



WHAT ARE YOU DOING
FOR RED NOSE DAY?

COMIC
RELIEF

RED
NOSE
DAY



Welcome back to successful learning at Highgate Wood School.

I wish to start this edition of Insight by taking this opportunity to wish you all a very belated Happy New Year! As always however, time flies and instead of

reflecting on the festivities of Christmas and the New Year celebrations, we have already passed the spring half term break. It is difficult to believe that we are already more than half way through the school year. So much has been accomplished, but as ever there is so much still to do!

Post 16 at Highgate Wood

In the last few days I have had the joy of speaking to a number of our year 11 students following their applications and interviews for places in the 6th form.

What has been really pleasing for myself and staff is listening to them explain why they have applied to the Highgate Wood School Sixth form.

Students have talked about:

- The enjoyment that they have experienced at Highgate Wood over the years and that they see Post 16 as a natural continuation of the learning that is taking place in Key Stage 4
- The benefits of remaining at a school that they know, but more importantly a school that knows them; where their teachers know their strengths and how to build upon them; where their teachers are aware of their areas for development
- The good progress that they are currently making, and a belief that this will continue in the 6th form
- The trust that they have (and the evidence that they have seen and heard) that teaching in the 6th form is of a high quality
- The wide (and growing) range of opportunities available to them at Post 16 to embrace extra-curricular opportunities

- Knowing that at HWS, they benefit from teachers who really do care about them and will go the extra mile to support them throughout their studies to achieve their potential and go on to the very best universities

It is heart warming to know that they are so proud of their school and want to stay because they feel they belong and know they will do well. A record number of HWS students have applied which demonstrates their commitment to doing well at this school. I am proud of them all and want them to remain here at 'home' at HWS. I am looking forward to having another excellent Year 12 cohort in September. However, competition for places in the sixth form and particularly for popular courses will be high. The message to our students is that they make sure that they:

1. Work really hard between now and the summer exams to secure the very challenging grades necessary to gain access to our Post 16 courses
2. Understand that not everyone will automatically be offered a place – it has to be earned
3. Be committed to doing their absolute best in the sixth form which includes taking full responsibility for their learning, making learning their first priority and ensuring excellent attendance and punctuality to all lessons/study sessions
4. Ensure that they continue to make a positive contribution to HWS as a positive reference from their tutor or their head of house is also a pre-requisite for entry

We also held a Sixth Form Taster day prior to half term (specifically Friday 25th January) where our students had the opportunity to be treated like a sixth former for the day, including going to sixth form lessons and having non-teaching periods. We also laid on a day of careers advice topped off with a visit to a local college for those students who are looking at doing alternative courses that we don't specialise in at HWS. The feedback has been very positive, and I hope that this will help students make the best decisions in August when we have our enrolment day.



Year 6 to 7 Transfer Figures

We have recently received confirmation of the parents of year 6 children who have expressed a desire to send their sons or daughters to Highgate Wood. We are again pleased at our continuing popularity as a school. The table below shows our total preferences (from 1st choice to 6th choice) over the last few years.

Total Preferences			
Year	HWS	Haringey Average	Gap (+/-)
2012	879	628	+251
2013	1009	695	+314
2014	1001	693	+308
2015	983	750	+233
2016	962	759	+203
2017	1070	807	+263
2018	1117	858	+259
2019	1104	841	+263

Every secondary school in Haringey is a strong school with results that place us as one of the top performing local authorities in the country. Each school is regarded as good or better by Ofsted. Given that context, it is even more impressive that we are (and have consistently been) one of the most popular schools in the borough. Long may that continue!

In addition to the information above, our popularity locally has also led to us being asked by the local authority to take on an additional 27 students in Year 7 for this coming September. This is the second year in a row that we have been requested to do this. Consequently, we will have 270 students in year seven in September 2019 that will match the 270 in the current year seven.

All of the older year groups remain at our normal admission number of 243.

Kirkland Rowell Surveys for Parents/Carers

You will find a note in this issue of Insight about the Kirkland Rowell survey. All parents and carers will shortly receive a link to this online survey and we do hope that a large number of you will be able to respond. Your views are really important to us.

If you have any queries about this then please e-mail the school for the attention of Mr Hewitt on admin@hws.haringey.sch.uk.

Uniform Issues

The issue of school uniform is one that changes throughout the year, mostly depending on the overriding temperature.

With the anticipation of warmer months ahead we would like to remind parents/carers and students that:

- Blazers are compulsory (and must be worn at all times – other than in lessons and at lunch time), but jumpers/cardigans are not – hence if students do not wish to wear two layers on top of their shirts, it's the jumpers/cardigans that should not be worn. After May half term blazers will no longer be compulsory for the rest of the academic year
- If at some stage the weather is very hot before May half term, then we will relax the need to wear a blazer at all times – however, we will inform you and the students if and when this happens (please don't take their word for it or decide unilaterally yourselves)
- No other alternative to the school jumper/cardigan (with the HWS Blue trim) can be worn. If they are they will be confiscated
- Short sleeve shirts are a perfectly acceptable alternative to long sleeve shirts for girls and boys

As always, we ask for your support in ensuring that not only is the correct uniform worn by all of our students, but that it is worn appropriately, smartly and with pride.

This means that

- Shirts must always be tucked inside trousers and skirts
- Ties must always be worn with the knot high and at least five stripes being visible on the wide part of the tie
- Skirts worn unrolled with four buttons visible

Youth Strike 4 Climate

Many of you will be aware of the Youth Strike 4 Climate protest to fight climate change that happened on Friday 15th February. We took a decision as a school not to authorise any student absences in response to the call from the organisers for students to 'walk out' of school. There is a second day of action planned for the coming Friday and I wanted to make sure that all parents and carers were fully aware that our stance will remain the same – i.e. students will not be allowed to leave school to join the protest and that any parental supported absence will be unauthorised.

