Highlands Sixth Newsletter

December 2023

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF SIXTH FORM

I hope you've had a brilliant year so far! At Highlands Sixth Form we've had lots of fantastic events, starting of course, with our open evening. We were delighted to welcome almost 1,000 prospective students and their families to Highlands to meet our staff and students. Since then it has been great to welcome our internal year 11 students for coffee and doughnuts in the newly refurbished sixth form centre, to give them an extra opportunity to ask questions and speak to our current sixth form executive committee.

For the year 13s, post-mock exams, busy preparing and sending UCAS applications, and organising mock interviews for our potential medics and Oxbridge candidates - wish them luck!

Meanwhile year 12 have been getting involved in this term's fundraising efforts, with the last of our house bake sales this term, food bank collections and Mr McInerney's annual Christmas quiz.

We've had some exciting meetings about plans to expand our sixth form enrichment programme plus our parent/alumni network is growing by the day, with some incredible events in the pipeline from January. Well done to all of our sixth formers for a brilliant autumn term and enjoy the last few days leading up to Christmas.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Sixth form applications

Highlands Winter Wonderland

STEM activities and trips

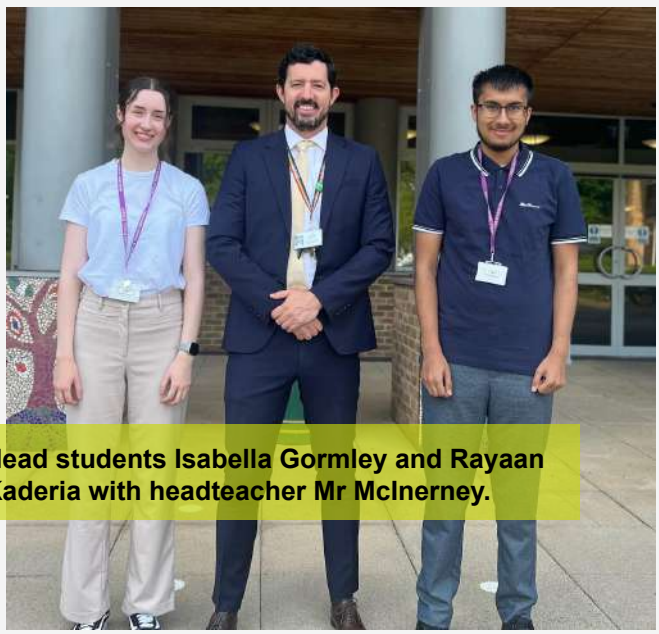
High Achievers' Evening

Student leadership

School trips

DARE Days

Alumni visits



Head students Isabella Gormley and Rayaan Kaderia with headteacher Mr McInerney.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP OUR HEAD STUDENTS

Our students are given a range of opportunities to take on responsible roles. All of our sixth form students are encouraged to involve themselves in both Highlands and the local community.

The sixth form executive team is selected each year following an intensive interview process. The team is then led by the head students. The sixth form executive team are pivotal to the running of the sixth form and the school. They play an important role within the student council and other key school events.

This year our selected head students are Isabella Gormley and Rayaan Kaderia. They will play an important role in shaping our school priorities.

MEET OUR SIXTH FORM TEAM

MS LLOYD
Deputy headteacher

MS YOULDEN
Director of Sixth form

MRS HALIL
Head of year 13

MS SIMONS
Head of year 12

MS GUNNING
Assistant head of year 12 / 13

MRS LAURENZI
Careers leader

MRS COPLEY
Sixth form administrative officer

MRS KYRIACOU
Study supervisor (Monday)

MR TUTON
Year 13 tutor

Our sixth form team guides our students in their final two years of secondary school education. Our team of experienced staff prepare our students for university or their chosen career paths.

With a focus on academic excellence, personal growth and extracurricular activities, the sixth form team is dedicated to supporting each student's unique aspirations and goals.

DID SOMEONE SAY PERKS?

THE PERKS OF SIXTH FORM LIFE AT HIGHLANDS SIXTH

- Students can sign in or out or go off site to revise and study when they do not have a scheduled lesson or study period.
- Superb teaching and learning.
- Excellent, first-hand careers advice.
- Great student leadership opportunities for all students. Students can apply to become house leaders.
- Mobile phones are allowed in the sixth form area.
- Costa coffee available on site.
- Two weeks October half term.
- No queuing in the canteen.
- Smart-casual dress code.
- Bespoke pastoral support.

YEAR 12 SIXTH FORM INDUCTION

Amidst the anticipation of our year 12 students starting their sixth form journey at Highland Sixth, an informative and welcoming induction day unfolded. The year 12 induction programme began with student expectations, learning the importance of autonomy, independence and aspirations and setting goals. We enjoyed welcoming back some of our year 11 Highlands students and also a large number of external students, which was great to see, as our community has expanded further.

Many familiar faces and newcomers enjoyed a pizza lunch where they could begin forging relationships, which reminded them that in addition to academic success, student bonds, support and shared experiences will enrich their sixth form journey.

Good luck year 12s and welcome to Highlands Sixth Form.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT HIGHLANDS

Our assemblies at the beginning of October introduced Black History Month. This month is about recognising and celebrating the incredible contributions and achievements of Black individuals throughout history and in our world today.

