



Highlands School Newsletter

26th June 2026



Dear parents and carers,

Last night I attended the final night of our school production, *Annie*. Three years ago I had a conversation with the heads of our performing arts subjects about relaunching our school productions post-COVID. We decided to take our shows from the school hall into a professional theatre setting and to resource them so that we can have professional sets, music and technical equipment and support. Ms Brown and Ms Miller searched for suitable venues, researched suitable plays and in summer 2024 we performed *Matilda Jr* at the Millfield Theatre. The incredible high standards from that show were built upon in the 2025 performance of *Chicago*, which has been entered for six awards at the National School Show Awards. I am pleased to say that this year's show, *Annie*, was another breathtaking performance. It was wonderful to see students, from year 7 to 13, working together to make the show a success. I would like to pay tribute to the many staff who make the show possible, particularly Miss Brown, Mrs Miller and Ms Vincent-Hall, the heads of dance, music and drama. I would also like to thank the four students who have played such a part in the success of these early shows but who are leaving Highlands as they have reached the end of year 11 or year 13. Amelie Manning, Victoria Salamanca, Lily Theodorou and Izzy Minguez, you have helped 'set the bar' for levels of the commitment and standards of performance that the students who follow you in years to come will have to try and match, we wish you all the best and please come back and watch next year!

Weather update

As temperatures are forecast to drop next week, we will return to our standard school day. Students should return to wearing school uniform unless they have PE. However, blazers do not need to be worn for the remainder of the academic year.

Have a great weekend.

Mr McInerney,
Headteacher



Key dates for this half term:

- Monday 29th June: year 11 and year 13 proms
- Monday 29th June: year 12 taster day
- Wednesday 1st July: DARE Day 3
- Thursday 2nd July: DARE Day 4
- Tuesday 7th July: sports day
- Wednesday 8th July: Highlands 25 year celebration
- Wednesday 15th July: Thorpe Park trip for winning house and activity day for other students
- Friday 17th July: final day students are in school (normal finish time 3:15pm)
- Monday 20th July: home learning day, work set on Google Classroom

25 years of Highlands event

We are delighted to invite you to join us as we celebrate 25 years of Highlands School. In 2000 Highlands was opened as the first PFI secondary school in England. This year we turn 25 and we will be celebrating on **Wednesday 8th July from 3.45pm.**

This special anniversary event will bring together current students, parents and carers, alumni, former parents, former staff and members of the local community who have been part of the Highlands journey over the past 25 years.

Guests can enjoy a mini festival atmosphere with refreshments, games and entertainment before coming together for the presentation of our 25th anniversary time capsule at 5.30pm.

If you would like to attend, please register your interest via the following [link](#) or by scanning the QR code from the invite.

Please note that tickets are limited and current students must be accompanied by a parent or carer.





School production of *Annie*

This year's production of *Annie* was a truly outstanding achievement and a wonderful celebration of the talent, dedication and hard work of our students and staff. From the memorable performances and impressive choreography to the exceptional music and production values, the show was enjoyed by all who attended.

A huge congratulations and thank you to everyone involved for delivering such a fantastic production and creating an unforgettable experience for the Highlands community.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to all the families who came along to support the show, particularly during the scorching weather, helping to make the performances such a success.






A level biologists explore the frontiers of ophthalmology

Last Friday, our A level biology students swapped the classroom for a world-class laboratory when they visited the **UCL Institute of Ophthalmology**.

HIGH

The group was hosted by **Professor Marcus Fruttiger**, a leading neuroscientist whose pioneering research focuses on the blood vessels of the retina (the light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye). Professor Fruttiger's work is critical in understanding how vascular changes contribute to vision loss and diseases such as age-related macular degeneration.


STEM

The day began with an engaging lecture from Professor Fruttiger, bridging the gap between textbook theory and real-world science. Students explored advanced **eye biology and evolution**, tracing how complex optical structures developed over millions of years.


**INSTITUTE OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY**

Following the lecture, the students went behind the scenes for an exclusive tour of the Institute's state-of-the-art facilities, getting hands-on experience with techniques most scientists do not encounter until university:

- **Electron Microscopy in Action:** Students saw both **TEM (Transmission Electron Microscopy)** and **SEM (Scanning Electron Microscopy)** at work. They marvelled at the difference between seeing *through* ultra-thin cell structures via TEM versus viewing the highly detailed, 3D surface textures of eye tissues via SEM.
- **Tissue Culture Passaging:** The group observed the delicate process of passaging (splitting and transferring) living cells *in vitro*, learning how researchers maintain cell lines to study eye diseases without testing on living subjects.
- **The Microtome Challenge:** In a true highlight of the trip, students were given the opportunity to prepare real human eye samples using a **microtome**—a precision instrument that slices tissue into sections thinner than a single hair so they can be viewed under a microscope.

