



Highlands School Newsletter

23rd January 2026



Dear parents and carers,

This week we informed students of an incredible opportunity to participate in an international expedition, in partnership with True Adventure, the company who have worked with us on international trips for the past decade. Students in years 8, 9, 10 and 11 are invited to take part in our expedition to Kenya in October 2027. We have taken students to Morocco twice in the past two years and are taking students to eSwatini this October. Our Kenya expedition is the next opportunity for our students to take place in one of these incredible experiences.

Parents and students are invited to an information evening led by Tom from True Adventure on **Thursday 12th February at 6.00pm at Highlands School**. The session will explain the nature of the trip, and the opportunities and costs involved. Please see more information about this trip on page 2. We provide bursaries and find raising opportunities for students, so all students can take part if they want to.

Mr McInerney,
Headteacher.

Key dates for next half term:

- Wednesday 4th February: options evening for year 8 and 9 parents at school
- Thursday 5th February: late start following options evening
- Friday 13th February: final day of half term



Trip to Kenya, October 2027

Students in years 8 - 11 have been informed about an international expedition to **Kenya in October 2027**, run in partnership with True Adventure.

Eligibility depends on both current year group and future enrolment. Year 8 and 9 students are eligible to take part, while year 10 and 11 students may only attend if they are enrolled at **Highlands Sixth Form in September 2027**.

Trip	Current year group			
	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Kenya 2027	Yes (will be in year 10 when the trip takes place).	Yes (will be in year 11 when the trip takes place).	Yes - must be enrolled in Highlands Sixth Form in September 2027 (will be in year 12).	Yes - must be enrolled in Highlands Sixth Form in September 2027 (will be in year 13).

Parents and students interested in the expedition are invited to attend an information evening at **Highlands School on Thursday 12th February at 6.00pm**, led by Tom from True Adventure. The session will outline the expectations, opportunities and costs of the trip. **If you are planning to attend the information evening [please fill in this form](#)** so we can make sure we can seat everybody who attends.

Details about pricing will be shared at the meeting. The school will support students with fundraising and may also part-fund the trip for eligible students.

We hope families are able to attend and learn more about why the school values opportunities like this and the positive impact they can have on students.

Miss Husseyin

TRUE ADVENTURE

Kenya October 2027

Explore the sprawling plains of southern Kenya, take part in sustainable income projects, and go on safari through the Rukinga Wildlife Conservancy.

Just some of the adventures that await you!
Information Evening: 12th February 2026

Highlands School & Sixth Form

Scan here for more info



English short story writing competition

Students across years 7, 8 and 9 recently took part in a *short story competition*, showcasing their creativity and writing skills. Year 7 students were challenged to write a 100-word story, year 8 a 300-word story, and year 9 a 500-word story. The winners, listed below, each earned a voucher, 1,000 house points and a trophy for their house cabinet.

Well done to all of the winners for their fantastic achievements.

Year 7: Regan Arun 7RNC (**Rowan**)

Year 8: Qamil Neza 8OSB and Zoe Lindsey 8OSB (**Oak**)

Year 9: Seray Halil 9ORD (**Oak**)





Year 10 and 11 basketball

On Tuesday 20th January, the year 10 and 11 boys' team played their fifth and final league game of the season. Despite an even start, Edmonton County started to pull away with a lead which Highlands couldn't catch. The final score was Highlands 29-53 Edmonton County.

Player of the match: Darius for his 3-pointer.

Well done to all the boys who have played for the school this season.



Dancers of the week

Congratulations to our dancers of the week who are - Lovelle Taylor and Michaela Tsiamas in year 7.

Well done on some great work in your ballet lessons.

Miss Brown





Boys indoor athletics

On Monday 19th January the year 7 and 8 boys' indoor athletics team took part in the Enfield Schools Sportshall Athletics event at Lea Valley School. It was fantastic to see the boys give their all and display so much determination, resilience and spirit throughout the event.

The PE department, Mrs Farmer and the school are extremely proud of you all.

Results:

Year 7 boys: 3rd

Year 8 boys: 2nd

Year 8 team: River Mehmud, Daniel Lemonious, Theo Payne, Josh Afhim, Harry Afhim, Morgan Nash, Aaron Habib and Ledion Kotarja.