Ms Pavlou with our sixth form students led an inspiring assembly to our students highlighting that Black history should not be bound to one month, it is as important as any other. Black History Month serves as a vital platform for recognising and celebrating the rich and diverse contributions of Black people to the history, culture and society of the United Kingdom. It serves as an opportunity to address and confront issues of racial discrimination and inequality.

Highlands School & Sixth Form

HIGHLANDS SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 2023

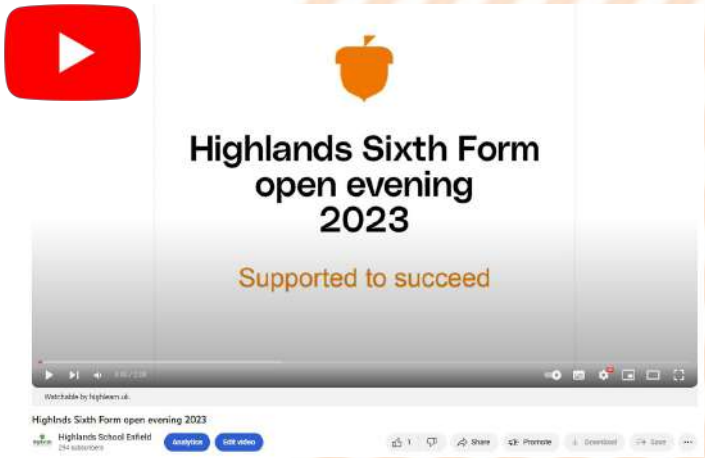
On Wednesday 15th November we welcomed families to join us for our sixth form open evening. Families gathered to explore our academic offerings and fantastic facilities. Warmly welcomed by sixth form students and staff, attendees enjoyed an informative speech from our student leaders, director of sixth form and headteacher followed by a guided tour.

The diverse range of subject showcases allowed families to delve into the specifics of our academic programmes we have to offer. Engaging presentations and interactive sessions facilitated meaningful conversations between teachers and prospective students, addressing queries and helping students make informed decisions about their educational journey.

To everyone who attended, thank you! We look forward to welcoming new students in September 2024. External applicants are able to apply online via the following link.

Applications for internal students will be available after the year 11 parents evening which will be taking place on 17th January 2024.

You can watch the highlights of our open evening here.



HIGHLANDS SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

The feedback from parents and students on the evening was incredibly positive. The next two pages provide more information on how to apply to our sixth form. Please be aware that there are two different application processes, one for internal students and the other for external students, please visit our website for more information.

"I loved the passion of the teachers as they spoke about their subjects in the classrooms and explained the A level courses in detail and I was hugely impressed by how happy and positive everyone was as we went on the tour. A really helpful evening."

"I'm so impressed that a school could inspire my son, who has not had the best experience of secondary school. He came out saying 'wow, I did not know schools could be like that!'

"Staff were excellent. Very engaged and informative. They clearly love teaching at the school. The organised workbook and regular retrieval element to every lesson is very good. School building environment is excellent."

"We were really impressed by everyone and everything we saw and heard. The bag was considered "cool," by my daughter. The student who showed us around was fantastic, knowledgeable and helpful. Honestly, it was a brilliantly slick affair and no-one seemed jaded despite their full day. I work in education and everything you said in the speeches sang in my heart. We share educational beliefs."

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

A level entry requirements:
A minimum of 6 grades 9-4 with at least 3 grades 9-6 at GCSE including maths (grade 5) and English (grade 5) and a grade B/6 in each of the subjects to be studied at A level.

BTEC entry requirements:
A minimum of 6 grades 9-3 with at least 3 grades 9-4 at GCSE including maths (grade 4) and English (grade 4).

Two A levels and 1 BTEC requirement:
A minimum of 6 grades 9-3 with at least 3 grades 9-4 at GCSE including maths (grade 4) and English (grade 4). The entry requirements for the A level they want to pursue.

One A level and 2 BTECs requirement:
A minimum of 6 grades 9-3 with at least 3 grades 9-4 at GCSE including maths (grade 4) and English (grade 4). The entry requirements for the A level they want to pursue.

APPLYING TO OUR SIXTH FORM

External applicants

Applications for September 2024 sixth form enrolment is now open. Click here to apply.

APPLYING TO OUR SIXTH FORM

Internal applicants

Internal applicants can apply after the year 11 parents evening that will take place on 17th January 2024.

SIXTH FORM TIMELINE

INTERNAL APPLICANTS

Application	Applications will be open after year 11 parents evening on 17th January 2024.
Pathways meeting	From 22nd January 2024 This is an online parent and student meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss the student's pathways.
Offers	April 2024
Induction day	July 2024 - Those students who receive an offer will be invited to attend an induction day.
GCSE results day	Thursday 22nd August 2024
Enrolment	Thursday 22nd August 2024 Students will have a short meeting with a senior member of staff to confirm their chosen pathway.

Scan the QR code to download our sixth form prospectus

@Highlands_sch | @highlandssc | Highlands School Enfield

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

EMPOWERED WOMEN IN STEM

Eleanor McHale and Shreya Deb have been selected to be part of The Empowered Women in STEM Programme. This four-month programme, which launched in November, will mean both Eleanor and Shreya will be mentored by senior female scientists and directors from several global STEM companies such as Pfizer, BP, Dyson, Colt, AWS (Amazon) and UCB.