For us as a school, we are clear that we support the right of young people to have their voices heard. Our position on not allowing students to strike from school is not based on any denial of this right to be heard, nor is it an indication of the school taking a position on the reasons for the action. It is a statement of the school's belief that the best place for children to be on a school day is in school and in education.

I think it is particularly important that the school maintain a consistent stance on this. Quite apart from the health and safety and safeguarding aspects of young people protesting unsupervised in Central London, my belief is that it is not the place of school to determine which causes are valid and which ones are not in terms of students taking action. How do we distinguish? Although we may agree or disagree personally and individually with any particular cause (I happen to support the fight against climate change), the school's position will remain that children should be in school irrespective. Consequently, absences will not be authorised. Although some may disagree with that stance, I hope that you can understand it.

It is our plan to do something significant in school on that day to help students exercise their voices on such a crucial issue.

Thank you to Chris Tully – Welcome to Mark Harber and Elizabeth Hess

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Tully who has recently resigned as Chair of Governors at Highgate Wood School. Chris has been a fantastic supporter of Highgate Wood as a parent of two students throughout the years and for this, I am ever grateful. As Chair of Governors, he has been a great source of support and a positive and empathetic leader. I am pleased that he remains on the Governing Body, as his contribution to the school is too valuable to lose. Such was the size of the boots that Chris left to be filled, that it has taken two people to replace him. The new Co-Chairs Mark Harber and Elizabeth Hess have this term taken over the role. I look forward to working with them for the coming years ahead.

Thank you and Good Luck Caroline Jones

Caroline Jones, a teacher in the Learning Support Department for many years has left the school to pursue new endeavours. We are very appreciative of the work that Caroline contributed to the school over her fourteen years of service. She is well respected by colleagues and loved by students, particularly our students who worked with the Learning Support Department. Her enthusiasm, optimism and creative ideas always made a positive contribution to HWS and we will miss this. We wish her all the best for the future.

A Sad Time at Highgate Wood School – A Tribute to Those We Have Lost

It has been a difficult time at Highgate Wood this last few months as two longstanding members of staff have passed away.

Teresa Owen was our SEND administrator. Sadly, in December she passed away following a brave fight against cancer. Teresa worked at HWS for just over eleven years and was a dear colleague to large number of staff – but particularly those in the

learning support department. Her colleagues, the students that she worked with, and the school as a whole sorely miss her. Teresa brought many qualities to the HWS and wowed us constantly with her dedication, hard work, super professionalism and inspiring optimistic outlook, despite her challenges.

Mina Bulsara was our Data Manager and worked at HWS for almost fifteen years. Tragically, Mina passed away last Friday following a courageous battle with cancer. We are all still in a state of shock and are still coming to terms with our loss. Mina was quiet but efficient. She was always optimistic about her fight and life in general, which was an inspiration to her colleagues. Mina loved work and was always determined to do the best job possible throughout her time at HWS. A thorough professional and an incredibly nice human being – Mina will be very sorely missed.

A tribute to Teresa is in this issue of Insight, the tribute to Mina will appear in the next issue.

All of us at HWS would like to extend our gratitude, thanks and love to Teresa and Mina. Our loss is great, but we hope that you both rest in peace.

... And Finally – Thank you for your support!

I would like to thank you all again for your valued and continued support. I am aware that Easter will soon be upon us so I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a pleasant Easter break. My best wishes also to those students who are preparing for summer exams. I know for them Easter is unlikely to be a time of much rest.

Regards

Patrick Cozier
Headteacher

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF HWS GOVERNING BODY

Elizabeth Hess Barth and Mark Harber write: A huge thanks to Chris Tully who stood down as Chair of Governors after almost three years of inspired leadership in a challenging environment for schools. Chris will continue to serve on the Governing Body and is now Chair of the Personnel Committee. The resulting election yielded two co-Chairs, possibly the first for our school. We put ourselves forward as co-Chairs because we both work full time and felt this was the only way we could take on this important role.

A bit about us:

Elizabeth Hess Barth: I am now one of the school's co-opted governors having served as a parent governor for a number of years while my children were students here. I was Chair of the Personnel Committee for three years, and am now on the Curriculum and Governance committees. I think it's a sign of how important Highgate Wood School is in the lives of our children that many of us who continue to serve as governors do it because we have a strong desire to give back to the school.

Mark Harber: I am a parent governor with two boys at the school and prior to becoming a governor at HWS was a governor at Coleridge Primary school. I am passionate about supporting HWS in delivering excellent education to local children from the local community.

The governing body has grown somewhat over the last 3 years and undergone some restructuring so is hopefully well placed to help discuss and approach some of the challenges facing all schools in a pretty austere economic climate.

On the home front we are very conscious of the huge amount of extra activity, teaching and support being laid on by teachers in preparation for exams with numerous pre and post school clubs as well as additional teaching on Saturdays and during the holidays. We speak for the entire governing body in thanking staff for their commitment and care for the students and are confident these efforts will lead to another great set of exam results in the summer.

RECORD REWARDS

Mr Ashman writes:

This term has been an amazing one for our e-praise shop. The very generous donation by Universal Pictures, coupled with the fantastic efforts and achievements of our students who earned more merits than ever before, gave a new energy to the e-praise system and led to record breaking activity in the shop.

