



# Highlands School Newsletter

24 July 2024

## Information for the new academic year

Dear parents and carers,

Today is the final day of the 2023-2024 academic year and I would like to start by thanking all of you, our parents and carers, for the support you have given Highlands as we strive, each year, to make our school better and better. Those of you with children in the sixth form, who have been here for the past six years, will have seen extensive change. New behaviour and safeguarding systems were launched including an increase in the size of our pastoral team and the introduction of the wellbeing room; the school curriculum was completely rewritten and resourced with booklets; we introduced DARE Days and Ed-Extra on Wednesday; and we changed the length of lessons and the timings of the school day. Some of you may even remember when we banned the use of mobile phones at break and lunchtimes back in September 2018 - which did not make me popular with students at the time!

Those of you with younger children will have seen more recent changes such as the relaunch of the house system, the school rebrand and redecoration and the introduction of our new, cheaper, more environmentally friendly uniform. This year, we wanted to enhance our sports and performing arts, which we did through the introduction of basketball facilities and coaching and the first ever school show held off-site, at the Millfield Theatre - *Matilda!* We currently have dozens of students in Morocco as part of our first international expedition since COVID.

It is the staff of the school who have put the work in to deliver these changes and I want to thank them all. Teaching is a tough job sometimes and we ask our staff to go the 'extra mile', and they do. Staff who have been here over the entire six year change process have had to do an enormous amount of work. What makes it all worthwhile is seeing successful, flourishing children, making their way through their Highlands journey. Last summer's results were the best in the history of the school and record numbers of students from Highlands and across Enfield joined our sixth form; we expect the same this summer. We remain the most popular school in Enfield by total year 6/7 applications. The newsletter each week is packed with achievements and I hope you take the time to read each edition. This week I interviewed a dozen year 12 students wishing to be our head students next year and the experiences they have had, and the ideas they have to improve the school, are impressive and inspiring. I also particularly enjoyed the mock general election we held this year and was truly blown away by the hundreds of students who wanted to stand for election and the quality of the campaigns and leaders' debates.

This journey of school improvement has only been possible with the support of the Highlands School Governing Body, led by our Chair of Governors, Matt Miller, MBE. They are as relentless in the pursuit of excellence as the school leadership team and our staff.



We always ask ourselves how we can improve further and next year will be no different. We are likely to be inspected by Ofsted. This will be our first graded inspection since 2014 (we had a successful safeguarding inspection in 2021 but this did not regrade the school). I will write to you in September about this in more detail as all students and families can contribute to the inspection. Next year is also the final year of the school's PFI contract. When we opened in 2000 the school was built as part of the national PFI scheme, on 31st August 2025 the contract ends and the school buildings return to the local authority and we, the school, assume responsibility for catering, the management of the site, upkeep of the building, lettings and other aspects of our work that have, up to this point, been handled by the PFI contract holders. We are prepared for this and look forward to it.

In the first week of September, as has become traditional, we will hold online information evenings for all year groups. The details are below, please make sure that you attend.

The final thanks I want to give is to our students; time after time, in situation after situation, they live our values of determination, aspiration, respect and equality and as they grow and flourish we should be proud of them. The excellent reputation our school has is down to their attitude and achievements.

I am looking forward to next year and the opportunities and inevitable challenges it will bring and I hope they are too. Have a wonderful summer; to those coming in on results days I will see you then and, to everyone else, I look forward to seeing you in September 2024.

Mr McInerney,

Headteacher

### Term dates

Please click [here](#) to view the full academic year 2024-25 term dates.

### Arrangements for students returning to school

- **Monday 2nd September:** Year 7 only. Details have been sent to families.
- **Tuesday 3rd September:** Year 7 and year 12 only. Details have been sent to families.
- **Wednesday 4th September:** Induction for all other students, see table below.
- **Thursday 5th September:** Normal teaching commences for all year groups.