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.

Our students attended the launch of The Empowered Women In STEM, here is what Eleanor had to say.

'Shreya and I attended the 'Empowered Women In STEM' launch event held at the BP office head office. The day started - to our delight - with complimentary pastries and coffee. We were then given an inspiring talk by BP's VP of Digital Disciplines, Joanne Legge, about her successful 33 year career that followed a less typical route, by starting with an apprenticeship. The day continued with networking and team building activities in the teams that we will be working with to complete our STEM projects. Over the course of four months, we will be working on a roll-out scheme for the Ebola vaccine.The afternoon consisted of a panel discussion with representatives from Pfizer, Dyson and Colt. Kasia Dragun (a vibration engineer) at Dyson spoke about silencing motors by making them quieter for dog and human interpretation of sound. One of Pfizer's study start-up directors, Poonam Ahluwalia, spoke about her role in coordinating global clinical trials for oncology drugs. Overall, it was a valuable experience, getting to network with experts in their fields and learning about the wide range of lesser known STEM careers. We are both excited to continue with the programme and look forward to lectures and meetings with our mentors.'

Eleanor McHale

Shreya Deb

YEAR 11S MEET THE SIXTH FORM TEAM

Following from our sixth form open evening, we welcomed our year 11 forms to the sixth form area for hot chocolate and doughnuts, as a chance to informally ask questions to Ms Lloyd, Mr Tuton - one of our year 13 tutors, and Ms Youlden, about sixth form and also catch up with some of the year 13 students.

This gave students the opportunity to meet the team, gain advice and insights to help them with their applications and subject choices.

BENTLEY MOTORS INSIGHT DAY RUN BY SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS

Well done to Elsie Berko, year 12, who took part in the Bentley Motors Insight Day after submitting an application and being selected amongst hundreds of other applicants.

Any students wishing to apply for similar events in other industries, keep an eye out for the posts on your Google Classroom page, as well as visiting the work experience tab on the Careers Google site.

Elsie's feedback:

'During my insight day with Bentley Motors, I developed numerous skills that will serve me well in my future career. Working closely with the leadership team honed my ability to listen and collaborate effectively. Understanding Bentley's dedication to luxury, sustainability, and performance showed me how a brand can balance multiple priorities. I gained invaluable insights into the intricate craftsmanship and engineering that goes into these extraordinary vehicles. This internship not only strengthened my technical automotive knowledge, but also taught me professional skills like leadership, communication, and project management. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow at such a prestigious automotive company.'

Elsie Berko

HIGH STEM

SPEAKERS for schools

BENTLEY

STEM AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CAREER INSIGHT WORKSHOP

Our school recently hosted a dynamic careers workshop, graciously conducted by Phillips 66, tailored for 45 of our enthusiastic year 12 students.

With a legacy spanning over 65 years in the UK energy sector, Phillips 66 stands as a cornerstone provider. Embracing values of safety, honour, and commitment, they are dedicated to enhancing lives by ensuring access to vital energy resources, contributing to an elevated standard of living and global health. Their focus on refining, commercial, and marketing operations underscores their commitment to these principles.

The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage with a panel of accomplished speakers, each with diverse career trajectories and backgrounds:

- Imogen Burke: Associate HRBP, Human Resources
- Blaid Raybould: Supply Optimization Manager, European Marketing
- Polly King: LPG Trader, Commercial
- Steve Jackson: Business Development Lead, European Marketing

It was inspiring to witness our students actively participating, posing insightful questions to the panel. The speakers generously shared their individual career paths, educational backgrounds, and invaluable insights on pursuing opportunities within the STEM industry. Their guidance and tips on job seeking in this field were particularly enlightening.

STEM AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CAREER INSIGHT WORKSHOP

The feedback from the speakers was super positive of our students. Polly said '*Genuinely the team of us who came were bowled over by their enthusiasm and motivation. It's an absolute pleasure to do things like this for kids who clearly benefit from it. Some of the questions they were asking me about trading were really in depth about geopolitics, the Middle East etc., which is testament to their teachers!*'

Here is what some of our students had to say about the session.

'In today's event with Phillip 66, I found it interesting and insightful as they gave us a talk on what their jobs are like and their life experiences. They provided excellent advice such as one of the key skills that can get me to where I want to go is communication along with self-determination. The opportunity Dr. Len and Mrs Laurenzi arranged for the students of Highlands was one not to be missed so I am very grateful to them and glad I took the opportunity. The people who came in were such nice understanding people who helped give me a better and clearer idea into which career I want to pursue. I had an amazing time and would recommend others to attend events such as this in the future.'