Year 7 team: Alex Millar, Kye Wynter-Hudson, Ibrahim Shah, Kai Hopkins, Arthur Butcher and Billy Eldred.

Mr Avann



Year 8 and 9 options assemblies

This week, year 8 and year 9 options assemblies took place, where Ms Lloyd explained the process of selecting subjects and highlighted the importance of making informed choices.

Students were guided through how options work, what to consider when choosing subjects, and why selecting the right combination is important for future pathways and opportunities.





Deaf history sessions

Our Deaf provision has been busy this week launching *Deaf history sessions* for Deaf students and BSL users, with three sessions delivered and pupils from year 7 to year 13 taking part. This marked the first of five lessons, beginning with *Introduction to Deaf History*.

The sessions are led by Dr Barnaby Lamb, who holds a PhD in Deaf Studies and Linguistics from the University of Wolverhampton. It was a great start to the programme, students were highly engaged and showed strong interest while learning about oralism, including the techniques used to teach Deaf students to mimic sounds through vibrations and vocal cord movement.



Headteacher 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.

- **Angelo Pizzato 8OSB:** Awarded for achieving the highest score in science in the mid-year assessment in the class.
- **Evren Okanay 11OSM:** Awarded for 100% attendance.





Year 8 East Asia title pages

Year 8 students have been working on their East Asia art title pages, producing some incredibly creative and thoughtful designs. The work shows a strong understanding of the theme, where students have captured the essence of East Asian art perfectly.



Year 10 netball

A huge well done to the year 10 netball team who beat Palmers Green High School on Thursday afternoon. They started slowly and found themselves 4-0 down before bringing it back to 4-4 at the end of the first quarter. Some misplaced passes contributed to them being 10-5 down at half time but they didn't give up and were losing only 11-8 going into the last quarter. Some excellent interceptions and shooting took us into the lead and we managed to hold on to win 12-11. Well done girls, an excellent win!



Mrs Walters



Year 10 GCSE drama workshop

This week, year 10 GCSE drama students took part in a two-hour devising workshop led by a practitioner from The Paper Birds Theatre Company. This was a fantastic opportunity to work with a professional who creates devised theatre. The practitioner guided students through a variety of tasks, getting them collaborating effectively and teaching them techniques they can use for their own devised work.

The students will be creating their own devised piece this term for Component 2 of their GCSE. All students involved conducted themselves very well, stepping out of their comfort zones by layering text on top of movement to create original scenes. Well done to all students involved.



Year 11 DARE Award winners

Many students consistently uphold our school values - determination, aspiration, respect and equality - by attending daily, bringing equipment and giving their best effort. The DARE rewards celebrate these students. Teachers submit DARE scores based on students' daily actions, ensuring recognition goes to those who consistently do the right thing. These scores allow us to rank students within each year group.

Congratulations to the top-ranked students in year 11. The top 100 students will receive a letter home in recognition of their achievements. 1st place: £50, joint 2nd: £30 and 3rd: £10 voucher.

Student	Form	Rank
James Butcher	11OSM	1
Duru Ozkaya	11ODC	2
Constantinos Socratous	11ODC	2
Ermioni Tsantikou	11OSM	3



Year 11 Academic Excellence Awards

As part of our commitment to celebrating excellence in the house competition, we introduced the academic excellence awards based on student feedback.

After each year group's mid-year assessments and mock exams, we honour the **top achiever** in each subject with an academic excellence trophy for their house, 1,000 house points and a certificate. Additionally, the **most improved** student in each subject will receive a certificate to acknowledge their hard work and progress.

Congratulations to all of the winners.

