



# Highlands School Newsletter

10 October 2025



Dear parents and carers,

Yesterday and today we held our autumn DARE Days. Twice a year, in the autumn and then the summer, we collapse the school timetable for two days and all of our students take part in DARE Day trips or on-site activities. This means, over the course of seven years, from year 7 to 13, students at Highlands will take part in over 20 days of carefully selected and planned trips and activities. Some of the DARE Days focus on curriculum related work, such as the geography trip to St Albans, some focus on teambuilding, such as the year 11 Stubbers trip, and some on careers and preparing students for life after school. We do not want students to miss out on our trips for financial reasons so we subsidise them so they are affordable. We don't want students to miss out because there are limited places, so we only run DARE Day trips and activities that entire year groups can participate in. Our DARE Days trips and activities are a right, not a privilege at Highlands and we are proud that they are one of the things that make our school special. As you can imagine, planning and organising trips and activities for over 1,500 students is a big job - I would like to thank all of the staff who organised and ran the trips and I would like to thank Ms Jaynes particularly, who has overall responsibility for the DARE Days. We hope your children enjoyed the days.

Please note that next week, the final week of half term, we have an early finish on Monday and late start on Tuesday. This is because of open evening. The school has to be set up for open evening before the families come and then has to be returned to normal the next morning before students arrive at 11:20am. Details below.

Mr McInerney, Headteacher.

Key dates for this half term:

- Monday 13th October: early finish for open evening (students leave at 12:40pm)
- Tuesday 14th October: late start following open evening (students arrive at 11:20am)
- Friday 17th October: final day of half term (two week half term holiday commences)
- Monday 3rd November: first day of new half term (students return to school)



## DARE Days

Our students enjoyed two unforgettable DARE Days, packed with exciting trips and enriching opportunities. From exploring the Tower of London, the Natural History Museum, St Albans Cathedral, Hertfordshire Young Mariners, Stubbers and Bletchley Park, to taking part in adventure and discovery, the experiences were both fun and educational. Back at school, students got involved in dance workshops, employability sessions, and even mock interviews with real employers, alongside the Young Enterprise Launchpad. They also made progress towards their iDEA award, building valuable digital and entrepreneurial skills. It was an inspiring two days of learning, growth and achievement.

Click to watch our DARE Days highlights reel on [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

### Year 7:

Year 7 students had an exhilarating time during their DARE Days trip to Herts Young Mariners, where they immersed themselves in a range of adventurous activities. From kayaking and rock climbing to team-building challenges, the day was filled with laughter, excitement, and most importantly fun. While onsite students took part in a lively dance workshop, culminating in a dynamic performance that showcased their newfound dance skills.





**Year 8:**

Our year 8 students had a fantastic time on their trips, exploring the wonders of the Natural History Museum and the historic St. Albans Cathedral. At the museum, they marvelled at the impressive dinosaur exhibits and fascinating displays from the natural world. While at St. Albans Cathedral, they were captivated by the stunning architecture and rich history, engaging in discussions about its significance.



**Year 9:**

Year 9 students had a fascinating visit to Bletchley Park, where they discovered the vital role it played in World War II and the history of codebreaking. While onsite, students took part in interactive Young Enterprise Launchpad workshops, developing key skills in entrepreneurship, problem-solving and teamwork.





### Year 10:

Year 10 students visited the Tower of London where they immersed themselves in centuries of history, which deepened their understanding of the Tower's rich past. While onsite, students worked towards achieving the Bronze iDEA award. The Inspiring, Digital Excellence Award (iDEA) is an international award winning programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise, and employability skills.



