

# **Highlands School Newsletter**

02 May 2025



Dear parents and carers,

Today Enfield Council published a letter signed by over 80 schools in Enfield, including Highlands. The letter informs families that smartphones will not be allowed in primary schools in Enfield from September 2025. It also informs families that students starting year 7 at secondary schools this September will not be allowed to bring smartphones to school for the duration of their studies up to the end of year 11. This will apply to all future year 7 cohorts. Students currently at Highlands will not be affected by this change.

This is a link to the letter. It explains why, as a group of schools, we have made this decision. As schools we are often on the front line of seeing the negative effects that smartphones and social media access can have on young children. We want to provide parents and carers with support in telling their children that they should wait until the age of 14 to have a smartphone and 16 to access social media. In place of smartphones we suggest that students are bought 'brick phones', which allow children to call and text.

Enfield is not the first local authority to see their schools act together in this way, Barnet schools sent a similar letter a few months ago. More and more schools are taking similar action across the country, and internationally.

Have a great bank holiday weekend,

Mr McInerney, Headteacher.

Key dates for this half term:

- Monday 5th May: bank holiday
- Friday 23rd May: end of half term



#### The London Mini Marathon

On Saturday 26th April, a number of students across years 7-12 represented Highlands School in the London Mini Marathon. These students finished their race running past Buckingham Palace and down The Mall, sharing the same finish line as used by world famous marathon runners on Sunday.

A special mention to both Theodore Payne and Morgan Nash who came 1st and 2nd respectively in their year 7 wave.

Each student who completed the race received a medal and earnt the PE department £10 to be spent on PE equipment.

Well done to everyone involved, the PE department is immensely proud of you.

#### The PE department





# **Honouring Stuart Lawrence**

Two of our students, Su Okur and Aaron Sam-Habboo, were interviewed as part of a special event held to honour Stuart Lawrence for his outstanding community work in schools and organisations across Enfield. The event was a celebration of his dedication and impact, featuring performances from various schools in the area. Su and Aaron shared their personal reflections on the powerful and positive influence Stuart Lawrence had on them during his visit to Highlands School. They spoke about how his presentation inspired them and left a lasting impression, highlighting the meaningful impact his message had on students.





#### Year 8 netball

On Thursday afternoon the year 8s played in the Enfield Netball League finals. They played Oasis Hadley first of all in a very tight game. At half time, we were 4-3 down but came back stronger in the second half to win 8-4.

The second game was against a very strong St John's team. We battled hard in very warm conditions but St John's came out on top.

Player of the match against Oasis Hadley was Alexandra and player of the match against St John's was Esme.

This means that we finished 2nd overall in the league this season. Well done girls, you have had a brilliant season.

#### **Mrs Walters**





# GCSE dance and music trip to see Wicked!

Students from the GCSE dance and GCSE music classes went to see Wicked at the Victoria Apollo Theatre.

The students showed exemplary behaviour throughout the trip and were able to experience a famous West End musical first hand. Some students had been to the theatre many times before but for some students, this was their first visit.

They were able to hear some amazing musical songs like Popular, Dancing Through Life and of course Defying Gravity sung by an incredible cast. The students even had their own personal waves from some of the cast at the end of the show. Our students enjoyed this opportunity, sitting in seats highly subsidised by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

Highlands School are proud to be a Jack Petchey Foundation school and are grateful to the foundation for all the financial support with trips such as these.

#### **Miss Brown**





#### Year 7 netball tournament

On Thursday 24th April the year 7 Netball team represented Highlands in the borough netball tournament at Winchmore. They started off winning 4-3 in a tight end to end game against a very good Lea Valley team. They then beat Winchmore convincingly 7-3. The last group game was against Winchmore where a few mistakes led to a 2-1 loss.

Thankfully two wins and a loss were good enough to put the team through to the final due to the team scoring more goals in the tournament than Lea Valley.