Ayaan Ali

'The representatives from Phillips 66 provided an inspirational insight into how they obtained their current position in the company and their work operating within Phillips 66. I was engaged throughout the entire presentation and look forward to understanding more about the intricacies and challenges faced through providing energy and oil trading. '

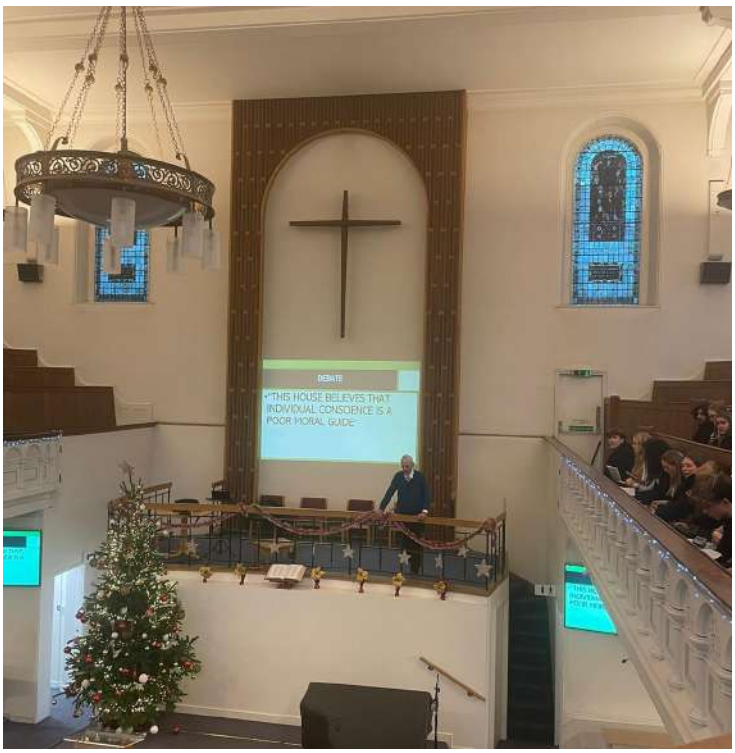
Jamie Janczur

'Phillips 66 delivered an insightful and informative presentation that dived into the work required in the energy sector. It was an intriguing and overall great experience as we were able to get a look into the lives of experts and their journey that led up to their work at Phillips 66. It was a productive session where students were able to ask questions to the Phillips 66 volunteers and they enthusiastically gave in-depth and detailed answers that helped expand our knowledge.'

Aden White

RELIGIOUS STUDIES SIXTH FORM TRIP

On Friday 1st December, fifteen year 12 and 13 A level RS students attended a conference led by the prominent author in philosophy and theology Dr Peter Vardy. Students got the opportunity to experience Vardy lecture on the following topics which are part of the A level RS course - the problem of evil and suffering; religious language; natural moral law and conscience. The conference ended with a debate on the motion: *"this house believes that conscience is a poor moral guide"*. This was a fantastic opportunity to hear a modern thinker lecture on these topics and a taster for university style learning.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY ISAAC MOONEY

At Highlands there is a strong belief that the achievements of students should be recognised and be presented as role models for the rest of the school community. This week we acknowledge one of these achievers. Congratulations to year 12 student Ahura Sedaghat who recently published a personal and moving poetry anthology on Amazon which features over 40 original poems.

Money raised from the sales will go towards *Variety - the children's charity*. *Variety* is a London based non-profit organisation that provides equipment, financial support and life-changing days out for poor and disabled children globally. It is very easy to get involved in supporting them and this has made *Variety* one of the UK's most trusted charities: Variety.org.uk.

HIGHER AND DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS AWARENESS ASSEMBLY

We were delighted to welcome Georgina Anyadike from Employability & Careers Education Development Trust to deliver a DfE funded (ASK) Apprenticeship Awareness Assembly to our year 13 students.

Students were given an overview of modern apprenticeships, focusing on those at Higher and Degree level where the apprentice gains a degree level qualification without the need to pay fees; as is the case with a traditional university-based degree. Students who take this route also gain invaluable experience of the role over the 4-5 years apprenticeship whilst also earning a salary.

2024 is set to be an exciting year for apprenticeships and it is vital that students are kept informed of the possibilities and inspired to think about alternative post 18 options.

There are now more than 670 high quality apprenticeships in a wide range of roles. This includes degree apprenticeships in nursing, engineering, law, and science. The first ever NHS doctor apprenticeship will all start from September 2024.

Further information for parents/carers can be found at: Parent Zone - Amazing Apprenticeships and students can research here: Student Zone - Amazing Apprenticeships.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

'I am so glad that all students in year 13 had to attend the assembly as now that I have seen what is actually on offer through the apprenticeship route, this has made me reconsider my next steps and I will be considering applying for an apprenticeship in law.'

'Since last year I have been thinking about the apprenticeship route, but I was still undecided. The assembly has helped confirm for me that the apprenticeship route is the right one for me.'

THE ENFIELD HIGH ACHIEVERS' EVENING

On Thursday 17th November, a number of our year 12s and their families were invited to 'The Enfield High Achievers' Evening' to celebrate their astounding 2023 GCSE results. This is an event that takes place every year in Enfield to celebrate the achievements of talented young people attending Enfield sixth forms and to support them in exploring their future steps.

This was a wonderful event to celebrate the success of our students who were nominated for an award, they are as follows: Ally Griffith, Lottie Price, Eleanor Mchale, Ethan Strickland, James Janczur, Jeyla Guccuk, Kyrian Keliris, Maksymilian Drozdowski, Melisa Ince, Poppy Beacham, Raphael Richter. The evening was hosted by Winchmore School and students were presented with certificates of achievement by The Mayor of Enfield, Councillor Suna Hurman.