"The experience was incredibly insightful on medical related lab work and the various roles available at academic institutions. Having gone on this trip, I have become much more interested in working in a lab in the future. We also were given the chance to cut a sample of a real human eye and transfer it to a microscope slide, which was so unique and really exciting. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity." - Sakura Daley, year 12 biology student

"An insightful experience, I learned a lot from Professor Fruttiger and the researchers there who taught us about the anatomy of the eye of humans and different species. It was very fascinating, being able to cut a thin slice of a human eye sample and looking at it under a microscope and seeing a real electron microscope." - Warzan Sadiq, year 12 biology student



"It was very exciting to see science in practice as we watched researchers cultivate human cells and test them under different conditions, as well as attending a talk on the evolution of the eye and how it differs between species." - Roni Koker, year 12 biology student

This immersive experience offered our students an invaluable glimpse into clinical research and the diverse career paths available in biomedical science. A huge thank you to Professor Fruttiger and the UCL team for inspiring the next generation of scientists, and for their incredibly generous donation of a powerful fluorescence light microscope to our school. This exceptional piece of laboratory equipment will undoubtedly bring the A-Level Biology curriculum to life for years to come!



Dr Len



Thank you Ed-Extra

As another fantastic year of Ed-Extra comes to a close, we would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our students and staff who have taken part throughout the academic year.

The wide range of enrichment opportunities on offer would not have been possible without the enthusiasm, commitment and hard work of our dedicated staff and external tutors. Their efforts have helped create enjoyable and memorable experiences that have allowed students to develop new skills, explore interests, and build confidence beyond the classroom.

We would also like to thank our students for their excellent attendance, positive attitudes and willingness to get involved. Your energy and participation are what make Ed-Extra such a success year after year.

With Ed-Extra finishing a little earlier than planned this term, some of our staff were able to take a well-earned moment to relax and enjoy a cool treat in the sunshine as a small thank you for all of their hard work and dedication.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to another successful year of Ed-Extra. We look forward to welcoming students back for even more exciting opportunities next academic year!

Ms Maple

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:

- **Mikey Demetriou 8RKM:** Awarded for exceptional progress in science. Excellent attitude to learning and participation during class.
- **William Charalambous-Scrivens 7BJC:** Awarded for his hard work throughout the school year.
- **Regan Arun 7RNC:** Awarded for his positive attitude and kindness.
- **Leon Spalevic 9RJG** and **Ryan Arun 9RJG:** Awarded for their excellent maths presentation.
- **Josh Samarasekera 7WTH, Javaeh July-Clarke 7RHG, Deren Hussein 7OPH, Jazzy Mustafa 7RNC, Nicolas Marfici 7RHG, Alexander Mitsis 7BJC, Iris Dobinson 7RHG, Dane Buhaescu 7RNC, Xion Esdaille 7RNC, Alara Yilmaz 7RNC, Kaya Rodgers 7OPH, Dilara Mehmet 7WTH, Archie Avery 7OPH, Kendyl Fordjour 7RNC, Umut Kabala 7OPH, Tansel Kilic 7WDD, Tess Rowswell 7RNC, Jessica Griffin 7OPH, Jada Osei 7BJC, Jasper Gavaz 7RNC, Moriko Tziova 7WDD, Billy Eldred 7RHG, Saavan Shah 7WDD, Yasemin Suleyman 7OPH, Athina Bogkntani 7RNC, Ayla Dawson-Powell 7WDD, Rhomero Maragh 7WTH, Skyler Weafer 7RHG, Dylan Ebberson 7RNC, Zerya Unek 7OPH, Max Di Tano 7WDD, Grace Eldred 7RNC, Thanishka Sathiyaseelan 7RHG, Jaiden Camacho-Merchan 7BJC, Leyla Besler 7BJC, Amelia Francis 7OPH, Mariam Valiji 7BNI, Emir Bolat 7WTH, Tino Pinalev 7RHG and Baris Oguz 7OPH:** Awarded for achieving over 1,000 achievement points this year.



School announcements

Nut allergies

It has come to our attention that some students may on occasion be bringing in snacks which could contain nuts. As we have several people in school with nut allergies, we ask that parents check their child's packed lunch contents and speak to their child about not buying snacks on the way to school that may contain nuts. The school has an allergen/anaphylaxis policy, a copy of which is on the school website.

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.

If your child is missing any items, please ask them to come to the school office next week to check if we have them.

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.

Cookbooks available

We have a selection of cookbooks available free of charge that are looking for a new home. If you are interested in receiving one or more of these books, please email the school office.



Lunch money

The school is getting an increasing number of students whose lunch accounts are not topped up regularly and they end up owing Chartwells, our canteen food provider, money for food they have taken. Please can parents ensure that their child's lunch account is checked daily if they want them to buy food in the canteen. We will be contacting home for any students who owe money to Chartwells.