### Year 11

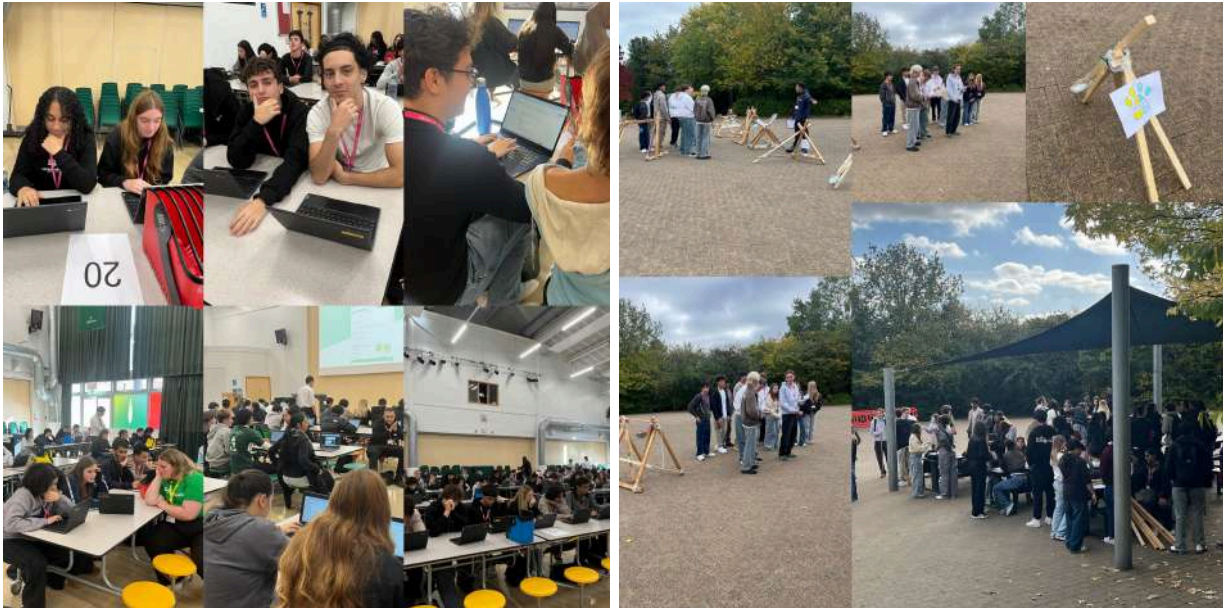
Year 11 travelled to Stubbers Adventure Centre, where they enjoyed thrilling outdoor activities like kayaking, rock climbing, and archery. While onsite, they participated in mock interviews with employers, gaining insights into real-world job expectations. These practice sessions help students develop their confidence, improve their communication skills, and receive constructive feedback, all in a supportive environment.





## Year 12

Year 12 students had an exciting and inspiring experience at school, taking part in a 'Wise-Up Apprentice' themed day and a lively 'Hire Me' workshop. The apprentice challenge pushed them to work together, solve problems and show leadership, while the Hire Me session gave them practical employability skills, from communication to interview techniques. Together, the two activities offered a fun and engaging way to prepare for the world of work and future opportunities.



## Highlands Parents & Friends Association - AGM

### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**Thursday, 16th October 2025, 6:30pm, at Highlands School - Main hall**

The Highlands Parents and Friends Association (HPFA) invites all parents, carers, and community members to our Annual General Meeting this October.

As a small but committed team, we work hard to support our school through various fundraising initiatives, but we are proactively seeking more active volunteers to help us continue and expand our efforts. Additionally, we're particularly seeking a new Treasurer or Co-Treasurer to join our Committee. Whether you have experience with finances or are simply willing to learn, we'd love to hear from you. Come along to find out more about what we do and how you can get involved in making a real difference for our students.





### **This is your opportunity to:**

- **Learn about our achievements** over the past year and how your support has made a difference
- **Hear our plans** for upcoming fundraising initiatives and school support programmes
- **Have your say** in the direction of the HPFA or the coming year's activities
- **Get involved as an active participant** in making a positive impact on your child's school experience

### **What's on the agenda?**

- Review of 2024-25 activities and financial report
- Election of the executive committee for 2025-26
- Discussion of proposed fundraising events and initiatives
- Open forum for new ideas and suggestions
- Teas, coffees and networking

### **Why attend?**

The HPFA plays a vital role in enhancing our students' educational experience through fundraising for resources, organising community events, and fostering strong school-community connections. Whether you're a long-time member or considering getting involved for the first time, your voice matters!

### **Get involved**

We're always looking for fresh ideas and active volunteers to support us at our events over the next 12 months. Involvement can be helping hands or providing resources, such as raffle prizes or donations.