The second part of the evening, students took part in a workshop on applications to Higher Education and obtaining a place at a selective university, run by student ambassadors from Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Whilst parents were given the opportunity to ask questions to a wide range of university representatives, employers and professional bodies to discuss higher education opportunities and seek advice for their child, including Oxford University, Cambridge University, University College London, Morgan Sindal, RVC, Imperial College, Routes into Languages, Lendlease, University of the Arts London and Bloomberg.

The evening was a great success and we are very proud of our students in being such excellent role models for all our upcoming students to aspire to.

ASTRAZENECA - SENIOR SCIENTIST ALUMNI VISIT

This term 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.

TRANSFORMING OUR SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM

We are excited to share the newly refurbished sixth form common room, a space in our sixth form where ideas flow, friendships grow and memories are made. Here's to the next chapter in style!

Don't forget, we have our very own Costa Coffee available onsite.

DARE DAYS - YEAR 12

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

HIGHLANDS MAKES THE PARENT POWER LIST OF TOP SCHOOLS

We are extremely proud to announce that for the first time Highlands has been listed in The Times 'Parent Power' list.

A school league table, highlighting the best secondary schools in the UK. Highlands School and Sixth Form has been listed at number 331 in the country out of 3,458 schools in total and in the top 50 comprehensive schools in London.

MOCK INTERVIEW SUCCESS

As part of the previously run mock interview days, when one student was absent, rather than leaving an employer without a candidate to interview, we randomly selected a year 12 student and without any notice got them to sit an interview with Garry Kousoulou - local author, entrepreneur and optician. Despite no preparation, the interview was so successful, Ali Topal was offered a two-week work placement, during the October half-term. Ali, who is studying A levels in maths, government and politics and economics, was also invited to the Houses of Parliament for a special event on Wednesday 13th December and met with Feryal Clark, Labour - Enfield North Shadow Minister for Health and other MPs.

Thank you to Garry Kousoulou for his ongoing support and who commented how “Ali did so well in representing Highlands School and himself so perfectly and professionally.”

Well done Ali for being a great role model.

Mrs Laurenzi

SIXTH FORM AND LEADERSHIP COLLABORATION

Our head students and deputy head students meet with Mr McInerney and Ms Youlden on a weekly basis to discuss any student concerns or feedback from the sixth formers. Our student leadership team met with Ms Youlden to discuss uniform, student lanyards, changes to the sixth form area and organising more trips for the sixth formers.

Student feedback provides valuable insights. It allows a continuous cycle of improvement and empowers students, giving them a voice and contribution to their learning environment and educational journey through Highlands.

There are a number of achievements and and changes made by the student leadership team so far, they are as follows:

- Student leadership speeches at the year 6 open evening event.
- The student leadership team and the sixth form executive committee formed an interview panel (alongside Ms Youlden) for the sixth form open evening, where areas of sixth form life were highlighted and addressed to an audience.
- The arrangement of weekly meetings with Mr McInerney and Ms Youlden where the student leadership team are able to raise issues and improve the school and sixth form.
- The arrangement of private library access to the sixth formers during period 4 in order to study.
- Regular sixth form executive committee meetings.
- The separation of year 12 and year 13 lunches.

SIXTH FORM CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

In the spirit of the season our staff and students donned their cosiest Christmas jumpers last week, transforming our school into a winter wonderland of holiday cheer! All money raised will go to this year's joint house charity Cooking Champions. At lunch, everyone gathered for a delicious festive Christmas meal cooked by our fabulous caterers Chartwells. Here's to the Christmas season!

SIXTH FORM CHRISTMAS HOUSE QUIZZES

What a great way to celebrate festive cheer with our house Christmas quizzes. A huge well done to the brilliant minds who 'sleighed' the competition and emerged as the victorious winners. Your holiday spirit and quiz prowess truly made this season merrier. Well done to the winners.

Year 12 - 1st: Rowan, **joint 2nd:** Beech and Oak, **3rd**: Willow

Year 13: 1st: Willow, **2nd:** Beech, **3rd**: Rowan, **4th**: Oak

SIXTH FORM WINTER WONDERLAND

This week our year 12 BTEC Business students as part of their Unit 4 Event management module, held a winter wonderland event which was a spectacular affair! Students had to plan a business enterprise to help raise as much money as possible. From delicious, chocolate, christmas tree brownies to reindeer doughnuts, students were flooding through the doors to get their hands on some yummy Christmas treats. All money raised will be donated to this year's chosen charity Cooking Champions.

FESTIVE FOOD BANK

Pinnacle Group and Highlands School joined together to run a festive foodbank. Together we have been collecting food items for families who are struggling this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has donated.

HOUSE BAKE SALES

This term we held bake sales for each of our houses, Rowan, Willow Beech and Oak. The teams managed to raised so much money for their chosen charities.

Rowan raised £278.87 for the Felix Project, Willow raised £279.95 for Stop Hate UK, Oak raised £341.19 for their charity The George Marsh centre for sickle cell disease and Beech managed to raise £316.23 which included £31 raised by Hannah Bernasconi and Lorena Kransniqi who ran a stall for "guess the number of sweets in a jar".

Thank you very much to all the parents and students who baked and brought in cakes, made a sweetie jar, or volunteered to set up and sell them on the day.