Since January there have been more than 1,500 items bought from the shop—ranging from the highly desirable Pitch Perfect Bluetooth speakers, the Jason Bourne Binoculars and the soft toy Minions from Despicable Me to the more modest items like pencils, highlighters, tennis balls and calculators. That is an extraordinary amount - averaging out at more than 200 every school day! We have also now made it possible for students to donate their merits to their House charity - Edison's The Childhood Trust, Da Vinci's Godwin Lawson Foundation and Seacole's Stop Hate UK.

For March 15th we will also make it possible for students to donate some merits to Comic Relief. Please bear in mind our e-praise shop if you work in a business or industry that might have items that can be donated. We are very pleased our students tend to work hard and follow the 4Cs simply because they want to and see the intrinsic value of hard work, contribution, courtesy, consideration and cooperation, but it is also nice when we are able to reward them with something tangible.



The best way to predict the future is to invent it



32,143 merits
so far this term

100,718 merits this year

Top Merit Earners

Joseph Mellet (Yr 11)
Humza Khan (Yr 10)
Pinar Yildiray (Yr 9)
Kate Freeman (Yr 8)
Ruby Tailor (Yr 7)



From caring comes courage



29,403 merits
so far this term

101,360 merits this year

Top Merit Earners

Mae Greene (Yr 11)
Purdie Harris (Yr 10)
Fizzy Linke Amorin Correia (Yr 9)
Rose Thomas (Yr 8)
Megan Elliott (Yr 7)



Success comes from perseverance



32,740 merits
so far this term

101,820 merits this year

Top Merit Earners

Hoti Blendi (Yr 11)
Zoe Street (Yr 10)
Eunice Tshimuna (Yr 9)
Kathryn Holland (Yr 8)
Lucas Evans (Yr 7)



TERESA OWEN - IN FONDEST MEMORY

It is with sadness that we started the year with the news of the death of our dear colleague Teresa Owen. She passed away during the Christmas break following a brave fight against cancer.

Mr Cozier spoke for us all when he said "we will all miss Teresa tremendously. She was inspirational in terms of her positivity and determination to fight her illness."

Teresa Owen had made an incredible contribution to the life of Highgate Wood School for over ten years. An essential member of the Learning Support team and a hugely important figure in the lives of so many in the school community, we are all indebted to her unfailing dedication, her immense energy and the caring approach she had with so many students and staff over the years.

She is deeply missed by friends, colleagues and students. Her humour and unique laugh will never be forgotten.

Mr Dobrashian, SENCO writes:

Teresa and I had such a close working relationship for such a long time; she was so supportive and important to me during this period and her presence will forever remain. Teresa was hugely influential to the running of the Learning Support



department and so significant to a high number of vulnerable students over the years. Her caring, matriarchal approach with all the staff was such a treasure to us all. We all owe her an immense debt of gratitude and appreciation. She was the best and we all miss her very much.

SCHOOL SURVEY



Kirkland Rowell Surveys

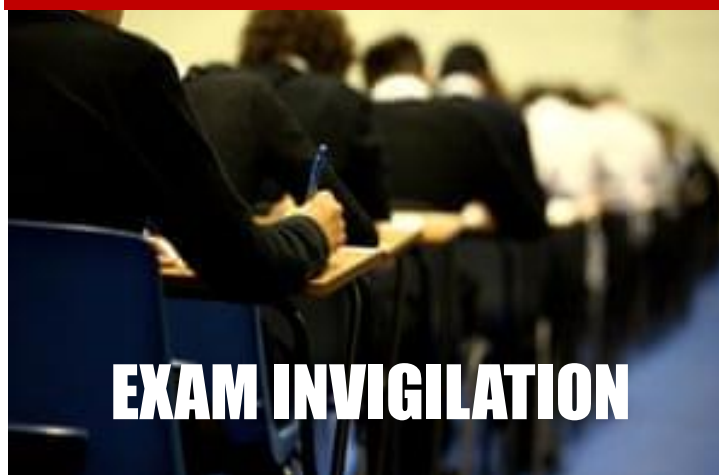
Mr Hewitt writes:

Very shortly we will be beginning the annual survey of parents and carers. We have always found these surveys to be useful as it informs us on what is working well and what areas of school life we should consider for improvement or change.

I do hope that all parents and carers will be able to contribute to the survey which will be on-line this year.

More information, and the relevant link, will be circulated soon. Your responses are confidential.

EXAM INVIGILATORS NEEDED



Ms Short writes:

With the exam season fast approaching we are in urgent need of exam invigilators. No previous experience is necessary as full training will be given. Please contact me for details and further information: exams@hws.haringey.sch.uk



Mr Ashman writes:

Thanks to those parents\carers who were able to come to Juliet Landau-Pope's fascinating talk about teenage stress, study and organisation arranged by the PSA.

The event also gave the opportunity to provide some support and guidance for helping young people regulate their online lives. We described a number of different Apps that parents and carers might consider for monitoring or restricting their child's access on their phone. **Our Pact** is one that has been recommended by the Met Police and is thus one to consider.



An alternative solution, however, is to simply use the phones own Parental Control tools.

For Android phones open the Play Store app, go to the Menu on the top-left corner and then go to Settings and Parental Controls.

Full instructions are available at <http://bit.ly/androidhwspc>.

For iPhones go to Settings and tap Screen Time. Tap continue and then choose This my My [11Device] or this is My Child's [Device]

Full instructions are available at <http://bit.ly/hwspcontrol>.

Since that meeting there have been new reports in the national press about various online games and apps that appear to pose a threat to young people. Some schools did respond to these by alerting parents. We chose not to, and a word of explanation may be helpful.

Our approach to internet safety follows the advice of many organisations, including CEOPS, IWF, the UK Internet Safety Centre and LGfL's DigiSafe, who all advise caution about highlighting specific threats. This may seem counterintuitive but is based on:

Generating a false sense of security. We can't highlight every danger, so highlighting a few is usually not helpful. We need to be vigilant, always.