The final was a tough game against a very strong Enfield County team where despite our best efforts we lost 6-2.

Well done girls, you are the second best team in Enfield and we are very proud of the brilliant Netball that you have played in your first year at Highlands.

#### **Mrs Walters**





# Tom Toumazis MBE inspires students with life lessons

Last Friday 25th April, we were delighted to welcome Tom Toumazis MBE to speak to our year 12 students. Tom, an accomplished entrepreneur with an outstanding career across the entertainment, media, and technology industries, delivered a truly inspiring and thought-provoking talk.

Tom shared his personal journey, beginning with his first job washing dishes in his father's Greek restaurant at the age of 12, through to becoming Deputy Chairman of major companies and a respected public speaker. His early experiences taught him valuable lessons in teamwork and responsibility, skills that paved the way for a successful career with renowned organisations such as ITV, Yahoo!, Eurosport, and Disney.

Beyond his professional achievements, Tom has made significant contributions to charitable causes, including the NSPCC and the University of Westminster. In recognition of his dedication to supporting children, he was awarded an MBE in 2015 after helping to raise an incredible £9 million for Children in Need.

During his visit, Tom spoke about the importance of gratitude, encouraging students to remember the simple power of saying "thank you." He also shared practical advice on personal development, recommending that students explore TED Talks to gain insights from leaders across different industries—and even challenged them to create their own talks to express their ideas.





At the end of the session, Tom gifted each student a blank thank you card and envelope, encouraging them to reflect on the talk and consider writing a personal note of thanks to someone who has made a difference in their lives, a thoughtful gesture that beautifully reinforced the message of gratitude.

Tom's visit left students feeling motivated and energised, reminding them that success is not just about competing with others, but about striving to improve oneself every day. He also spoke about the influence of key mentors in his life, highlighting how early guidance and positive role models can make a lasting impact.

We are extremely grateful to Tom for generously sharing his time and experiences with our students, and for providing such valuable inspiration as they start to plan their own futures.

By the end of Tom's talk, students felt motivated, energised, and ready to tackle not just their upcoming exams, but their future ambitions as well.

#### Mrs Laurenzi

"Tom's talk was so inspiring, it made me realise that success doesn't happen overnight, and that small steps and hard work really do make a difference."

"The advice about saying 'thank you' really stuck with me and getting a thank you card to write was such a nice idea. It made me realise how important it is to appreciate the people who support you."

"Tom made me think differently about competition, it's not about beating others, it's about improving yourself every day."

"Tom's energy and honesty made the whole talk so engaging. I left feeling much more confident about the future."



# Students gain hands-on film and media experience

Over the spring break holiday, three of our year 12 students successfully secured placements on an exciting media and marketing development programme at the Dugdale Arts Centre (DAC) in Enfield Town. Competing against applicants from across the borough, they were selected to work alongside professional videographers from Crispy Dog Productions to help produce DAC's brand-new marketing video.

During the project, students were involved in all stages of the creative process, from storyboarding and planning, to filming and contributing ideas on set. Their dedication and enthusiasm impressed both the Dugdale Arts Centre team and the professional production crew, and each student earned a valuable CV credit for their hard work.

We are incredibly proud of our students for giving up part of their free time to take part in this unique opportunity, and for representing our school with such creativity, professionalism, and confidence. Congratulations to Charlie Skipp, Georgia Kouvakli and Aydun Salih on an outstanding achievement!

The project continues with an exciting editing insight day still to come, where students will learn about post-production processes. They will also receive a personal copy of the finished video they helped create, along with a complimentary ticket

to a future event at the Dugdale Arts Centre.

A huge thank you to the teams at Dugdale Arts Centre and Crispy Dog Productions for offering this fantastic opportunity to young people in Enfield. We can't wait to see the final video and celebrate the brilliant work our students contributed.



Mrs Laurenzi

Charlie Skipp

Aydun Salih

"It was amazing to work with a real production team, I learned so much about what goes into making a professional video and being involved in the whole process, from storyboarding to filming, really opened my eyes to all the creative roles behind the scenes."