CHEMISTRY IN ACTION TRIP

Mrs Smith, Ms Lakhani and 44 year 12 chemistry students braved the cold to attend a day of fascinating lectures in London. The topics covered were interesting and diverse. In one talk students learned how chemical forensic science is used to tackle the problem of waste dumping by analysing the chemical composition of the waste to see where it has originated. This enables the police to track down and prosecute the culprits. They heard how nuclear science, despite its negative press, can be used positively to help us to achieve net zero. Students learnt that 10 mg of uranium could power a lightbulb for a week which is impressive when you consider that 10mg of fossil fuel would only keep it glowing for 9 seconds! Nuclear chemistry is also being trialled to cure cancers and to explore outer space using nuclear space batteries.

Another lecturer taught students about the difficulties of preparing and transporting antivenom for snake bites given that 50 attacks occur across the world every five minutes. Since the countries with the worst healthcare systems commonly had the most venomous snakes, companies have been researching the creation of antibodies using horses. These are much more stable at room temperature and thus much easier to transport and store.

In addition to these students also had a lecture from an AQA Chief Examiner describing the common ways that students lose marks and tips on how to avoid doing it yourself, and also a question and answer session from three young chemists describing the choices that they had made and the routes that they had taken to the careers that they were now enjoying.

All in all, it was an entertaining and informative day which was enjoyed by all.

Mrs Smith

***'I had a great time at the Chemistry in Action conference. My favourite speech was when a speaker talked about snake venom and how it can be used to move beyond antibodies since they can be expensive and hard to use.'* - Rhea Mehta**

'I loved the nuclear science lecture, it gave me such a good insight into how the world of astronomy and chemistry work together to help missions work, not only in the past but also the future.'
- Sila Usta

'My favourite lecture was the lecture on humanitarian chemistry. I found it really interesting to see how chemistry interlinks with this field and overall, I enjoyed the wide range of lectures that were offered and I found it really insightful!'
- Rania Hashim

'I found the nuclear chemistry talk very intriguing and it helped giving me a good overview of the industry.'
- Aden White

'I really enjoyed the broad range of chemistry topics covered during the lectures, specifically the emphasis on nuclear energy. The lecturers were interesting and had me thinking the entire day.'
- Jamie Janczur

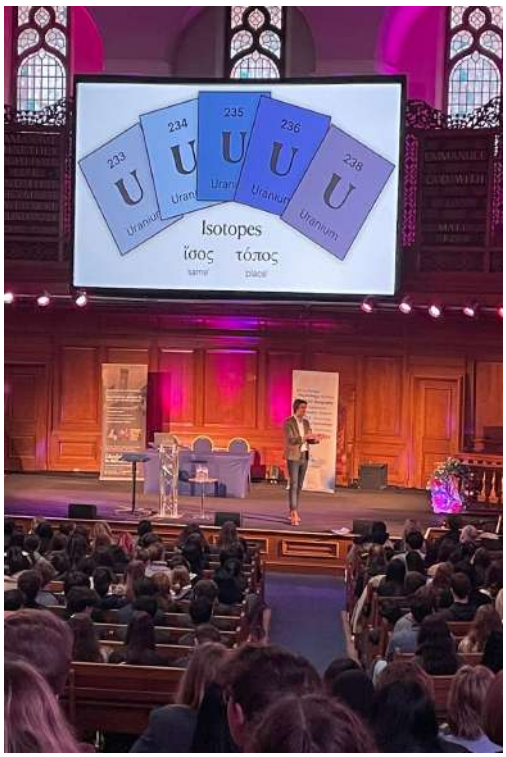
CHEMISTRY IN ACTION TRIP

'I particularly enjoyed the lecture about nuclear science, and how an isotope of plutonium produced as nuclear waste decays into an isotope of astatine that can be used as a radioactive source to power spacecraft batteries. I didn't know about this potential use for nuclear waste before, a topic that really interests me, so I found it very engaging.'

- Francis Gelling

'My favourite lecture was Nuclear Science by Tim Gregory. It increased my interest in nuclear chemistry and the different uses of nuclear energy to solve some of the greatest challenges facing the world today. It talked about the production of nuclear energy in a compelling and understandable way, it also discussed innovative and safe ways to recycle and dispose of nuclear waste through geological exposure. Furthermore, it spoke about nuclear medicine research such as the use of actinium-225, made into a 'molecular key' to bind to cancer cells and ultimately destroy them, this piqued my interest. It also discussed space exploration, how nuclear energy powered many explorations to space e.g. journey to the moon, Voyager I and II and many more. I learned different career paths chemistry can lead me to and different ways scientists use chemistry to make scientific discoveries.'

- Emelina Koureta



ART IN ACTION TRIP

Our A level art and photography students were invited to an amazing live lecture facilitated by Art in Action at the Emmanuel Centre in London.

The running day programme based on 'The Creative Process' introduced our students to the world of art and design. Artist and presenter Sir Grayson Perry and Magnum photographer Martin Parr presented their unique creative journeys, what inspires them and how they turn an idea into a work of art. Students were also left mesmerised by the dramatic live light installation displayed by visual artist Hugo Dalton.

The trip left our students inspired and brimming with creative ideas for their own work. Here are some of their thoughts.

