award with Merit

Highlands School has been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag award with merit over Summer 2022. In the report, it was highlighted that our Eco school committee demonstrated a reflective and considered approach to the schools environmental review finding areas of strength and weakness in our environmental activity. Moreover, their proactive approach to implement improvements and changes within the school environmental activity was noted. Their willingness to also take their great work beyond the school gates and into their homes and local community, such as being part of the 'Prince of Wales open space river action day' was also commended.

Well done and congratulations to our committee members and staff members who were a part of this brilliant achievement.



Get into Medicine Conference

Aspiring medical students in Years 10 - 12 are eligible to attend a FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get into Medicine Conference on:

- Sunday 18th September 10am - 3pm
- Sunday 25th September 10am - 3pm
- Saturday 1st October 10am - 3pm

Once students have attended, they will be awarded with a certificate from the Presidents at Medic Mentor to acknowledge that they are a student who has gone one step further than others. The Get into Medicine conference is a significant turning point for Medic Mentor students. It will unlock exclusive opportunities such as scholarships and prizes, as well as help them to make a highly competitive application. Students can register using this link: [Get Into Medicine Registration Form](#)

Please note that all students must be accompanied by a parent/carer for safeguarding purposes.



The Get into Medicine Conference, is a comprehensive guide to the medical application process. Run by two doctors, they will cover:

- Application Timelines
- How to Tactically Choose Medical Schools
- CV Building
- Personal Statements
- Interview Schools
- Medical Leadership and Awards Programmes
- Accessing Work Experience
- UCAT and BMAT - Entrance Exams to Medical School
- Accessing Scholarships

NHS Allied Healthcare Work Experience - 2nd October

Health Education England has recently completed a discovery report on virtual work experience programmes, which concluded that these programmes are a valuable adjunct to in-person work experience, especially in our current climate where in-person experiences remain extremely limited.

The NHS Allied Healthcare Work Experience successfully invited 12,000 students to participate in the last academic year, making it the largest programme for students who are specifically interested in the following careers:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Paramedicine
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Dietetics
- Radiography
- Prosthetics and Orthotics
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Pharmacy

Applications for this programme are now open, and they will be open throughout this academic year, with the first programme taking place on the 2nd October!

Students can enrol here: [Live Virtual Work Experience Programme](#)

During the work experience day, students will follow two patients from their initial presentation to recovery. Students will observe the healthcare professionals as they interact with the patients and each other. They will have an opportunity to ask questions and gain knowledge through teaching.

This will help students to make an informed career decision about their career and give them the opportunity to learn about how healthcare professionals work together as part of a multidisciplinary



team. Each work experience day is completely different and students will be able to build on their knowledge of NHS careers as they see different patient cases and healthcare professionals work in a variety of settings, such as hospital and community.

Students will also receive certificates as evidence of having participated in the work experience programme. Those that complete the entire 5-month programme will be awarded a Highly Commended Reference from the Presidents of Medic Mentor.

Students can register individually through the website link below. Places are £10 a day to cover administrative costs and run the tech on the day. Schools can also register groups online. You can learn more and your students can register for the programme here: [Allied Health Mentor](#)

Hugh, reporting live!

Hugh in Year 8 has been very busy this summer. Having worked on a number of active citizenship projects with Mr Islam and 'reporting live' from Downing Street for his YouTube channel *Good Morning News*, Hugh's passion for the political sector has not gone unnoticed. Hugh is a strong advocate in ensuring young people get the opportunity to vote at 16 and hopes to pursue a career in politics in the future.

Well done Hugh, keep up the good work!



Student Medical Needs

If your child needs to take regular medication in school, please fill out the following [Medicines Consent Form](#) to give the school consent to administer medication to your child. All medications that are kept in school must be stored in the medical room.



Mental health

We are continuously working hard to improve our understanding as a community of mental health, to enable us to provide the best possible outcomes for the young people in our lives. If you are ever concerned that your child is at risk due to very poor mental health please inform the school. You can also contact one of these numbers to seek support from a specialist. The Crisis line is there to offer guidance if your child may be having suicidal thoughts and is possibly in immediate danger. If you do ever find yourself in a position where you need to use these resources for your child, please make the school aware so we can provide appropriate support within school for your child.

Urgent mental health support - 24/7 crisis lines

Every mental health trust in London has put in place a **24/7 crisis line** for people of all ages - children, young people and adults. The lines which are free to call can provide advice to those in a crisis. These crisis lines are supported by trained mental health advisors 365 days a year.

You can find the 24/7 crisis line numbers using the NHS Service Finder (link below) but the table provides all of the telephone numbers in London.

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline>



Area	Boroughs covered	24/7 crisis line number
North West London	Brent, Hillingdon, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster	0800 0234 650
	Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham	0800 328 4444
North Central London	Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington	0800 151 0023
North East London	City & Hackney	0800 073 0006
	Newham	0800 073 0066
	Tower Hamlets	0800 073 0003
	Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest	0300 555 1000
South West London	Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth	0800 028 8000
South East London	Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark	0800 731 2864
	Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich	0800 330 8590





Safeguarding contacts

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or the wellbeing of any other student at Highlands School, please contact the school on 020 8370 1100 or email the DSL at staysafe@highlearn.uk. This email address can also be used for students, parents and carers to share any safeguarding concerns or to request support.

If you are concerned that a child has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed and school cannot be contacted, please contact Enfield Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 020 8379 5555, and all the police on 999 straight away.

Helpful numbers and websites

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC helpline: 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 anxious or unable to cope
- if someone has hurt you physically, emotionally or mentally
- if you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- 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