Giving free publicity to what can sometimes be pretty awful things. Widely spread warnings can boost traffic, popularity... and risk. After all, tell a teenager something is off-limits or dangerous, let them know what it's called and where to find it, and what's going to happen next...?

Spreading panic and making parents think everything online is bad. That won't help build digital resilience and it won't make the most of the amazing opportunities of today's technology. Nor will it encourage parents and children to talk openly about their online lives – the good, bad and the ugly. And this is what will help them stay safe from the real dangers that are out there.

Interestingly, the recent media hysteria over an online threat has transpired to be largely "fake news," which is another one of the dangers of the internet and another reason we are cautious about raising the profile of a supposed threat.

There is lots of e-safety information on the school website, with links to sites like ParentZone to keep you informed of the current risks. You should also be aware of a support site run by the NSPCC and O2 at <http://bit.ly/hwsparentcontrol> or the associated helpline on 0808 800 5002.

Please remember that mobile phones are not allowed to be used in school. If they are seen or heard they will be confiscated and not returned for a full week. However, the school will support parents with issues around mobile phone use and cyber-safety in general.

STAY HEALTHY IN SCHOOL



Ms Stevens writes:

Just a few little reminders about keeping students healthy and ready to learn at school:

- It isn't summer but staying hydrated is still very important, especially with colds and sore throats doing the rounds. Please ensure your child comes in with a bottle of water that can be refilled?
- If your child has a runny nose, bringing in tissues is a good idea so they are prepared.
- Having breakfast is very important. If it's rushed in the morning, put a snack in their bag so that they can eat on the way to school?

School Protocol

- If your child is feeling under the weather but you are still sending them to school please ensure they come with all they require. If they are under 16 please give them any analgesia before school or send them in with the medication and written permission. I cannot administer any medication to under 16s without this.
- Please give me a call if you're unsure your child is well enough to last the day so I'm aware of the situation.
- If your child needs to go home you will receive a call from the medical room or a member of staff. Please remind your child to come to the medical room if they feel they need to go home and that they should not try and contact you directly from their own phone or someone else's.

Huge Thanks

The Year 9 DTP/Men ACWY vaccinations were done in early February with great success. The vaccination service said it was the BEST day they have ever had anywhere! We had an excellent uptake and the students behaved brilliantly on the day. Many thanks to everyone involved.

SIXTH FORM HELPING OTHERS



Dr Chaudhary writes:

Over twenty of our Year 12 students have started six months of voluntary work with the charity Kissing it Better at the Whittington Hospital. The students have committed to volunteering an hour of their time every Wednesday after school. During this time they visit patients on the hospital wards where they raise patient morale through various entertaining activities such as song (Anna Jevon and Amy Davis), juggling (Olivia Birkett) or simply spending time talking and listening.

The patients enjoy these visits and seem to really benefit from them. In some cases these are the only visits they will receive during their entire stay at the hospital.

The students benefit too, gaining vital skills such as communication, listening and empathy. These are important skills for life... and for university applications! Some student are also incorporating this voluntary work as part of their DoE Awards.





Year 9 Options Evening

The first half term in spring is always a busy time for planning for the future. Year 9s need to decide on their options, Year 10 are preparing for work experience, Year 11 have their post-16 careers to think about, and Year 13 are organising their plans for higher education and university entrance.

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Ms Chaudri writes:

The Options Evening at the end of January provided Year 9s with the opportunity to really consider what GCSE options would be best for them and also helped inform parents and carers how the options process would work.

I was delighted with how engaged students were in the process and how thoughtfully they considered their various choices. I was also very pleased how well the new on-line application process worked.

Virtually every student managed to get their applications completed before the deadline. We are now working through all the completed forms and putting together the required groupings for September 2019.

We will update students and their families on their final options selection during the summer term.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Mr Charlesworth writes:

In early March all students in Year 10 will spend a week in a work placement away from school.

There are a huge variety of placements in many different locations but, for many, it means a week in central London experiencing the daily commute before spending a day in an office or other workplace where they will typically work from 9:00am until 5:00pm.

Students have chosen the type of placement that they would prefer to work in and we have worked hard with the Haringey Agency Diamond Education to find the best quality placement for all everyone. All students have been briefed on what they might expect from the work placement at an assembly so they would know exactly what to do and expect on their first day. During the work experience week itself a member of school staff will visit them at their work placement to see how they are doing. Work experience is a huge organisational and administrative task and we are again indebted to Ms Martin who has worked tirelessly to ensure that everything goes according to plan and the work experience week is of real benefit to all students.

COLLEGE AND VOCATIONAL CAREERS FAIR



Mr Charlesworth writes:

At the end of January over twenty Colleges and Training providers set up in the school hall for the first Highgate Wood School College and Vocational course careers event.

Students from Year 11 who are not certain they wish to follow the A Level 6th form route were invited to talk to colleges and training providers to see the possibilities for Post16 training and explore what might be the best option for them next year.

As well as a number of 6th form colleges offering a range of BTEC courses at either Level 1 (GCSE), Level 2 (Higher GCSE) and Level 3 (A Level) there were training providers who could offer apprenticeships and some universities who were able to explain how students could gain a place at University even if they do not take the traditional A level route.

In all over 150 students visited the exhibition and took information away with them to help with their applications.

SIXTH FORM INTERVIEWS

Ms Pinnick writes:

Interviews for Highgate Wood School Sixth Form have now begun and I have been very impressed by so many of the applicants who have clearly spent a good deal of time considering their futures and preparing for the process.