"The experience has made me even more excited about working in the media one day. It was so inspiring!"

I'm really proud that I took part, it's great knowing I helped create something real that will" be used by a professional arts centre."



# Students gain invaluable surgical experience

Three of our year 12 students gave up their spring break to take part in an incredible opportunity at Chase Farm Hospital. Working alongside senior team leaders and theatre staff, they observed a wide range of surgeries, including orthopaedics (hip, knee, and shoulder replacements), gynaecology, maxillofacial, general surgery, and ear, nose, and throat procedures.

As part of their experience, they were also able to follow a patient through a complete day surgery pathway, from admission right through to discharge, gaining a full understanding of the patient journey and surgical processes.

Well done, Rukiye Coban, Yagmur Olcay and Oliver Hoxha - we are incredibly proud of your dedication and commitment, and would like to sincerely thank the amazing staff at Chase Farm for their ongoing support and for providing such valuable learning opportunities for our students.

Mrs Laurenzi



"It was an incredible experience seeing how much work and teamwork goes into every patient's care. It made me even more certain I want to work in healthcare."

"Following a patient's journey and observing surgeries firsthand was an unforgettable experience, it really brought everything we've learned to life"

"Everyone at Chase Farm was so welcoming and supportive. This opportunity has definitely inspired me to keep pushing towards a career in medicine."



# **Marketing photoshoot**

A huge thank you to all the students who took part in this year's marketing photoshoot, you were all amazing!

Your enthusiasm, professionalism, and positive representation of the school were truly appreciated.



# Write 2 Speak

Write to Speak returned to our school for an inspiring session focused on the power of spoken word poetry.

The workshop encouraged students to find their voices, express themselves confidently, and explore the impact of language and storytelling.

It was an engaging and empowering experience that left a lasting impression on everyone who took part.







## Highlands School proudly presents Chicago Teen Edition

#### Tickets are now on sale!

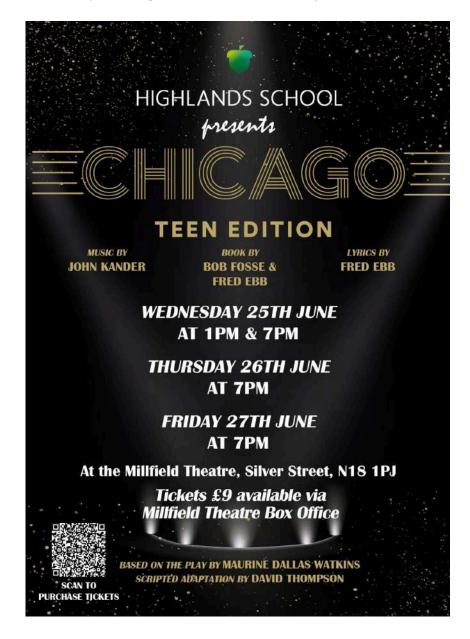
Tickets are priced at £9 and can be purchased via the Millfield Box Office here.

The show is Wednesday 25th June at 1pm and 7pm and Thursday 26th and Friday 27th June at 7pm. The show lasts approximately two hours including a 20 minute interval.

Come and experience a night in a Chicago speakeasy! Immerse yourselves in prohibition America, in a city caught up in the murderous tales of wannabe stars Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly.

Students from all year groups are in the cast, so come along and support them. It promises to be a night full of jazz but maybe not justice!

Please note the show is most suitable for patrons over the age of 11 years old. The show is geared towards 11-13 year olds and 14-adult due to mild references to murder and adultery. Please use parental guidance when purchasing tickets for those under 11 years old.





#### Dancers of the week

Sebastian Osinowo and Skye Hawkins in year 7 are the dancers of the week for their great work in choreography this week.

Also Evie Ferguson, Anastasia Katz in year 11 for their great work in the group dances.