Position	Student	Form	House	subject
1	Christina Hajilambi	11WCM	Willow	Art
1	Madiha Yahya	11OSM	Oak	Biology
1	Ermioni Tsantikou	11OSM	Oak	
1	Constantinos Socratous	11ODC	Oak	Business
1	Ermioni Tsantikou	11OSM	Oak	Chemistry
1	Amelia Khan	11WCM	Willow	Child development
1	Albert Shore	11WCM	Willow	Citizenship
1	Raina Rrodhe	11WCM	Willow	
1	Fatih Ozcan	11OSM	Oak	Computing
1	Amelie Manning	11OSM	Oak	Dance
1	Ermioni Tsantikou	11OSM	Oak	Economics
1	Cora Drysdale	11WJQ	Willow	English language
1	George Baker	11BSQ	Beech	English literature
1	Lily Howard	11RJC	Rowan	Food and nutrition
1	Elis Cristovao	11WCM	Willow	French
1	Cora Drysdale	11WJQ	Willow	
1	Madiha Yahya	11OSM	Oak	Geography
1	Sophie Jones	11BLM	Beech	
1	Cora Drysdale	11WJQ	Willow	History
1	Christina Hajilambi	11WCM	Willow	
1	Mir Zahran Ali	11WCM	Willow	Maths
1	Eunique Tshiamala	11BSQ	Beech	
1	Zainab Ali	11RCG	Rowan	
1	Cora Drysdale	11WJQ	Willow	
1	Ermioni Tsantikou	11OSM	Oak	
1	Beatrice Afhim	11OSM	Oak	
1	Owen White	11OSM	Oak	Media
1	Ella Hayward	11RJC	Rowan	
1	George Robinson	11WCM	Willow	Music
1	Stefan Christodoulou	11BSQ	Beech	PE



1	Cora Drysdale	11WJQ	Willow	Physics
1	James Tyrimos	11RCG	Rowan	Religious studies
1	Christina Hajilambi	11WCM	Willow	Science
1	Sophie Jones	11BLM	Beech	
1	Constantinos Socratous	11ODC	Oak	Spanish
1	Lucy Kyriacou	11RCG	Rowan	
1	Franceska Koci	11RJC	Rowan	
1	Ermioni Tsantikou	11OSM	Oak	

School announcements

Calling all employers - Help shape a future!

We're always looking to expand our employer connections and provide year 12 students with valuable work experience opportunities. If you are able to support a student with a placement, please get in touch by emailing careers@highlearn.uk

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 items 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.

Notifying the school of student appointments

If your child has an appointment scheduled during school hours, please ensure you notify us promptly by emailing postbox@highlearn.uk for years 7-11 and sixthform@highlearn.uk for years 12-13 or by phoning us on the day of the appointment.

Your notification must include the date of the appointment and the exact time the student needs to leave school. Where possible, please also attach or provide proof of the appointment to the email.

To ensure your child is released smoothly from their lesson, please write a clear note on the appropriate day of your child's student planner, indicating the time they need to leave class. Students must show this planner note to their teacher to be excused from the lesson. They will then proceed to the school reception to officially sign out before being released to meet you at your pre-arranged location. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.



School lettings

School Hire and Functions Ltd manage all our bookings for hiring of the astro, sports hall, field, main hall, dance and drama rooms and general classroom hire. We have had new floodlights installed on the astro meaning we can now take bookings in the evenings during the winter months.

For all booking enquiries, please contact **Jo Bukin, Director**, at **07855 042027** or email:

school.hire@yahoo.co.uk. You can also find more details at www.school-hire.com



House weekly winners

The winner is the house with the most positive points, minus negative points plus the points from this week's house competitions. Well done **Oak**!

	Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Positive points	5,723	6,022	6,836	6,319
Negative points	-430	-448	-361	-506
Points overall	5,293	5,574	6,475	5,813
English story writing competition	-	3,000	1,000	-
Year 11 academic excellence	3,143	7,429	3,643	8,786
Total	8,436	16,003	11,118	14,599

Top students in year 7

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Zahra	Hazzan	7BJC	B	67
Floyd	Smith	7BJC	B	55
Nathan	Henry	7BJC	B	54
Rudy	Sadiq	7BJC	B	52
Haru	Mclune Henry	7BJC	B	52
Kamran	Ali	7BJC	B	51
James	Saat	7BJC	B	51
Isabella	Hilmi	7BJC	B	51
Dilda Payiz	Simsek	7BJC	B	50



Top students in year 8:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Alessia	Koci	8WEF	W	47
Mila	Fisher	8WEF	W	44
Mae	Elliott-Smith	8WEF	W	42
Afifa	Hakime	8BHV	B	40
Chloe	Desimine	8WEF	W	40
Charlotte	Murray	8WEF	W	38
Alex	Piatkowska	8WEF	W	37
Tia	Tanay	8WEF	W	34
Tze	Lok	8WEF	W	34