'It was really interesting listening to the presenters' back stories of how they started out and how they got into the course/ job they do now.'
- Marissa Antoniou

'Grayson perry was very entertaining and funny. He was so enthusiastic about his work, he also showcased his amazing singing!'
- Hollie Burkett

'I found Martin Parr really interesting. The progressive, historical shift to digital photography and his story implemented into his work was fascinating.' **- Mia Pusztai**

'Martin Parr's photography made me really interested and engaged. His work with Vogue captivated me. Overall, the best part of the day was the atmosphere. It was great to indulge in other creators' artwork.' **- Ledia Xhetani**

NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT WORK INSIGHT

A group of year 12 students had the opportunity to visit the North London Heat and Power project, by participating in group activities and learning about careers related to STEM subjects as well as construction, engineering and waste infrastructure.

The North London Heat and Power Project is replacing a 50-year-old energy from waste facility at the Edmonton EcoPark. The new energy recovery facility (ERF) will be able to process up to 700,000 tonnes of waste each year which cannot be recycled and will provide electricity to the national grid and heat to a local district heat network. The project is being developed and managed by Acciona, one of the largest global energy companies operating exclusively in renewable technologies.

Students were also given a tour of the Acciona offices and heard directly from professionals in the different departments including HR, legal, finance, marketing, engineering, and operations.

Thank you to Rebecca Garthwaite from the Lightyear foundation (a scientific charity) for organising and to all the employees at Acciona for giving up their precious time and to our students for being great ambassadors: Alexander Britton, Rebecca Clarke, Daniel Drysdale, Steven Malickis, Rhea Mehta, Albert O'Shea and Ahura Sedaghat.

Mrs Laurenzi

'I recently went on a trip to learn about STEM roles in the workplace. We went to the building site of a waste disposal facility and had different roles in the workplace and their links to STEM explained to us. It was a useful way of learning from people who actually do STEM as their job and learning how it interacts with the working world.'

- Daniel Drysdale, year 12

NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT WORK INSIGHT

acciona

lightyear foundation

north london Heat and Power project

FEMALES OF THE FUTURE EVENT

On Thursday 30th November the iconic VUE cinema in Leicester Square was closed to host the hugely anticipated Females of the Future Event organised by Young Professionals.

500 female students from schools across all London boroughs, were given the opportunity to apply for this experience - an amazing well done to a some of our sixth form students who were successful - Shreya Deb, Danita Dharmapala, Hala Glasgow, Sila Usta, Rhea Mehta, Giya Khatry, Tia El-Ahmadi, Joy Barenga, Kristiana Alexandrou, Louise Georgiou and Elif Oskan.

Students met with top senior female professionals and apprentices from global employers, including Goldman Sachs, Legal & General, Amazon, Bloomberg, TFL, KPMG and more. They took part in workshops and panel discussions as well as having lots of networking opportunities throughout the event and there were great giveaways too!

Everyone left feeling empowered and motivated to continue breaking barriers.

Mrs Laurenzi

THE GREAT DEBATE

On Monday 4th December, two of our year 12 students, Elsie Berko and Sophia Galczynska took part in a national public speaking competition run by the Historical Association, The Great Debate which is divided into regional heats that take place across the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland in the autumn, culminating in a grand final in March.

The event is an ideal opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in speaking to an audience and developing their debating skills, confidence and self-esteem. The winner and runners-up of the competition will receive a cash prize. All finalists will also receive free student membership of the Historical Association.

Students were given five minutes to present their speech arguing their answer to the question *"Which historical place or person from your local area deserves greater recognition?"*

Elsie and Sophia took up the challenge and independently created a speech which reflected their own passions and interests, focusing on Mary Wollstonecraft, the pioneering feminist, philosopher and author, who led an intricately empowering life, destitute from substantial recognition. They gave up many hours to practice in school and at home working on their presentation skills as well as the persuasiveness of their arguments.

There were participants from other schools and colleges around north London, and an audience full of teachers, staff, families and judges. Elsie and Sophia were the only students taking part that had approached the Historical Association independently, as stated by the branch secretary "It is very enterprising but unusual for us to be approached by a pupil directly; applications usually come through the school".

They performed outstandingly and despite not going through to the next heat, their speech was singled out by the judges in their verbal feedback. Both were also commended for how they spoke so eloquently and how they responded to the judges' questions in such an insightful way.

It was an absolute privilege to be able to support Elsie and Sophia as part of this competition, and their determination and curiosity to push themselves out of their comfort zones is an example to all. A future in public speaking awaits!

Mrs Laurenzi

THE YOUNG ENFIELD AND HARINGEY (YEAH) PEER TO PEER MENTORING PROGRAMME

Congratulations to four year 12 students who successfully gained an accredited AQA Unit Award in Youth Mentoring by taking part in a two-day 'peer-to-peer mentoring' workshop held at North Middlesex Hospital.

