



Highlands School Newsletter

20 October 2023



Dear parents and carers,

Today is the final day of the first half term of the 2023/24 academic year. As has been the case for the past three years we finished the half term with our DARE Days. Each year we arrange four days of activities, trips and visits for all our students. We do not want to be a school at which certain students can or cannot come on our trips because of limited places and / or cost. For that reason we run a carefully planned programme of trips and activities over the seven years students are with us. Today I was with the year 7 students at Herts Young Mariners and despite the challenging weather we had a great day. You can see the video from the trips of the past two days [here](#) and photos on pages 5-7.

School performance tables

Yesterday the Department for Education published the school performance tables. For the first time ever Highlands achieved a progress 8 score of over +0.5, which means that our students, on average, achieved half a grade more than students across England in their GCSEs, given their starting points. This puts us in the top 15% of schools nationally. Along with our A level results (that tell a similar story) we remain one of the best performing schools in north London. As our DARE Days demonstrate, Highlands is not just about results, but it is important that families have confidence that students will be successful here and go on to achieve their ambitions, whatever they may be. I am particularly pleased this year with the progress of our SEN students, with EHCP students at Highlands making around +1.5 GCSE grades more progress than similar students nationally. Our SEN provision has been a focus for the past three years and it is great to see our work having an impact. The real thanks for our results should go to the teachers, students and families that worked together to make sure students were well prepared for their summer 2023 examinations. Well done to all.

You can see the Highlands page on the school performance tables [here](#).

Open evening

On Monday this week over 300 of our students volunteered to support open evening. We welcomed more than 1,200 guests (potential year 7 parents and families) to Highlands. Last year more parents applied to Highlands than to any other school in Enfield and we are proud to be such a popular and



successful school; our open evening and the role of our students in it is a key part of our appeal. The evening went well and I want to thank all of the staff and students who made it such a success.

Crime in the local community

One of our students was robbed near Merryhills Primary School yesterday. Our staff are on duty after school and we were on the scene quickly and called the police. Please can I ask families to remind students not to walk around the roads with their phones out as they are more likely to be targeted by criminals.

A reminder of important dates for your diaries:

- Friday 20th October: end of the half term
- Monday 6th November: start of half term
- Wednesday 15th November: sixth form open evening (all year 11 should attend)
- Thursday 16th November: late start after sixth form open evening (11:15am)
- Friday 17th November: HPFA musical bingo night
- Wednesday 22nd November: year 13 parent and carer evening
- Monday 4th December: winter music concert
- Wednesday 13th December: year 9 parent and carer evening
- Wednesday 20th December: end of term (half day)
- Monday 8th January: start of spring term

Have a great weekend and an enjoyable two week half term break!

Mr McInerney,
Headteacher

House half term winners

We are proud to announce this half term's winning house is Rowan! All students in Rowan house will enjoy a well deserved extended reward break after half term. Well done to you all,

House competition weekly results

This week's overall house winner: **highest number of achievement points minus concern codes** - Well done Beech!

This Week	Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Positive Points	4,361	3,963	3,347	3,724
Negative points	-375	-294	-327	-297
Points overall	3,986	3,669	3,020	3,427



Top students in year 7:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Betsy	Coneywood	7OJT	O	36
Eliz	Hamamci	7ODM	O	30
Elma	Stena	7OJT	O	30
Talia	Reid	7RJG	R	30
Chloe-Sophia	Antoniades	7RJG	R	27
Zara	Yaman	7OJT	O	26
Benjamin	Taheny	7OJT	O	26
Selim	Ozturk	7OJT	O	26
Lucas	Photi	7OJT	O	26
Jack	Moules	7RJG	R	26