As our sixth form goes from strength to strength, both in terms of results and in popularity, we have an ever increasing number of external applicants. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all the time they have set aside to help in this process, as well as to the students who have done so well.

JACK PETCHEY RECOGNITION

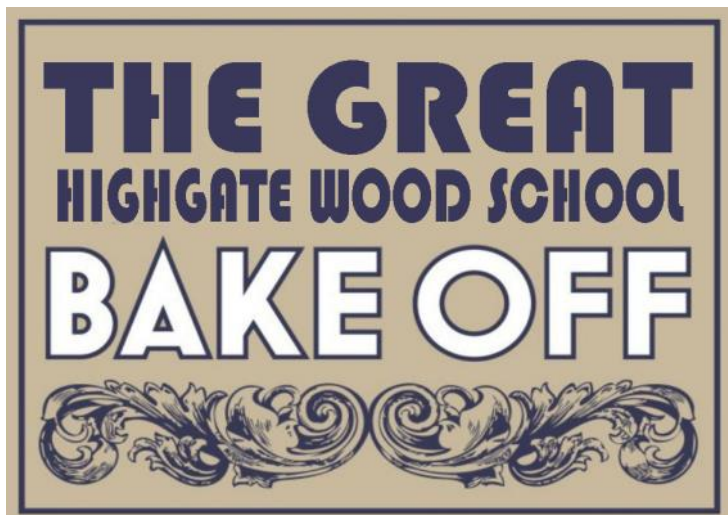


Ms Burniston writes:

Congratulations to Alice Jenkins who has received an Outstanding Achievement Award from Jack Petchey for her work in planning a new magazine, providing a voice for students at Highgate Wood School.

As well as her work for the magazine Alice has also contributed to the life of the school in many other ways - being one of this years' Parents' Evening student helpers and also being a huge credit to Highgate Wood School at the recent Speak Out Challenge.

Well done Alice!



Ms Went writes:

I'm taking names for the next Bake Off club that will be running after school from 3.15- 4.30pm on Thursdays, happening after Easter and running for 6 weeks, in the summer term.

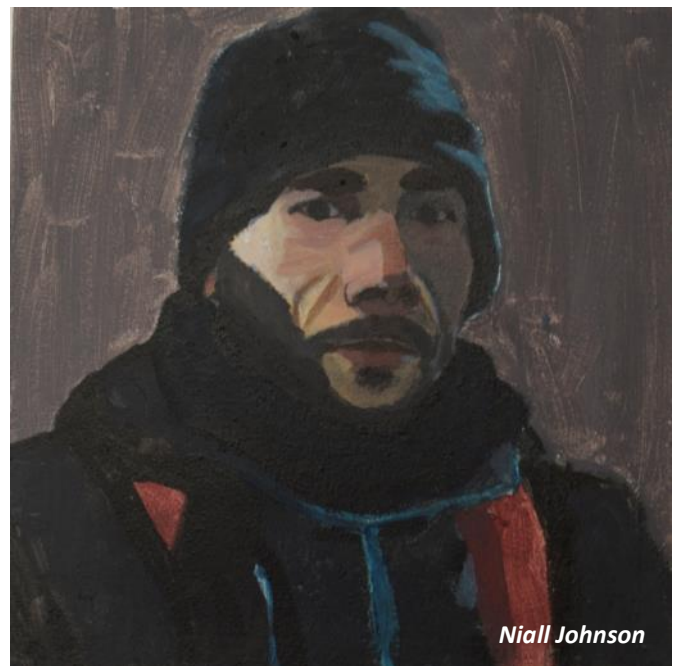
Interested candidates need to see me in W1. There are 9 spaces available (one is already filled). If more than 9 students apply, then names will be drawn from a hat.

YEAR 13 ART

The Art Department wants to celebrate the stunning and fantastically diverse art work produced by our year 13 art students.

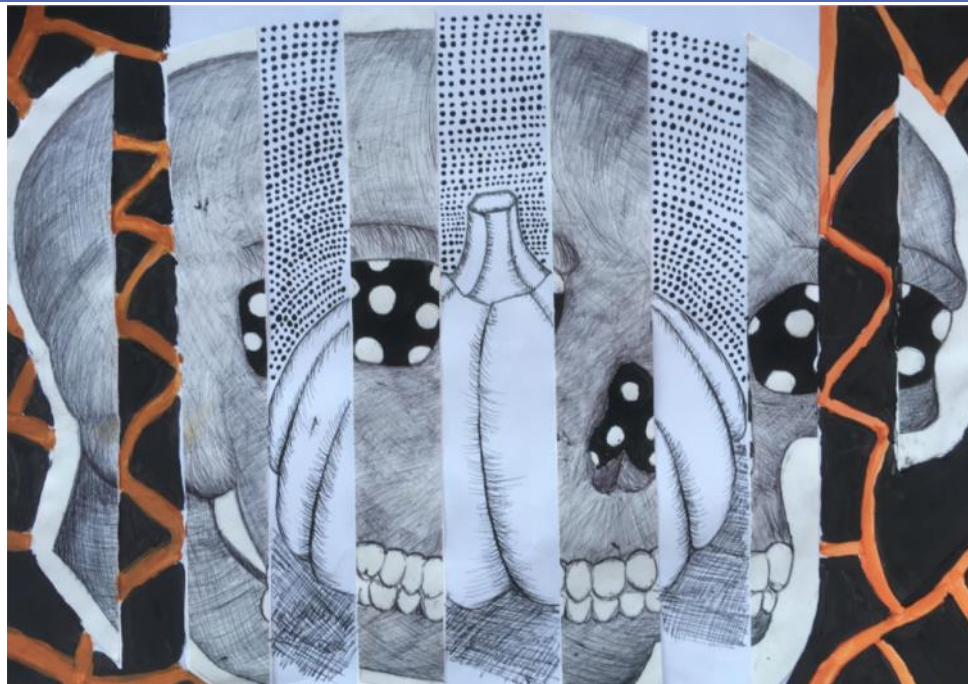
Each student has investigated a very personal theme taking inspiration from bugs and their influence on sculpture and engineering, engaging with contemporary concepts of beauty and the very topical idea of 'fake news' and how 'truth' is constructed.