**Arrangements for Wednesday 4th September. Lunch will not be served at school although year 7 students will be able to purchase a snack at breaktime.**

Year group	Arrival/line up	Assembly	Tutor time	Departure
7	8.30am	Induction day 3.		1.00pm
8	8.30am	8.40 - 9.10am	9.15 - 10.30am	10.30am
9	9.00am	9.15 - 9.45am	9.45 - 11.00am	11.00am
10	9.40am	9.50 - 10.20am	10.20 - 11.40am	11.40am
11	10.15am	10.25 - 10.55am	10.55 - 12.15pm	12.15pm
13	10.50am	11.00 - 11.30am	11.30 - 1.00pm	1.00pm

**Staffing update - pastoral teams from September 2024**

Year group	Head of year	Behaviour mentor	Assistant headteacher	Deputy head
7	Ms Berrill	TBC	Ms Jeynes	Ms Lloyd
8	Mr Edwards	Ms Forshaw	Ms Toouli (senior AHT)	Mr Hurst
9	Mr Savvides	Ms Patricia Brown	Ms Petrou	Mr Hurst
10	Mr Friend	Mr O'Doherty	Ms Hutchinson	Mr Hurst
11	Ms Halstead	Ms O'Sullivan	Ms Hutchinson	Mr Hurst
12	Ms Halil	Ms Gunning - assistant head of year	Ms Husseyin (senior AHT)	Ms Lloyd
13	Ms Simmons / Ms Sheikh			
12 / 13	Mr M. Tuton as academic progress head of year working across years 12 and 13		Ms Husseyin (senior AHT)	Ms Lloyd



## Parent information webinars

We will be holding parent and carer information webinars in September to make sure parents and carers are aware of the priorities for the upcoming year for each year group. Please make a note of these times in your diaries. We will send links to the meetings soon. Students are encouraged to watch along with parents and carers.

Years 9, 10 and 11.	Tuesday 3rd September 6:00pm
Years 12 and 13.	Wednesday 4th September 6:00pm
Years 7 and 8.	Thursday 5th September 6:00pm

## Reading for pleasure programme

Highlands School is committed to providing students with the opportunity to read high quality literature. Engaging with such literature not only supports students' learning in English, but across the curriculum as a whole. It also plays an important role in fostering a life-long love of reading.

It is for this reason that the English department has published its list of suggested reading (see below). These books have been carefully selected in order to supplement the department's literature based curriculum as well books that are read to students during form time. Please do contact the school should you have any questions or concerns. If you would like financial support please contact [get.reading.books@highlearn.uk](mailto:get.reading.books@highlearn.uk) for more information.

Please see the last two pages of this letter for the recommended reading lists.

- [Year 7](#)
- [Year 8](#)
- [Year 9](#)
- [Years 10-11](#)

## School uniform

All students should come to school each day (unless they have PE) wearing our full school uniform, which includes the following:

- Black school shoes (please see below for more detail).
- Black socks or plain black tights.
- Plain black kilt skirt or plain black trousers (no jean style or chinos).
- White school shirt or open neck blouse (long or short sleeved).
- Summer polo shirt can be worn in the summer term only (optional).
- Green blazer (with school badge).
- V-neck green jumper (optional).
- School tie, worn to the waistline (if wearing a buttoned up school shirt).
- Students are required to wear their lanyard at all times when in the classrooms and when moving around the building.



- Single ear stud per ear in each ear. No piercings other than the ear.
- Religious necklaces (if required) must be worn inside a blouse/shirt.
- Headscarves worn for religious reasons should be black/green.
- Blazers must always be worn when moving around the school building, unless otherwise advised by the headteacher.
- Bracelets are not allowed.

This picture sets out what shoes should be worn to school.



Students are also expected to follow these uniform rules:

- Trousers must be a traditional tailored style. Tight/stretch style trousers or jeans-related are not permitted.
- Skirts must be worn of modest length, just above the knee.
- Blazer sleeves must not be rolled up.
- Shirts should be fully buttoned and tucked into trousers.
- Ties must be neatly knotted and worn to the waist.
- Visible t-shirts under the white school shirt are not permitted (a white non visible t-shirt is permitted).
- Hats and caps should not be worn, unless for religious purposes.
- Only plain black trouser belts are permitted.
- Hats, hoodies and any other non-uniform items or outdoor garments must not be worn in the building at any time.
- Blazers must always be worn when moving around the school building unless otherwise advised by the headteacher.
- Shoes with brightly/different coloured laces are not permitted (only black permitted).



### **Face masks**

Please remember that students have not been allowed to wear face masks since 1st September 2023.

### **Hair, make-up and jewellery**

- Subtle make-up may be worn. Subtle make-up means foundation or face powder.
- Eye make-up, spot stars, fake eyelashes, lipstick and lip gloss are not permitted.
- Jewellery is not permitted apart from one stud earring in each ear. Religious symbols (if required) can be worn on a chain inside a blouse/shirt. No rings, bracelets or non-religious chains are permitted.
- Nose studs or nose rings are not permitted.
- Extreme hair styles, brightly coloured hair (e.g. pink, blue, green), shavings, and tracks (including eyebrows) are not permitted. Dyed hair should be a natural colour and style.
- Nail extensions or coloured nail varnish are not permitted.