Students learnt mentoring skills and knowledge, using a three-stage mentoring model and examining concepts such as congruence, unconditional positive regard and the stages of adolescence including looking at issues and needs of young people locally. They gained communication skills used in mentoring such as building rapport with a young person, action planning and strategies to support young people achieve their goals. In addition they participated in group discussions with guest speakers Hillary Mitchell - Director of Transformation and Improvement at North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust and Jefferson Okran and Toniann Rizk youth mentors from Enfield Council youth services

Mrs Laurenzi

NHS North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust

Sila Usta, Ami Ellwood, Sophia Galczynska and Rhea Mehta

ALUMNI SHOUTOUT! - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

A huge thank you to alumni Yasemin Keith who is a third year medical student who supported our sixth form student Nikki Setoudeh with her medicine mock interview this week. More thank yous to Gemma Edgcombe, who is also an alumni and vet, for supporting Carys Hughes with interview preparations and friend of Highlands, Sarah Rosson, for supporting Lewis Jones with preparing for Oxford chemistry interviews.

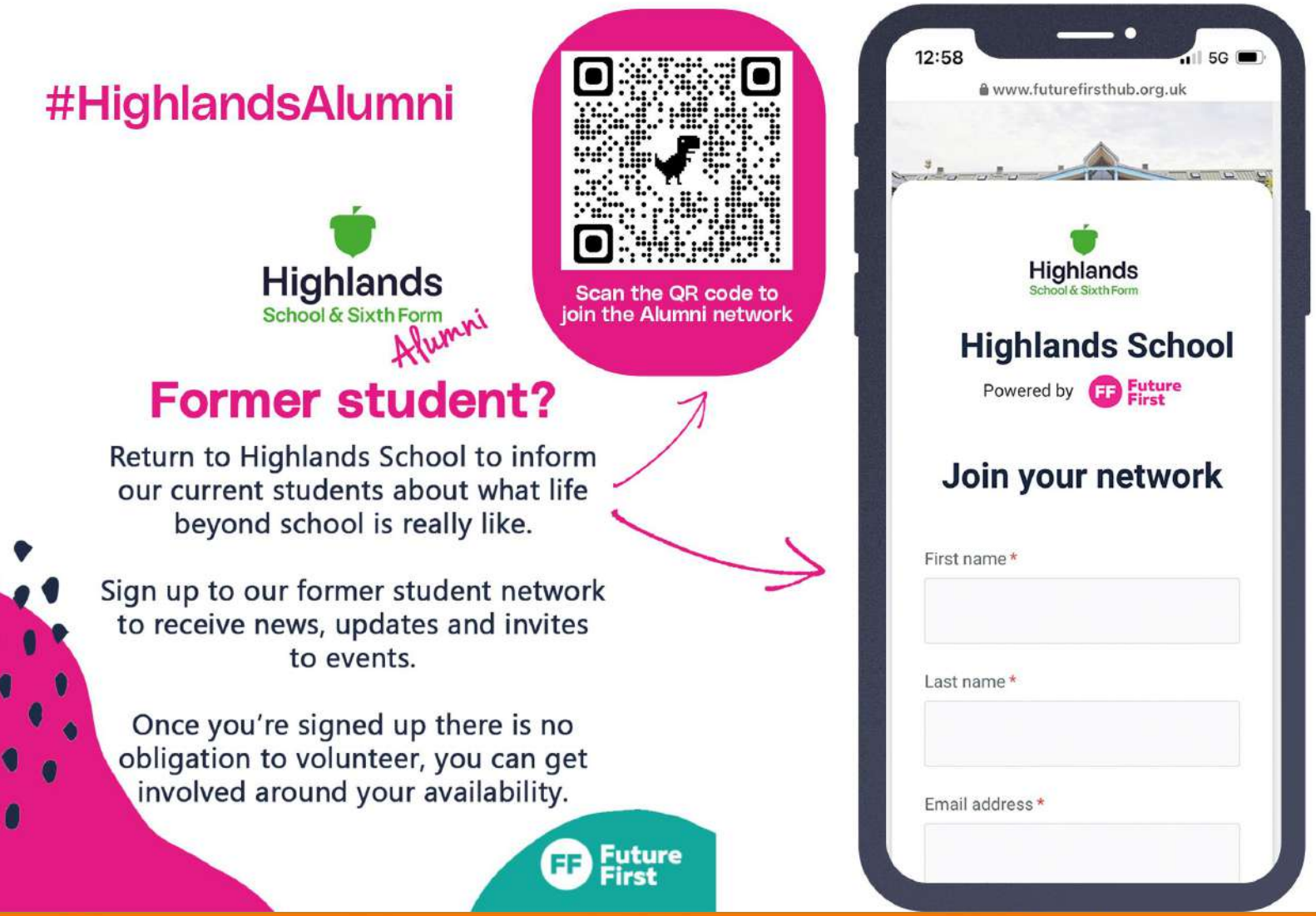
If you would like to join our alumni, please see more information on how to register **here** or scan the QR code below. More information on our alumni can be found on the next page.

Highlands School Alumni

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



NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget

If you take part in any of the opportunities posted onto Google Classroom including virtual events, and any other career related emailed to you, you must inform Mrs Laurenzi to complete the relevant form.

Work Experience Reminder

Date of work experience:
Monday 17th - Friday 21st June 2024

To do:

- Continue contacting potential employers - email CV - cover letter - visit in person.
- Register with Changing Education either with the app or browser
- Username received from workexperience@changingeducation.co.uk - create your own password.

Once you have found a private placement upload the details in Placement Summary and submit a self placement application.

Employer will be notified to complete the liability insurance details.

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