



# Highlands School Newsletter

21 January 2022

## From the Headteacher

Today I had the pleasure of coming to the year 11 assembly and giving out certificates for the students who had completed their bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award. Over the past year we have committed to significantly increasing involvement in the DoE programme at our school. In the past the number of students who could participate had been limited because of cost issues and staffing. We are now working with external DoE providers to support us with aspects of the programme and we will no longer need to cap the number of students that can participate. All year 11 students who completed the DoE bronze will be invited to start the silver. We will also invite other year 11 students to join the programme at silver level. In year 10 we have over 100 students signed up to start the bronze. We offer financial assistance to families that might struggle to pay for the full cost of the award. At Highlands we believe that access to our extra curricular programme is a right, not a privilege, and we want all students to get involved. You can see a photo of the year 11 students getting their bronze certificates below; many congratulations to them.

This week several of the supply teachers who are working with us at Highlands at the moment (because of the impact of COVID on staffing numbers) spoke with me and with other colleagues about how much they enjoy working at our school. They spoke about the good behaviour and attitudes of our students, about the high senior leadership team presence in lessons and on corridors and about how helpful it is that departments have shared resources on the internal Google Drive ready for supply teachers to use. Two of them, who have worked with us occasionally over many years, spoke about the significant improvement in student behaviour and attitudes to learning they have noticed at Highlands over the past couple of years. This was unexpected feedback but very welcome and I want to thank staff, students and parents and carers for their continued support as we try to make our excellent school even better.

## Assessment and reporting update:

- Last week we emailed year 7 parents and carers for their feedback on the year 7 reporting process and the parents' evening we held last week.
- This week we held year 8 parents' evening online. This followed the release of the year 8 data to parents and carers on Tuesday. We will email year 8 parents for the feedback so we can improve the process further.
- The year 11 mock exams finished this week, their parents' evening will be on 9th February.
- The year 9 mid year assessments started this week and will end next week. Their parents' evening is on 2nd March.
- The year 12 mid year assessments take place next week and their parents' evening is on 23rd February.
- Revisions resources for students to prepare them for mid year assessments will be uploaded to the Google Classroom the week before their assessments.

I hope you all have a very restful weekend,

Mr McInerney, Headteacher



## Can you help?

A year 13 Product Design student is in need of an old bike frame that he can take apart/weld and adapt into a new product for his A-level coursework.

Have you got a child or adult bike that you no longer need? It does not matter what the condition is, we would be grateful if the Design and Technology department could have it.

For any more questions, please email Mrs Jeynes at [jeynesa@highlearn.uk](mailto:jeynesa@highlearn.uk).

## Sports

We would like to congratulate Mir Zahran Ali who took part in the ESS NC Qualifier Swimming Gala competition at Southbury Pool. He managed to secure a gold medal in 50m Freestyle, a bronze medal in 50m breaststroke and a bronze medal in 100m Freestyle.

He is especially excited to share this with his class teacher, Mr Johnston along with his PE teachers, Mr Avann and Mr Joseph.

## Year 8 Enfield Cup Result (Round 1):

Year 8 played AIM London winning 0-13, a massive well done to the team including Player of the Match, Vedat.

## STEM

A recent discovery report by Health Education England concluded that virtual work experience programmes are a fantastic adjunct to in-person experience. Many universities are also accepting this as alternatives to in person experience in light of the pandemic too. Details of the NHS Live Virtual Work Experience Programme are below, which is the largest national healthcare careers programme in the UK has taught over 30,000 students so far.

You can learn more and students can register for the programme here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>



This programme is tailored to students in 10-13 year groups and interested in the following careers:

Nursing

Midwifery

Paramedicine

Physiotherapy

Occupational Therapy

Dietetics

Radiography

Prosthetics

Orthotics

Speech and Language Therapy and Pharmacy

Applications for the NHS Virtual Work Experience programme are now open, and they will be open throughout this academic year, with the **next session taking place on the 6th February**.

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. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions and gain knowledge through teaching. This will help students to make an informed career decision as well as learn about how healthcare professionals work together as part of a multidisciplinary team. Each work experience day is completely different. 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 6-month programme will be awarded with Highly Commended References too. 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.

You can learn more and students can register for the programme here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

### **Education in Action**

After a highly popular outing in the autumn, Professor of Creative Industries at Middlesex University, **Brendan Walker** will be back this spring for **Physics in Action** to share how he uses a combination of physics and psychology to design the most thrilling rides. Covering mechanics in the most exciting context, he will introduce students to the Walker Thrill Factor in his quest for the perfect thrill.

You can join Brendan and a line-up of fascinating speakers including Chris Lintott, Gemma Bale, Andrew Steele, Brendan Walker and Rachel Edwards at [Physics in Action](#) on **Thursday 3rd March** in London. Tickets for students interested in attending this event can be found [here](#).

Interested in a different subject? The Training Partnership has also put together some more exciting events for students to look forward to including [Chemistry in Action](#), [Biology in Action](#) and [GCSE Maths in Action](#) which will feature interactive and engaging sessions guaranteed to equip students with the tools to excel! Click [here](#) for more information.

### **UCL Virtual Event: Can we use the immune system to fight cancer?**

Join this exciting lecture that aligns with A-level Biology curriculum by Dr Claire Roddie on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January** from 5pm-6pm. She will be discussing the science of biohacking with a focus on a technique called CAR T-cell therapy. Students will also get the chance to get interactive with a Q&A following the event. This will be a free event, for more information click [here](#).

### **2022 In2scienceUK Summer Programme**

I am super happy to announce that applications for the 2022 In2scienceUK Summer Programme for current year 12 (or age equivalent) students are now open!

Here is a brief description, along with a few video links, about the programme:

This is a completely free programme that will connect students to experts from all areas of STEM through in-person work experience alongside virtual workshops focusing on providing them with the guidance they need to confidently choose a career pathway and produce high quality UCAS and apprenticeship applications.

By securing a place on our In2scienceUK summer programme, students will gain access to:

1 to 2 week in-person work experience and mentoring: Students spend each day at their mentor's workplace where they'll gain insight on working in their chosen STEM sector. Students also receive tailored advice for their own needs and professional aims.

Online skills, employability and careers workshops: Produced by top researchers from across the UK, students gain specialist knowledge and skills in topics not covered in school. These workshops provide practical support to kickstart their career journey delivered through online webinars hosted by experts in various fields. Alumni Network - After the programme, students will be connected to our extensive Alumni Network which provides free workshops, informational career sessions, and networking opportunities with other young people who have gone through the In2scienceUK Programme. Our Alumni network now extends to roughly 3,000 people spanning over 10 years of In2scienceUK Cohorts.

Applications for interested students can be found here: [Apply - In2scienceUK](#)

The application deadline is the 1st April 2022, and don't forget to check the eligibility criteria and [FAQs page](#).

Want to know more?

[Here's a very brief \(roughly one minute long\) animation about the programme.](#)

[Here's a more in depth video](#)

Virtual Open Days - Register [here](#) to get your spot for virtual open day.

If you have any other questions please come and see or email Dr Len.

Happy STEMing!

Dr Len - Whole school STEM leader

#### COVID UPDATE

In line with the Government announcement on 19 January, face masks are no longer compulsory in classrooms, but optional. Masks must still be worn in corridors and communal areas until Thursday 27th January. This week we were advised of the following COVID cases:

	Positive cases
Year 7	4
Year 8	5
Year 9	6
Year 10	4
Year 11	3
Year 12	3
Year 13	1
Staff	1