### **PE kit**

Students in years 7-11 should wear their PE kit to schools on the days that they have PE.

All PE kit items must be Highlands School specific items and not branded or generic sportswear. Students are expected to only wear a full PE kit that has been purchased from our suppliers Lyons or Smiths schoolwear shops. The PE kit includes:

- Highlands school PE hoodie.
- Highlands school PE t-shirt.
- Highlands rugby shirt (optional).
- Highlands school black tracksuit bottoms.
- Highlands school black shorts/black skirt/skort.
- Highlands school black sports leggings.
- Highlands School black rugby socks outdoor lessons or plain white socks for indoor lessons.
- Shin pads (optional).
- Non-marking trainers.

Football boots for lessons on the field (winter period only, optional). If students wear their PE kit on days that they do not have PE they will be removed from circulation and given a uniform to wear. They will lose the right to wear their PE kit to school and will have to bring it in a bag and get changed in PE.

### **Incorrect uniform process**

- Students who arrive at school without the proper uniform will be offered a spare uniform or parents and carers will be contacted to request that they bring the correct uniform to school for their child.
- Students in incorrect uniform will receive a detention, unless the parent or carer has notified the pastoral team in advance of any unavoidable issues with their child's uniform.
- Students in incorrect uniform may also not be allowed in circulation until they are in the correct uniform.
- Any requests for reasonable adjustments to our uniform policy should be put in writing to the headteacher.



## Equipment

All students are expected to carry their everyday equipment in a bag of suitable size.

Students should bring a pencil case, which should include the following items:

- 30cm ruler
- 2 HB Pencils
- Pens (Black/blue and green)
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Protractor
- Compass
- Colouring pencils
- Scientific calculator

All students will be provided with a whiteboard, whiteboard pen and rubber at the start of term. They should bring these to school every day. Students should also bring their reading book (see above) and planner with them to school every day.

## Reminder of timings of the school day

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays		Wednesdays	
The school gates open at 8:20am. Students are expected to arrive by 8:30am. Students not in school by 8:30am are late.			
AM Reg	8:40am	8:40am	8:40am
P1	9:00am (PSHE on Friday)	9:00am	9:00am
P2	10:05am	P2	10:05am
Break	11:10am	Break	11:10am
P3	11:35am	P3	11:35am
P4 / lunch*	12:40pm Y10+11 lunch 1:10pm Y7 lunch 1:40 pm Y8+9 lunch	P4 / lunch*	12:40pm Y10+11 lunch 1:10pm Y7 lunch 1:40 pm Y8+9 lunch
P5	2:10pm	PM registration / end of day / Ed-Extra activities	2:10pm
End of day	3:15pm	Staff CPD	2:30pm
		End of staff CPD	4:30pm

\*Period 4 is divided into three half hour sections. Year groups are taught for two of them and have their lunch during the other.



## **Behaviour policy**

There will be no changes to our behaviour systems next year. Below is a summary of key aspects of our behaviour systems. These will be explained further during our webinars.

### **Detentions**

- Detentions take place Monday - Friday from 3:15pm for 30 minutes, for students issued with a C2 or C3 that day or after the 1.30pm cut off point the day before,
- Students who fail to attend their detention will be required to serve a longer detention of 40 minutes the following day.
- Students who receive more than one C2 in one day will receive a deputy headteacher detention where they will be given the opportunity to reflect upon how to improve upon their behaviour. Deputy headteacher detentions will last for 45 minutes, from 3:15 - 4:00.

### **Morning routines**

- The gate opens at 8.20am and students are expected at their line up point by 8.30am. Students who arrive at the gate after 8.30am will be marked late (exceptions made where a parent/carer has made the school aware of a valid reason for lateness or there is a known issue on the local roads).
- All students in years 7-10 line up on their line-up points.
- Year 11 students are not required to line up in the mornings. Instead, upon arrival at school in the morning, year 11 will go to our canteen. This procedure is in place in recognition of their maturity and to prepare students for being in the sixth form in the following year. Staff will use this time each morning to ensure year 11 are in the correct school uniform and ready for learning.
- Year 7-11 students will attend a daily 20min tutor time session from 8.40am.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding information can be found on our [website](#).