Top students in year 8:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Meliz	Hassan	8WMP	W	30
Aiden	Adeoye	8WMP	W	28
Diana	Derakhshan	8WMP	W	28
Ralph	Bishop	8RBW	R	24
Emily	Newton	8RBW	R	24
April	Clydesdale	8RBW	R	24
Hayrullah	Ozdemir	8WMP	W	23
Thomas	West	8RBW	R	21
Ashton-Gabriel	Eskinder	8RCX	R	21
Lucian	Hayden	8WNK	W	21

Top students in year 9:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Georgia	Gkiontsari	9BYC	B	54
Ruby	Magrun	9BYC	B	52
Hugh	Murphy	9BYC	B	51
Gabriela	Kusz	9BYC	B	51
Melisa	Spahia	9BYC	B	49
George	Baker	9BYC	B	47
Darcy	Smethurst	9BYC	B	46
James	Cooper-Dobson	9BYC	B	45
Maximus	Taylor	9BYC	B	44
Ava	Theodorou	9BYC	B	43



Top students in year 10:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Paula	Shehu	10BJC	B	36
Moroni	Cristovao	10BJC	B	35
Sheryce	Crow	10BJC	B	30
Tyrae	Best-Daley	10BJC	B	29
Anastasia	Katz	10OAB	O	29
Baran	Byndor	10WTH	W	29
Aydin	Chowdhury	10OAB	O	28
Abby	Reay	10OAB	O	28
Parla	Ghanipour	10OAB	O	28
Eva	Koker	10BJC	B	27

Top students in year 11:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Rakibe	Halili	11BRD	B	38
Benjamin	Gormley	11BPL	B	35
Iustina	Pasargic	11BRD	B	35
Sophie	Bernasconi	11BPL	B	30
Athanasios	Aristidou	11WCG	W	27
Lola	Matthews	11WER	W	22
Theo-Jay	Coleman	11RKM	R	20
Katie	Bucknor	11RTS	R	20
Yashraj	Singh	11BRD	B	18
Shelley	Gulem	11RKM	R	18

Top students in year 12:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Ledia	Xhetani	12WTA	W	21
Alexia	Chrysostomou	12BHK	B	18
Katie	Brookman	12ODS	O	16
Kyra	Bilsoy	12BJT	B	14
Zende	Gachette	12ODS	O	14
Ethan	Oldroyd	12OSB	O	14
Jannaya	Jiagge-Takyi	12WBS	W	14
Charlie	Mills	12RSL	R	13
Chizara	Okonkwo	12WTA	W	13
Selam	Taye	12OSB	O	12



DARE Days

DARE Days here at Highlands, are days full of exploring, learning and fun. Students enjoyed two unforgettable days of trips and activities full of adventure and life skills. These days were filled with excitement, learning and personal growth as our students delved into a range of activities that expanded their horizons.

Our year 7 students enjoyed a thrilling trip to Herts Young Mariners where they enjoyed water sports, rock climbing and team building activities. While onsite, students were able to show off their dance skills by learning, mastering and performing a dance routine to the year group.

Year 8 students set their sights on St Albans Cathedral, a place steeped in history and architectural wonder. Our students marvelled at the grandeur of the iconic cathedral and learned about its significance in the local community and beyond. While onsite, students took part in a number of modern languages games such as bingo, it was a great way to practise their language fluency.





Year 9 enjoyed a trip to the Design Museum in Kensington which exhibits product, industrial, graphic, fashion and architectural design. While onsite, students enjoyed launch pad workshops which worked on their thinking and analytical skills.

Year 10 students took part in onsite activities including workshops from Wise Up and Speak Out Challenge where students were able to gain valuable communication skills and build on their thinking skills through a range of team building games.





Year 11 had the opportunity to partake in thrilling activities at Stubbers Adventure Centre. From challenges in the water to zip lines in the air, it was a great way for our year 11 students to enjoy adventure to its fullest. While onsite, they worked hard on preparing for their future endeavours through mock interviews where they were able to practise articulating their thoughts effectively and handling interview scenarios. We would like to thank all of the external visitors for giving up their time to visit our school.