**No prior experience necessary** - just enthusiasm for supporting our school community!

If you would like to confirm your attendance, indicate interest in the Treasurer/Co-Treasurer position or offer support in any way, then contact us via: [hpfaeventtickets@gmail.com](mailto:hpfaeventtickets@gmail.com). You can still turn up for the AGM if you haven't given prior notice of attendance.

**Can't make it?** We understand schedules are busy. Meeting minutes will be available on the school website, and you can always contact us with questions or suggestions.

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to make this another successful year of fundraising for Highlands Secondary School!



## Local Mayor Margaret Greer celebrates Black History Month with us at Highlands

This week, we held our Black History Month assemblies, reflecting on this year's theme, "Standing Firm in Power and Pride." The theme celebrates the strength, resilience, and achievements of the Black community, while also recognising the contributions of leaders, activists, and pioneers, and looking ahead to continued empowerment and unity. We were honoured to welcome our local mayor, Margaret Greer, whose inspiring words uplifted everyone. She also moved us deeply by singing a powerful song, reminding us that each of us carries something strong within, capable of making a difference.



## Highlands School promotional video 2025

At Highlands School, we don't just teach - we inspire. Our motto, Dare to Flourish, is at the heart of everything we do, built on the values of determination, aspiration, respect and equality. With outstanding teaching, dedicated support and a culture that empowers every student to grow, lead and succeed, Highlands is a place where potential is realised and every young person can truly shine.



Watch our 2025 promotional video on [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#) and discover what makes Highlands School such a special place to learn and grow.



## Year 10 boys football

On Thursday 2nd October, the year 10 boys played their first league game of the season away at Kingsmead. In a game that ebbed and flowed, Highlands headed into half time at 0 - 0. An early second half goal by Conrad settled Highlands nerves following an assist by Lucas. Lucas then assisted again to set up Owen who put Highlands 2-1 up. A moment of indecisiveness saw Kingsmead equalise to leave the final score 2-2.

Player of the match: Lucas Griffiths-Er

Well done everyone.



*Player of the match*

On Monday 6th October, our year 10s traveled to Southgate for their second league game of the season. Goals from Aqeel, Nicholas (penalty) and Jackson saw Highlands secure a well deserved 3-2 win. This result sees the team maintain their undefeated start.

Players of the match: Oscar C and Tish P.

**Mr Avann**



*Players of the match*

## Year 8 boys football

On Tuesday 7th October, the year 8 boys' football team entertained Winchmore in a highly anticipated match. Both teams played some fantastic football and there were plenty of goals on show. Winchmore led 2-1 at half time with Paul scoring for Highlands after a silky dribble. Highlands made the score 2-2 with a good finish from Ledion, however a few defensive errors resulted in Winchmore clinching a 5-2 win.

Players of the match - Eren M and Pav P.

Well done to everyone who played.

**Mr Avann**



*Players of the match*



## 'Spooktacular' reads await in the library

Students, together with Mrs Mehmet, have created a 'spooktacular' book display filled with chilling, Halloween-inspired stories. Don't miss out - head to the library and discover some frightfully good reads!



## Andrei races to victory!

Congratulations to Andrei Stoian in year 12, who has triumphed at a recent Club 100 racing event! Out of over 200 competitors in the qualifying rounds and 30 in the final race, Andrei raced brilliantly to take first place.

Featured previously in our student spotlight, Andrei continues to make us proud with his fantastic achievements.





## Get creative for Black History Month (BHM)

Join our **Storytelling Quilt** project!

Over several evenings from 3:15pm to 4:15pm (every evening except Wednesday), you'll create your own quilt square using awesome African symbols that tell stories about Black heritage and identity.

You'll learn about:

- West African Adinkra symbols
- Cool designs from all over Africa - South, North, and East!

When it's done, the quilt will be on display in the library for everyone to see!

Sign up by emailing Ms Maple: [mapled@highlearn.uk](mailto:mapled@highlearn.uk)

Don't miss out - let's make something amazing together!



## BHM Poster design competition

Get creative and design a poster for Highlands' 2025 Black History Month with the theme "Standing Strong in Power and Pride."

Before you start, take some time to explore the meaning behind colours, symbols, and shapes that represent strength, pride, and Black heritage. Your design should reflect these ideas thoughtfully.