Top students in year 9:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Alara	Kilic	9RGA	R	39
Michael	Angeli	9RGA	R	38
Elektra	Taylor	9RGA	R	37
Alexa	Nicolau	9RGA	R	37
Ioannis	Stavrinoudis	9RGA	R	36
Alara	Aristidou	9BLR	B	35
Christine	Mawutor	9ODM	O	35
Marianne	Smith	9WSW	W	35
Sita	Maitland-Walker	9BLR	B	34
Loizos	Marsh	9BLR	B	34
Florence	Holyomes	9WSW	W	34
Klea	Kambo	9WSW	W	34

Top students in year 10:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Emily	Newton	10RAB	R	77
Sindi	Shaban	10WNK	W	43
Liam	Redmond	10RCX	R	41
Sena	Oguz	10WNK	W	40
Nathan	Lemonious	10RCX	R	39
Annika	Trivedi	10WNK	W	39
Aalycia	Udahemuka	10WNK	W	37
Faye	Etuzim	10WNK	W	37
Simra	Hassan	10OAC	O	35
Taijah	Green-Barban	10WNK	W	35



Top students in year 11:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
James	Butcher	11OSM	O	74
Zackaria	Meyer	11OSM	O	70
Evren	Okanay	11OSM	O	66
Alyssa	Ketwaroo	11OSM	O	66
Alexander	Antoniou	11OSM	O	60
Madiha	Yahya	11OSM	O	59
Ermioni	Tsantikou	11OSM	O	59
Owen	White	11OSM	O	59
Beatrice	Afhim	11OSM	O	58
Riyann	Hassan	11OSM	O	58

Top students in year 12:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Evie	Ferguson	12WTA	W	20
Isla	Kirkland	12RSL	R	18
Nathaniel	Daley	12WBS	W	18
Eren	Nalbantoglu	12RCW	R	17
Junaid	Ejaz	12RCW	R	16
Polina	Zaiat	12BJT	B	15
Grace	Gakhar	12RCW	R	15
Daisy	Marshall	12WBS	W	15
Ereni	Zaki	12WBS	W	14
Laina	Constantinou	12RCW	R	13
Darcy	Dundridge	12RCW	R	13

Top students in year 13:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Giulio	Pappalardo	13OAL	O	20
Charlie	Skipp	13RHK	R	20
Florence	Charlton	13OAL	O	17
Sophie	Gerrish	13RJB	R	16
Nida	Demirkaya	13RJB	R	14
Sherihan	Mehmet	13BTD	B	13
Tiana	Martindale	13BTD	B	12
Joseph	Brooks	13RHK	R	12
Alesha	Okoye	13WAD	W	12
Sia	Loomis	13OES	O	10



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

#HighlandsAlumni

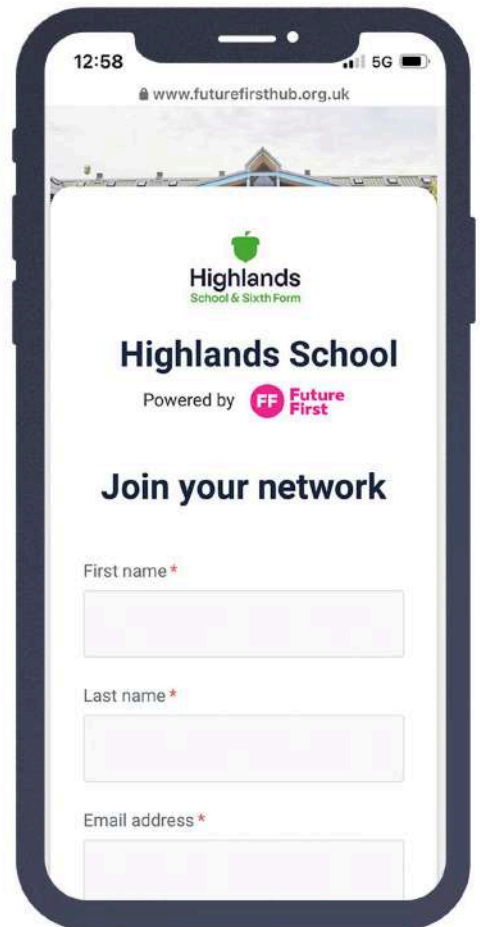


Former student?

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](https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline)) 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

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
SOMEONE 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. 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 call 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 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

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