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

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!

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

CONTACT TODAY
07855042027

COME JOIN US

JOBS, SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE GROUP SESSION

Support, advice and opportunities for young people and families

Ponders End Youth & Family Hub, 141 South street, EN3 4PX

6th July | 10:00am – 11:30am

Build job skills
Meet others
Gain confidence
Get support

Open to parents/carers and young people – all welcome!



House weekly winners

The winner is the house with the most positive points, minus negative points. Well done **Willow**!

	Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Positive points	3,853	4,172	6,473	6,923
Negative points	-459	-385	-323	-388
Points overall	3,394	3,787	6,150	6,535

Top students in year 7

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Amber	Jarvis	7WDD	W	50
Melodi	Erbil	7WDD	W	50
Aisel	Koxha	7BJC	B	49
Jaiden	Camacho-Merchan	7BJC	B	49
Naiya	Shah	7WDD	W	49
Persephone	LaMarca	7WDD	W	49
Rafael	Cimen	7WDD	W	48
Moriko	Tziova	7WDD	W	48
Romayne	Palmer	7WDD	W	48
Saavan	Shah	7WDD	W	48
Noah	Sonubi	7WDD	W	48
Akshayan	Kanagarajah	7WDD	W	48

Top students in year 8:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Andrew	Stavrinou	8WEF	W	55
Campbell	Paraskeva	8WEF	W	51
Nieve	Pratt	8WEF	W	50
Tze	Lok	8WEF	W	50
Preston	Barrow	8WEF	W	48
Charlotte	Murray	8WEF	W	48
Eren	Mistiki	8RAC	R	47
Chloe	Desimine	8WEF	W	47
Suryan	Mistry	8WEL	W	46
Keira	Kataria	8OMK	O	45



Top students in year 9:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Alara	Kilic	9RGA	R	62
Maisie	Allan	9RJG	R	59
Elektra	Taylor	9RGA	R	58
Jack	Moules	9RJG	R	58
Ariella	Elkabbas	9RJG	R	55
Summer	Mullooly	9RJG	R	53
Bella	Aydemir	9RGA	R	46
Maya	Paterson-Mckenzie	9RGA	R	45
Eray Ali	Gencer	9RGA	R	45
Chloe-Sophia	Antoniades	9RJG	R	45
Diana	Hristeva	9RJG	R	45

Top students in year 10:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Anaiya	Dhaliwal	10WNK	W	48
Sophie	Rooke	10WNK	W	48
Faye	Etuazim	10WNK	W	45
Taijah	Green-Barban	10WNK	W	42
Nathan	Lemonious	10RCX	R	40
Mollie	Abrahams	10WNK	W	40
Nea	Petritaj	10WNK	W	40
Harrison	Higginson	10RCX	R	33
Theo	Crow	10OAC	O	32
Xhorxhia	Kuvertaris	10RCX	R	32



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: Faithia Garffus – faithia.garffus@futurefirst.org.uk

#HighlandsAlumni



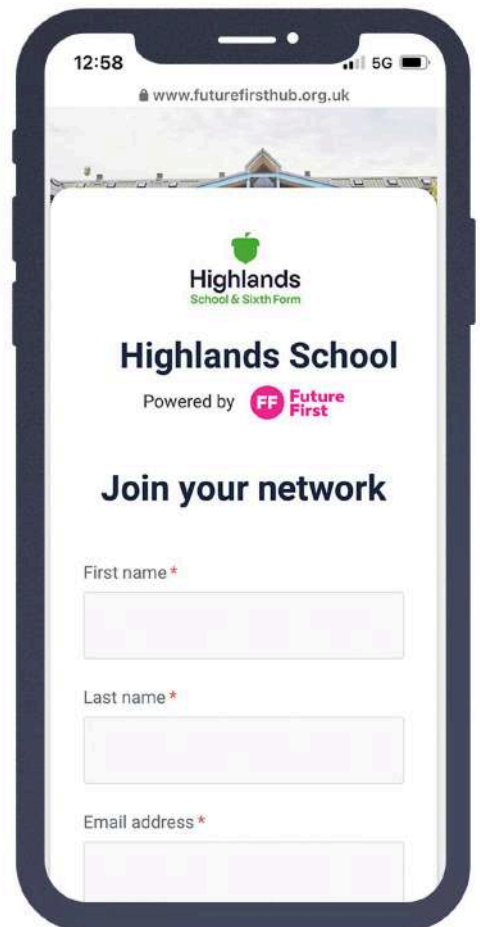
Scan the QR code to join the Alumni network

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.



12:58

www.futurefirsthub.org.uk



Highlands School

Powered by  Future First

Join your network

First name *

Last name *

Email address *



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

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