Well done to you all.



# **UK Maths Challenge**

Around 70 bright and enthusiastic year 8 students recently took part in the UK Maths Challenge, showcasing their problem-solving skills and mathematical thinking in this nationally recognised competition.

We're incredibly proud of their ambition and effort, well done to everyone who took part!





#### Headteacher's award

It is with immense pride and joy that we celebrate the exceptional achievements of our students as we honour the recipients of this week's prestigious headteacher award. An award that is presented to nominated students who exemplify dedication, hard work and excellence.

This week, the Headteacher's Award is proudly presented to the following students.

- **Evren Okanay 100SM:** Awarded for his 100% attendance.
- Tyhan Hassan 11BNI, Dayal Matharu 11WDD, Eva Pangratiou 11RNC, Andreas Thore-Lawrence 11BNI and Noya Weeratunge- Garcia 11OKK: Awarded for excellent effort and regularly attending interventions for GCSE art.
- Mason Furlow 8BLR, Adem Payne 8BLR and Dylan Olaogun 8WSW: Awarded for their exemplary behaviour outside of school and for representing the school so positively in the community.
- Rukiye Coban 120ES, Yagmur Olcay, 120ES and Oliver Hoxha 120ES: Awarded for outstanding commitment to learning and professional development.
- Charlie Skipp 12RHK, Georgia Kouvakli 12BAS and Aydun Salih 12RHK: Awarded for commitment to professional growth and creativity.
- Su Okur 9BBK and Aaron Sam-Haboo 9RCX: Awarded for their excellent representation of Highlands School during an external event.
- Aalycia Udahemuka 9WNK, Zara Kazim 9WMP, Alescha Sall 9WNK, Marika Daley 9BAM, Meliz Hassan 9WMP, Sunny Morgan Jones 9WMP, Ageel Ansar 9BAM and Stefano Keliris **9RCX:** Awarded for their excellent effort and creative outcomes for art core work.
- Isobella McNeil 9RCX, Kaelyn Beisty 9WNK, Natania Gambo 9BBK and Anais Edwards-Anyanwu 90AC: Awarded for their excellent artist research pages throughout the year for art core lessons.
- Francesca Georgiou 10WCM, Lila Nudds 10WCM and Constantinos Socratous 10ODC: Awarded for their fantastic effort throughout their GCSE course.





# The Mayor visits Highlands School

This week, the Mayor visited our school for a tour of our learning environment.

It was a really positive visit and a fantastic opportunity to showcase everything that's great about our school.



# **Caribbean Cuisine Day**

This week, we celebrated Caribbean Cuisine Day, hosted by Oak House, with a delicious menu that brought vibrant island flavours to our school.

Students and staff enjoyed jerk chicken or a roasted veggie chickpea curry, served with rice and peas, coleslaw, and a sweet finish of Jamaican fruit cake with custard.

It was a fantastic celebration of culture and community, thank you Chartwells, and well done to Oak House for organising such a great event!







#### House assemblies

This week, house assemblies were led by the student leadership team, who gave exciting updates on each house's current position in the ongoing house competition.

With the race to Thorpe Park heating up, the big question remains: who will be crowned champions this year?

Students also shared news about upcoming cuisine days, which promise to bring delicious international flavours to the school, and highlighted the new English displays that have appeared around the building.

To finish, they proudly announced the impressive total raised so far through various fundraising activities including the house bake sale.



# Steel pan house competition

We recently held our exciting steel pan house competition, where students showcased brilliant performances representing their houses. The winning piece was selected by Mr. McInerney, who judged the entries anonymously to ensure fairness. Congratulations to Oak House, whose outstanding performance earned them 4,000 points. Well done!

- 1st: Oak Believer = 4000 points
- 2nd: Beech Smooth Criminal = 3000 points
- 3rd: Willow Dynamite = 2000 points
- 4th: Rowan Flowers = 1000 points



## **Comic book competition**

Comic Book Day is coming up on the 3rd May! To mark this, there is a competition students can enter where the lucky winner can win a graphic reader worth £119! If that wasn't enough, our school can also receive £250 worth of books.