When you submit your design, please include two paragraphs (max) explaining why you chose your design and what it represents.

Send your entries to Ms Maple at [mapled@highlearn.uk](mailto:mapled@highlearn.uk)

Submissions open on **1st October** and close on **17th October**.

We can't wait to see your amazing ideas!





## School lettings

We're excited to announce that a new lettings company, **School Hire and Functions Ltd**, is now managing all our venue bookings - including the astro, courts, field, main hall, and various rooms within the school. They've already received a high volume of bookings for the next three months, so be sure to get in touch soon if you're interested. We will also be installing floodlights on the astro during half term.

For all booking enquiries, please contact **Jo Bukin, Director**, at **07855 042027** or email: [school.hire@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:school.hire@yahoo.co.uk). You can also find more details at [www.school-hire.com](http://www.school-hire.com)

The graphic features a background image of the school building with a large green apple logo at the top center. Below the logo, the text reads 'Highlands School' in a large, bold, dark blue font, followed by the address '148 Worlds End Lane, London, N21 1QQ'. A descriptive paragraph follows: 'Modern and spacious facilities to hire for community events, sports groups, dance and drama classes, language school, tutoring services...and more!'. Below this text are three circular images: the left one shows an outdoor sports field, the middle one shows a green lawn, and the right one shows an indoor hall with rows of green chairs. At the bottom, there is a green banner with a white box containing a phone icon and the text 'CONTACT TODAY 07855042027'. To the right of this box is a list of facilities with green checkmarks: '4G Astro pitch', 'Drama studios', 'Sports hall', 'Mirrored dance studio', 'Classrooms', and 'Outside spaces'. On the left side of the banner, there is a small logo for 'SH & F' and the text 'JOINING SCHOOL HIRE & FUNCTIONS LTD FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025'.

**Highlands School**  
148 Worlds End Lane, London, N21 1QQ

Modern and spacious facilities to hire for community events, sports groups, dance and drama classes, language school, tutoring services...and more!

SH & F JOINING SCHOOL HIRE & FUNCTIONS LTD FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

**CONTACT TODAY**  
07855042027

- ✓ 4G Astro pitch
- ✓ Drama studios
- ✓ Sports hall
- ✓ Mirrored dance studio
- ✓ Classrooms
- ✓ Outside spaces



## School announcements

### Lost property

Please click [here](#) 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. 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.

### Flu immunisations years 7-11 - Friday 17th October

The Immunisation Team will be at Highlands next week to carry out the Flu vaccinations for students in years 7-11. To give consent for your child to have this vaccine, please click on the link below:

<https://ncl.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/enfield>

If your child is having the vaccination please ensure they have eaten breakfast and that they bring a drink of water to school.

### School photograph update

School photographs were issued to students this week.

Please check with your child that they received their photograph package if you placed an order by the September 28th deadline.

Orders placed after the deadline will be mailed directly to your home address by the photography company.



**TEXTILES CLUB**  
**EVERY THURSDAY**  
 for years 7-13  
 3:15pm - 4pm  
 in T4

**FemSoc**  
 YOUR VOICE.  
 YOUR POWER.  
 OUR CHANGE.  
 Every Tuesday  
 in SF3  
 3:20pm - 4:20pm  
 Week A: years 7-9  
 Week B: years 10-13  
 Are you passionate about women's rights  
 and debate? Then FemSoc is for you!

**LOOKING FOR A Netball Club?**  
 OAKWOOD IS A FRIENDLY NETBALL CLUB BASED IN ENFIELD.  
 WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS TO JOIN OUR U12 TEAM!  
 PLAYERS WILL NEED TO TRIAL FOR MATCH DAY SQUAD.  
 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE EMAIL: [PATRYLANDPE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PATRYLANDPE@GMAIL.COM)

**OAKWOOD NETBALL CLUB**  
**TRAINING: WREN ACADEMY ENFIELD ON THURSDAY 5:45-7PM**  
**MATCHES: BROOMFIELD PARK ON SATURDAY**

**YEAR 10/11 BOYS BASKETBALL TRIALS**  
 Tuesday 14th October  
 3:15M - 4:30PM  
 ON THE COURTS  
 BRING PE KIT TO SCHOOL TO GET CHANGED INTO



# 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](https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk) or alternatively scan the QR code below.