Finally, our year 12 students enjoyed a post-16 workshop and a fantastic trip to Tolmers Activity Centre where they thoroughly enjoyed outdoor activities such as archery.

What a wonderful way to end the school term! You can view our [DARE Days reel](#) on our instagram account.



Chickenshed superstar at Highlands School

Get ready for an enchanting journey filled with holiday cheer, music and unforgettable moments. Our talented student Beatrice Afhim (90SM) has been cast in the magical Chickenshed Christmas show *The Toymaker's Child*. She is playing the role of the toymaker's child for the green rota.

The toymaker lives a simple and quiet life. He has just one child, his pride and joy; but (as all parents do) he worries. They often play alone and rarely bring friends home from school. Worried his child is lonely, the toymaker cooks up a cunning plan. Using a magical 3D printer, he creates an all-singing all-dancing AI child! However, things don't quite go according to plan when the AI child, serial number PIN:0Cch10, proves to be a bit too mischievous to handle!

A theatrical experience that will leave audiences spellbound. With a captivating cast of colourful characters, big laughs and stunning sets *The Toymaker's Child* promises to be an unforgettable journey.

We couldn't be prouder of Beatrice's hardwork and dedication, Well done Beatrice!

[The Toymaker's child showings](#)

[Book now](#)



Black History Month special lunch

This week our staff and students indulged in a mouthwatering lunch in celebration of Black History Month. From delicious jerk chicken to creamy macaroni and cheese; flavourful, spicy and rich in culture, a true taste of heritage and history on their plates. Thanks to Marva and her team in the canteen.





Highlands School open evening 2023

On Monday 16th October we welcomed over 1,200 parents, carers and potential students to our outstanding school.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of the families that joined us for our open evening event. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with our school community, speaking with our students and exploring all the wonderful departments we have here at Highlands. We hope to see you all in September 2024.

Watch our [open evening reel](#) on instagram.





Deaf provision Halloween get together

What a wonderful way to end, what has been an amazing term, with a Halloween get together for our Deaf provision. It was a great way to acknowledge the achievements of our outstanding students and reflect on the hard work, determination and progress made throughout the term.



Empowered Females in STEM

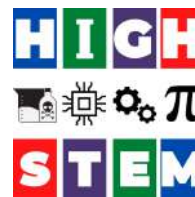
Congratulations to Shreya Deb 12RSL for also earning an exclusive opportunity to be a part of The Empowered Females in STEM Programme!

We have another successful application from Shreya Deb to the highly competitive Empowered Females STEM programme. Both Shreya and Eleanor (featured in last week's newsletter) will be on their way to being mentored by senior female scientists and directors from several global STEM companies such as Pfizer, BP, Dyson, Colt, AWS (Amazon) and UCB. This four-month programme is completely free of charge and launches in November 2023 in London.



The programme:

- Prepares young females' employability skills for the start of their STEM careers.
- Enables young females to network with global STEM employers in-person and online.
- Increases the self-efficacy of young females in STEM.
- Empowers young females to be valued members and bold leaders of the STEM community.



Well done to Shreya and Eleanor again and we wish them all the best with embarking on the programme!

If you are interested in STEM opportunities like this please look out for future announcements from Dr Len and Ms Laurenzi in your Google Classrooms and the school newsletter.



AstraZeneca - senior scientist alumni visit

This week we were privileged to receive an inspirational STEM careers talk from alumni Oliver Ring - a senior scientist, currently working on medicine in AstraZeneca's oncology portfolio, designing new synthetic routes to the active pharmaceutical ingredient. This was followed by a Q&A session, whereby students were able to get answers to their most pressing questions.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Oliver for giving up his time during his busy schedule to revisit his secondary school and share his journey.

Mrs Laurenzi



Media professionals needed!