#### Here's how to enter:

- Download the guide to creating the comic storyboard
- Download the comic storyboard worksheet
- Design your comic storyboard.
- Send your comic storyboard via email to <a href="mailto:info@booklife.co.uk">info@booklife.co.uk</a> and to <a href="mailto:emehmet@highlearn.uk">emehmet@highlearn.uk</a> with the subject line "Competition" or post it to OMNI House, Rollesby Road, King's Lynn, PE30 4LS.





# **School announcements**

# **Newspapers**

As part of an upcoming activity day, we kindly ask students to bring in any old newspapers you may have at home. These materials will be used for a creative project and would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off to the D&T department. Thank you for your support!



# Washing up bottles

The design and technology department are in need of some donations of empty washing up bottles like this:

We will be refilling these with PVA glue to use in our practical lessons.

Please ask your child to deliver any donations to the downstairs D&T office or hand it in to your resistant materials teacher.

Thanks for your help.

Mrs Harbour-Cooper



# Lost property

Please click <u>here</u> for a list of lost property received since the start of term.

If your child has lost anything listed, or any other item, please ask them to check with the school office, as things arrive daily. All items being claimed will need to be identified by the student. Lost items from last term are highlighted in yellow and will be disposed of on Friday 9th May. Please can we also remind parents/carers to label all uniform and belongings so we can get items back to students as quickly as possible.

#### Student lunch accounts

A gentle reminder to all parents and carers to regularly check that their child has enough money for lunch.



# DARE Days, Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd July 2025

Please see below for the DARE Days information.

YEAR 7	External activity		Internal activity	
	London Zoo	Beech / Willow - Wednesday Oak / Rowan - Thursday	Platinum	Oak / Rowan - Wednesday Beech / Willow - Thursday

YEAR 8	External activity		Internal activity	
	V&A Museum	Beech / Willow - Wednesday Oak / Rowan - Thursday	STE(A)M	Oak / Rowan - Wednesday Beech / Willow - Thursday

YEAR 9	Internal activity		Internal activity	
	Wise-Up Hub Challenge	Beech / Willow - Wednesday Oak / Rowan - Thursday	DT workshop	Oak / Rowan - Wednesday Beech / Willow - Thursday

YEAR 10	External activity		Internal activity	
	Go Ape	Beech / Willow - Wednesday Oak / Rowan - Thursday	Wise-Up Apprentice	Oak / Rowan - Wednesday Beech / Willow - Thursday



# **House weekly winners**

This week's winner is the house with the highest achievement points minus concern points plus the points from the steel pan competition. Congratulations Oak!

	Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Positive points	6,169	6,162	6,496	5,160
Negative points	-289	-247	-234	-408
Points overall	5,880	5,915	6,262	4,752
Steel pan competition	3,000	4,000	1,000	2,000
Total	8,880	9,915	7,262	6,752

#### Top students in year 7

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Regan	Roberts	70MK	0	51
Angelo	Georgiou	70MK	0	51
Beth	Rognaldsen	7RAC	R	47
Musa	Ali	70MK	0	46
Arda	Cetin	70MK	0	46
Morgan	Nash	7RAC	R	45
Muhammed	Parlak	7RAC	R	45
Thomas	Turnbull	7BAS	В	44
Jessica	Airey	7WEL	W	43
Isobel	Butcher	7BAS	В	42
Dilan	Oguz	7BAS	В	42
Cinar	Seran	7BAS	В	42
Felicity	Fawcett	7BAS	В	42
Ewan	Angelides	70MK	0	42
Charles	Webb	70MK	0	42
Noah	Xira	70MK	0	42

#### Top students in year 8:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Edgar	Freimanis	8BEF	В	44
Ava	Quinn	8BEF	В	43
Raya	Modha	8BEF	В	42
Isabella	Smith	8BEF	В	40
Erlind	Cela	8RJG	R	39