If you want to see for yourself and help us celebrate the diversity of the arts, please join us next term for our A-level exhibition.



Ms Shepherd writes:

Our year 10 students have made a great start to their Art GCSEs and are producing some fantastic work. Many students are developing confidence in the use of a range of different techniques and are beginning to take a very individual approach to their work, discovering their interests in photography, collage or more traditional painting and drawing. Well done for all your creative work!



Najiba Batanda



Maya Muir



Tamsin Orford-Williams



James Fleming



Celeste Clift

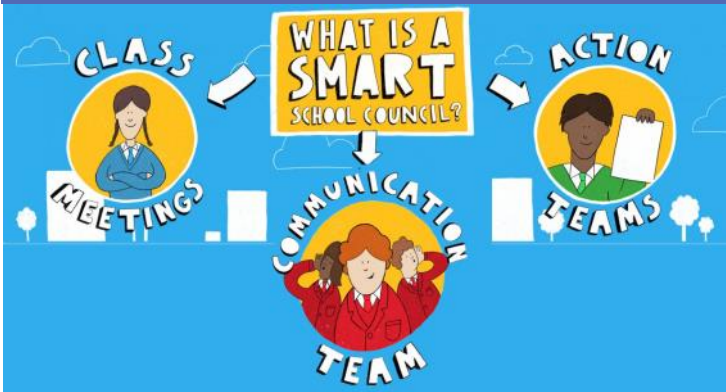


Jenae Feisal



Jenae Feisal

SMART SCHOOL COUNCIL



Mr Varrone writes:

This half-term a new whole school initiative started. It's called Smart School Councils and its aim is simple: to get every student in our school actively engaged in democracy and decision-making.

There are three main elements:

Class Meetings: Run and led by the students. It allows every student to have a say on whole-school issues.

Action Teams: A way in which our students can lead change across our school or start a club to share a passion.

Communications Team: A small group who run the Smart School Council. They help set the questions for the Class Meetings, collate all the answers and make sure everyone knows what the Student Council is doing.

This half-term students ensure their voice was heard by voting on the first Smart School Council meeting. They voted on how the school should cut-down on their use of disposable plastics in school. The four options were:

- Ban plastic bottles
- Fine those who bring disposable coffee cups
- Give up gum (which is made of a plastic)
- Avoid excessive food packaging

More than 500 students voted and the winning option was to avoid excessive food packaging. The Action Team is now consulting with the canteen staff on ways we can make this happen.

If you would like to be part of the Communications Team or start/join an Action Team, please come and find me in P1 to discuss which role would be best suited for you.

EASY FUNDRAISING REMINDER



If you every shop on line do try and remember to use Easyfundrasing.

It is really simple to use, and it won't cost you a penny, but it means that the PSA will be able to collect free donations every time you shop online. The range of shops and services available with Easyfundraising is huge, and growing all the time. It includes Amazon, John Lewis, Booking.com, Gao, Marks & Spencer, Waitrose, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Majestic.

Please visit the website to register or to find out more: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/hwpsa

PSA CALL OUT

To keep informed about PSA events or volunteer for events, please join the mailing list through the PSA page on the school website.

Every parent and carer at Highgate Wood School is automatically a member of the PSA. **We are looking for members to join the committee** as there are committee members whose children have now left the school.

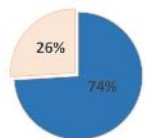
If you think you might be interested do please contact us. We would be very happy to discuss what could be involved. We support the school in many different ways and always need a helping pair of hands. Email us at: hwoodpsa@gmail.com



THE GREAT HIGHGATE WOOD SCHOOL READING SURVEY

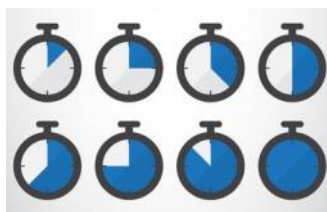
Ms Ford writes:

Through December and January we carried out a survey of reading habits at Highgate Wood School. In total we received 791 responses. 95% were from students with the majority of those being students from Key Stage 3.

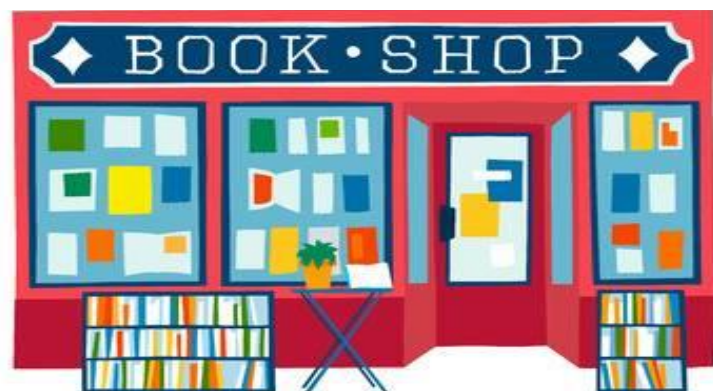


74% of respondents read material of their own choice every day (44%) or 3-4 times a week (30%)

The majority read before bed (61%), during the weekday (47%) and during the evening (41%). Break and lunchtimes were the least popular times with only 11% of respondents reading then.