More information is on our [website](#) and if you have any questions please contact our Alumni Programme Manager at Future First: Faithia Garffus – [faithia.garffus@futurefirst.org.uk](mailto:faithia.garffus@futurefirst.org.uk)

#HighlandsAlumni



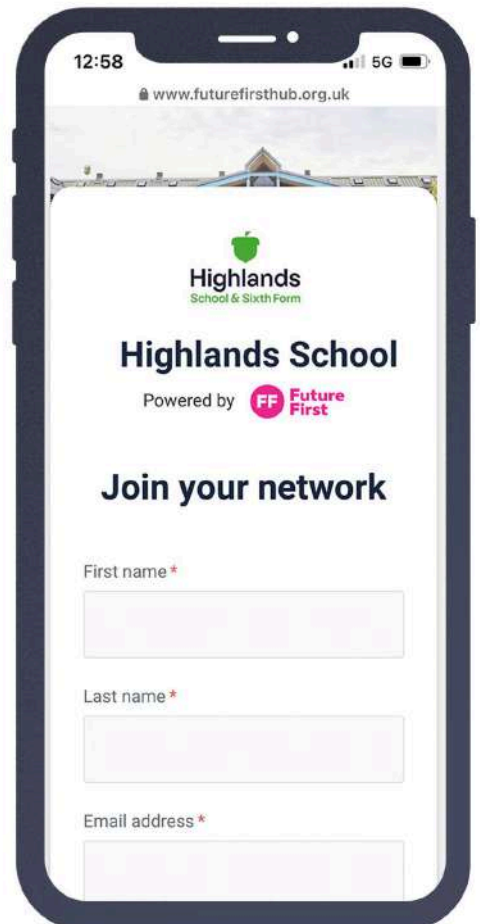
Scan the QR code to join the Alumni network

## Former student?

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

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

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





## Student medical needs

If your child needs to take regular medication in school, please fill out the following [Medicines Consent Form](#) to give the school consent to administer medication to your child. All medications that are kept in school must be stored in the medical room.

## Mental health

We are continuously working hard to improve our understanding as a community of mental health, to enable us to provide the best possible outcomes for the young people in our lives. If you are ever concerned that your child is at risk due to very poor mental health please inform the school. You can also contact one of these numbers to seek support from a specialist. The Crisis line is there to offer guidance if your child may be having suicidal thoughts and is possibly in immediate danger. If you do ever find yourself in a position where you need to use these resources for your child, please make the school aware so we can provide appropriate support within school for your child.

### Urgent mental health support - 24/7 crisis lines

Area	Boroughs covered	24/7 crisis line number
North West London	Brent, Hillingdon, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster	0800 0234 650
	Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham	0800 328 4444
North Central London	Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington	0800 151 0023
North East London	City & Hackney	0800 073 0006
	Newham	0800 073 0066
	Tower Hamlets	0800 073 0003
South West London	Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest	0300 555 1000
	Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth	0800 028 8000
South East London	Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark	0800 731 2864
	Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich	0800 330 8590

Every mental health trust in London has put in place a 24/7 crisis line for people of all ages - children, young people and adults. The lines which are free to call can provide advice to those in a crisis. These crisis lines are supported by trained mental health advisors 365 days a year.

You can find the 24/7 crisis line numbers using the NHS Service Finder ([link below](#)) but the table provides all of the telephone numbers in London.

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline>

Urgent and other support available

**shout**  
85258

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

**SAMARITANS**

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

**Crisis Tools**

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

**PAPYRUS**

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

**childline**  
ONLINE ON THE PHONE ANYTIME

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

**Good Thinking**

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

**THE MIX**

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

**Beat**

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

**kooth**

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



## Safeguarding contacts

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or the wellbeing of any other student at Highlands School, please contact the school on 020 8370 1100 or email the DSL at [staysafe@highlearn.uk](mailto: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](http://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](https://twitter.com/Highlands_sch)

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

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

 Threads [@Highlandssch](https://www.threads.net/@Highlandssch)

 Facebook [Highlands School](https://www.facebook.com/Highlands School)