We are always seeking ways to enrich our students' learning experiences here at Highlands. Currently, we are looking for professionals in the media industry to engage with our sixth form students and share their insights. Whether it's through a talk about their job or if your company runs an outreach programme, your expertise can provide invaluable real-world context to our students' education.

If you or someone you know is interested in contributing, please reach out to our head of media Mr. Groves.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Groves



PE Extracurricular timetable

PE clubs programme 2023 (Monday 6th November - Tuesday 19th December)			
Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Netball (starts 4th December) Year 7 Mrs Walters, Miss Berrill 3:15 - 4:30	Boys Basketball Years 8,9 Enfield Scorpions Coach Sports Hall 3:15 - 4:30	Girls Basketball Years 8,9,10 Enfield Scorpions Coach Sports Hall 3:15 - 4:30	Badminton (GCSE) Years 10,11 Mr Avann/ Mr Joseph Sports Hall 3:15 - 4:30
A Level PE Club Year 13 SL6 Mr Avann 3:15 - 4:00			

How to join a club

- Meet after school in the PE changing rooms.
- Students must wear their Highlands PE kit to take part.
- If students do not have a PE, dance or drama lesson on the day of their club, then they must wear their school uniform to school and get changed after school in the changing rooms.
- Bring any medical devices, e.g. an asthma pump.
- All clubs are for all students in the year groups stated. Year groups and clubs will change each half term.
- Students must inform parents/carers that they are attending a club and. Their finishing time at school will be no later than 4:00pm or 4:30pm depending on the club.
- Basketball club with the Enfield Scorpions coach is limited to 30 spaces. The list of students who are on the registers for this half term is on the PE noticeboard and Google Classroom pages.

NickKing's Joking corner





Influenza immunisation session - years 7 - 11

The flu vaccine will be delivered by the Enfield Immunisation Team at Highlands School on **Friday 10th November 2023**.

Influenza Vaccine (Flu)

- Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications.
- Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu.
- Enfield Immunisation Team are offering this vaccine to **all** children from years 7 to year 11.

You can decide between two different types of flu vaccines:

- **Nasal Flu Spray** – Completely pain free. Contains porcine gelatine.
- **Flu Injection** - The injection will be administered at school. Does NOT contain porcine gelatine.

To complete a consent form for a yes **OR** a no consent, please click on this link: [Flu Consent Form](#).

Highlands School code is: **ENF132256**

Please note: If the Enfield Immunisation Team does not receive a consent form, they may contact you by telephone or email to obtain one from you. If you submit a **YES** consent on behalf of your child and they refuse vaccination, it will not be given. For more information on influenza immunisation, please click [here](#) or contact the Enfield Immunisation Team on beh-tr.enfieldimmunisationteam@nhs.net or 0208 702 3499.

MUSIC BINGO

**THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER '23
7-9PM @ HIGHLANDS SCHOOL**

**TICKETS ONLY £5!!!
AVAILABLE ON PARENT PAY SOON!
ALL ARE WELCOME**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON THE NIGHT!

SAVE THE DATE!

HPFA

Pinnacle Group **Highlands School & Sixth Form**

Festive Food Bank 2023

Pinnacle Group will deliver all items donated on a fortnightly basis directly to the charities. We are grateful for your support. Items that could be included are:

- UHT milk
- Tinned meat (holidays, meatballs etc.)
- Tinned fish
- Tinned fruit
- Spongecake puddings
- Coffee (small jars)
- Long-life juice
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned veg (potatoes, carrots, green beans, tomatoes)
- Tinned meat (sausage, chicken or veg corns, chili)
- Tinned soups
- Jam and spreads

Please drop off your donations in the donation box in reception or the Pinnacle Office between 1st November and 31st December.