The majority of respondents (46%) said they read for about half an hour a day with 22% reading for an hour or more each day.



Book shops are the most popular source of reading material (42%), followed by the school library (28%). 24% of respondents are members and users of their local library. The rest either don't have membership or do not visit.



The biggest influence on reading choices are friends and family with 59% of respondents choosing this option. Most respondents (72%) are likely to follow a recommendation from someone they know and like.

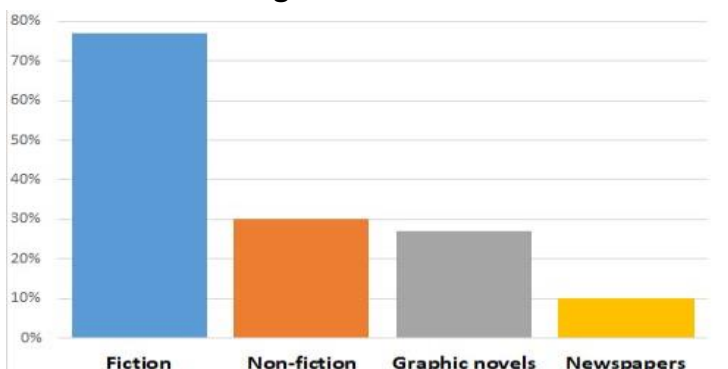


81% of respondents say that enjoyment is very important to them when they read... although 65% of respondents say that they do enjoy reading

67% of respondents say they read and know it's good for them while 29% say they think it's great and they're proud to read. 14% say they wish they were a better reader.



63% of respondents say that dedicated reading time in school is a good or fantastic idea.



The majority (77%) like to read fiction books. The next popular choices were non-fiction books (30%) and graphic novels (27%). The least popular are online newspapers (8%) – paper newspapers are marginally more popular (10%). Only 10% of respondents like to read on a screen – the rest either prefer paper (45%) or don't mind either way.

92% of respondents don't belong to a reading group; 33% think they might like to join one.

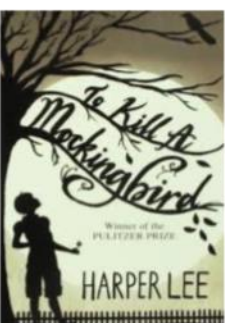
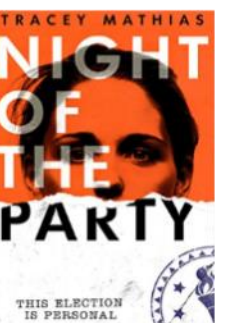
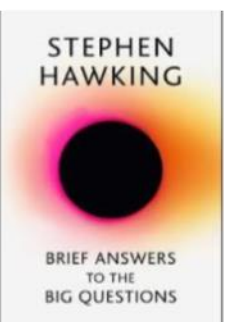
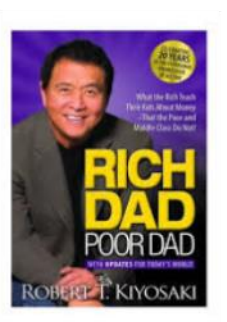
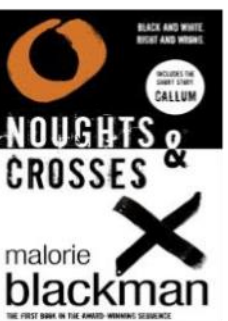
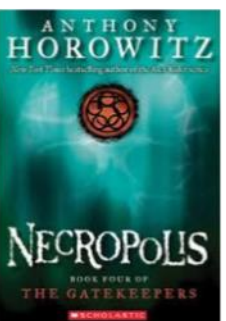
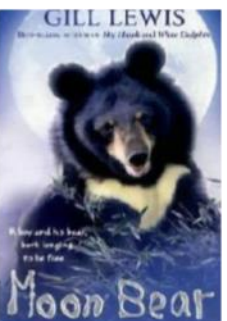
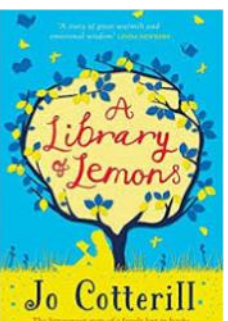
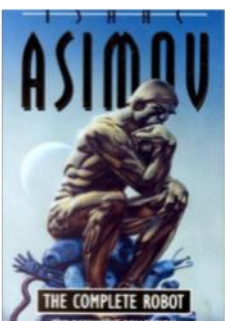
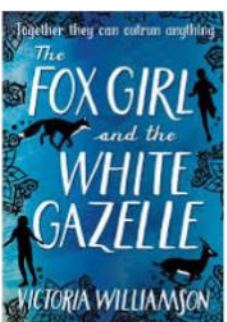
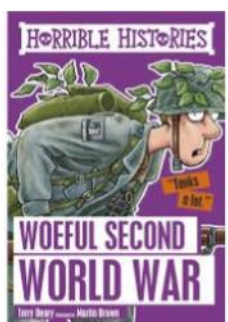
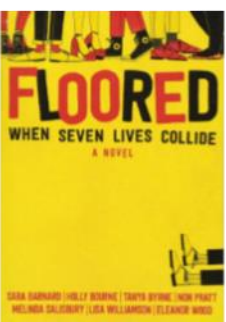
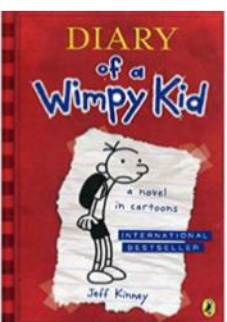
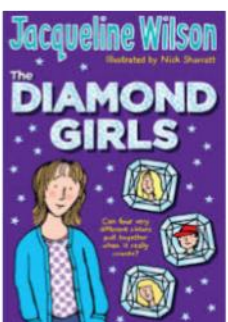
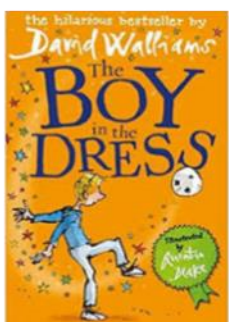
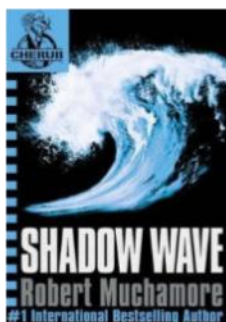
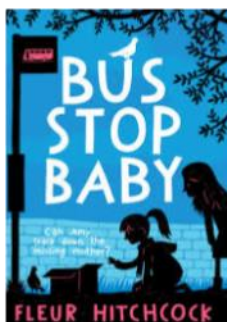
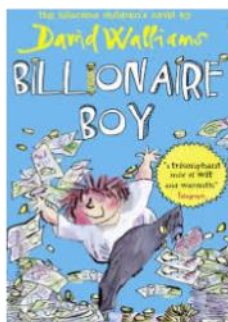
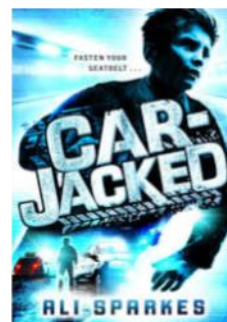
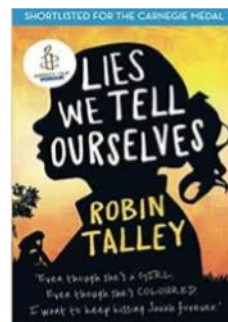
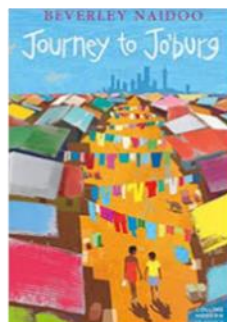
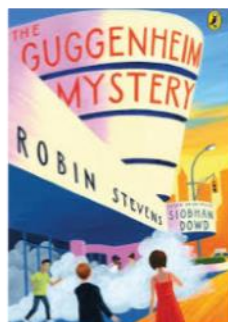
Regarding talking about reading, it's around 50-50 with 52% enjoying these kinds of discussions and 48% preferring not to.