Aanya	Pillai	8BEF	В	38
Cassidy	Whitter-Nelmes	8RAS	R	38
Olivia	Zimaras	80DM	0	37
Kristina	Suli	8BLR	В	36
Evangeline	Rees	8BLR	В	36

# Top students in year 9:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Sophia	Smith	9RBW	R	57
Xhorxhia	Kuvertaris	9RCX	R	52
Simra	Hassan	90AC	0	45
Liam	Redmond	9RCX	R	44
Hannah	Cullen	9RBW	R	42
Tishaan	Patel	9WMP	W	42
Nea	Petritaj	9WNK	W	42
Leyla	Suleyman	9RBW	R	41
Owen	Smith	9WNK	W	41
Azat	Secgin	9WNK	W	41

# Top students in year 10:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Ikram	Mohamed	10BLM	В	46
Tyler	Koy	10RTC	R	42
Betul	Cardak	10RTC	R	40
Luke	Michaelides	10RTC	R	40
Bana	Tahsen	10BLM	В	37
Joseph	Casali	10RTC	R	37
Omyur	Karadzhova	10BLM	В	36
Angelo	Symeou	100DC	0	36
Claudia	Poyiadzis	100DC	0	36
Elliz	Arkin	10RTC	R	36



# Top students in year 11:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Ender	Guccuk	11BNI	В	40
Batuhan	Duran	110KK	0	38
Joao	Do Nascimento	11BJC	В	36
Roshan	Awudu	11BNI	В	30
Athanasios	Ioannou	110KK	0	24
Nicholas	Georgiades	110KK	0	24
Kwadwo	Boakye	110AB	0	23
Lillie	Collins	11WTH	W	23
Zak	Haralambous	110AB	0	22
Panos	Anastasiou	110KK	0	22
Ali	Yelmer	110KK	0	22
Carl	Etuazim	110KK	0	22
Sienna	Manning	11RGA	R	22

#### Top students in year 12:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Grace	Zelechowski	12RHK	R	26
Jasmine	Desai	120AT	0	24
Raya	Gotseva	120ES	0	20
Roze	Oz	12BAS	В	18
Jayda	Hall	12BTD	В	18
Isabel	Paine	120AT	0	18
Jakub	Warnawski	120ES	0	18
Chijindu	Onukaogu	12RJB	R	18
Mattia	Cirillo	12RJB	R	18
Suleyman	Degirmenci	12RJB	R	18
Iris	Williams	12WAD	W	18

# Top students in year 13:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Ilana	Tanwie	130PL	0	8
Anthony	Katz	13WBS	W	8
Damla	Karacam	13BJT	В	6
Eleanor	Whitehouse	13BJT	В	6
Eleanor	McHale	13RCW	R	6





















# Help us fund raise for our school

Did you know when you sign up to easyfundraising.org.uk and purchase goods from shops on the website or app, Highlands School will earn a commission from the sale?

All you have to do is search for **Highlands School Enfield** and select us as your chosen charity and shop as usual.





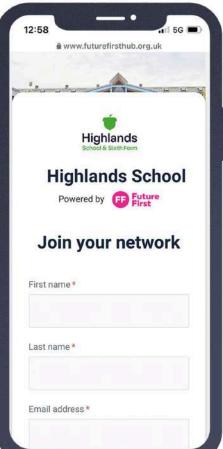
# Highlands School Afumni

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 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







#### 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.





# 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

Sign Health: https://signhealth.org.uk/contact/

Deaf young people: https://signhealth.org.uk/with-deaf-people/supporting-young-people/

## 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

#### Follow Highlands School on:

- X@Highlands\_sch
- olumbar in the state of the second contract o
- YouTube <u>Highlands School Enfield</u>
- Threads <u>@Highlandssch</u>
- Facebook Highlands School