1:1 COUNSELLING

HALF TERM OFFER

£30 PER HOUR

U18'S ONLY

BOOK A FURTHER 6 WEEKS FOR JUST £180

The Annexe Wellbeing Centre
9A Stable View, Graftonbury Mews, Crews Hill, Enfield EN2 9DY

Tel: 07801 330 999
Email : theannexewellbeing@gmail.com
@theannexewellbeing

AUTUMN NETBALL CAMP

Reception to Year 10 - 10am-2pm

£30 per day or £80 per 3-day camp

Mon 23rd Oct **Tue 24th Oct** **Wed 25th Oct**

Reserve your place
kpnetball.co.uk
Highlands School
N21 1QQ
07392 019 016

KP NETBALL

KP NETBALL

Netball coaching for all ages and abilities

Highlands School, Enfield N21 1QQ

Autumn Saturday Coaching

9-9:55am: Reception-Year 2 Year 3-4
10-10:55am: Year 5-6 Year 7-8 Year 9-10

£3 per session

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 th Sep	16 th Sep	23 rd Sep	30 th Sep	7 th Oct	14 th Oct	21 st Oct	4 th Nov	11 th Nov	18 th Nov	25 th Nov	2 nd Dec

Reserve your place
www.kpnetball.co.uk
Brenda: 07392 019 982
Hayley: 07392 019 016

Autumn Holiday Camp

Reception to Year 10 - 10am-2pm
£30 per day or £80 per 3-day camp

Mon 23 rd Oct	Tue 24 th Oct	Wed 25 th Oct
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Highlands School Alumni

Highlands School is launching an alumni network!

As a school, we want to reconnect with our former students so that we can keep in touch and let them know about volunteering opportunities that will benefit our current students. We want to show them the variety of pathways available to them after leaving Highlands School, and who better to showcase this information, than former students!

We are working with education charity Future First to set this up, and all you need to do to get involved is sign up here: [Highlands School Alumni](https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk) or alternatively scan the QR code below.

More information is on our [website](#) and if you have any questions please contact our Alumni Programme Manager at Future First: Tara Human – tara.human@futurefirst.org.uk

#HighlandsAlumni



Former student?

Return to Highlands School to inform our current students about what life beyond school is really like.


Sign up to our former student network to receive news, updates and invites to events.


Once you're signed up there is no obligation to volunteer, you can get involved around your availability.



12:58 5G

www.futurefirsthub.org.uk


Highlands School
School & Sixth Form

Powered by  Future First

Join your network

First name *

Last name *

Email address *



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

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

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>

Urgent and other support available

shout
85258

Shout offers confidential 24/7 crisis text support for times when immediate assistance is required
Text "SHOUT" to 85258 or visit [Shout Crisis Text Line](#)

SAMARITANS

Samaritans 24/7 365 days a year - they are here to listen and provide support.
Call: 116 123 or email: jo@samaritans.org

Crisis Tools

Crisis Tools helps professionals support young people in crisis - short accessible video guides and text resources
Sign up for free resources [here](#)

PAPYRUS

Papyrus provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person
Call: 0800 068 41 41 or Text: 07860 039967 (opening hours 9am to midnight - 365 days a year)

childline
SHOUT ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Childline confidential telephone counselling service for any child with a problem
Call: 0800 1111 anytime or [online chat with a counsellor](#)

Good Thinking

Good Thinking is London's digital wellbeing service and provides a range of resources for young people to help improve mental wellbeing including free NHS-approved apps

THE MIX

The Mix provides free, confidential support for young people under 25
Call: 0808 808 4994 (11am - 11pm every day) or [Email](#)

Beat

Beat provide support to help young people who may be struggling with an eating problem or an eating disorder
Call the **Youthline (under 18's) 0808 801 0711** or **Studentline 0808 801 0811** (9am - 8pm during the week and 4pm - 8pm on weekends and bank holidays)

kooth

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community including live chat with the team, discussion boards, magazine with helpful articles and a daily journal a magazine



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

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 Instagram [@highlandssch](https://www.instagram.com/highlandssch)

 YouTube [Highlands School Enfield](https://www.youtube.com/Highlands_School_Enfield)