Some of the students' reading recommendations are on the next page.

An Eagle In The Snow was my last book and I would recommend it to anyone who likes learning about soldiers in World War 2. ♦ **Guggenheim Mystery** by Robin Stevens. I think people who like a mystery would like this. ♦ **Journey to Johannesburg** by Beverley Naidoo to my friends and family ♦ **The Exact Opposite of Okay**. Although the language and structure is fairly easy the overall moral and views are quite young adult. Recommend to teenagers especially as it really tackles toxic masculinity and social media at its worst. ♦ **The Lies We Tell Ourselves** by Robin Talley which I recommend to anyone who is interested in reading about Civil Rights about being black, and being gay. ♦ A recent book I've read is **Carjacked** about a boy who gets involved in a car chase and helps a robber. I would recommend this to anyone who likes action and a simple but effective plot. ♦ **Apple and Rain** by Sarah Crossan, if you need some motivation and it's quite relatable for teenagers. ♦ **Billionaire Boy** by David Walliams I recommend to people who enjoy action books. ♦ **Bus Stop Baby**. I would recommend this book to age 10-13 years. ♦ **Cherub Shadow Wave**. It's not really for children so maybe a teen or friend. ♦ **Classroom Assassination** - really funny but its a manga and not many people like reading those because it can look hard to read so instead I would recommend **There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom** by Louis Sachar. It's about a boy and is hilarious. I would recommend this to anyone and everyone. ♦ David Walliams' **Boy in the Dress**. I would recommend it to people who like a story but not too hard to read ♦ **Girls** I would recommend Jacqueline Wilson's **Diamond** to my friends because it is a funny and interesting book ♦ **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: the meltdown** by Jeff Kinney I would recommend to people who like funny books ♦ **Floored**, which I would recommend to those who enjoy stories narrated from different perspectives or read many books with dual narrative. ♦ **Horrible histories : Woeful Second World War** and I would recommend it to my friend Ethan who likes history ♦ I am currently reading a book called **The Fox Girl and the White Gazelle** by Victoria Williamson. It is about two girls who live in the same apartment, one of them has a sick mother and is a thief, and the other one is a refugee. They both end up looking after the same wolf. I would recommend this book to people

who like to have several things happening at once in a story and who enjoy adventure. ♦ **Isaac Asimov: The Golden Robot** sci-fi collection of stories. I would recommend it to people who are interested in science and AI. ♦ **Library of Lemons** by Jo Cotterill I really enjoyed that book. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes to read or write because that's what it's based on. ♦ **Moon Bear** by Gill Lewis, I would recommend the book to people in the range of 11 to 14. ♦ **Necropolis** by Anthony Horowitz and I recommend it to people who like supernatural books in different worlds. ♦ **Noughts and Crosses** by Malorie Blackman. I recommended this book to my mum! ♦ **One of Us is Lying** by Karen Mc Manus to anyone my age or a bit older as it is great! ♦ **Percy Jackson** series by Rick Riordan. I would give this to anyone who have a good interest in ancient Greek and Roman mythology, people who would like a laugh and people who would like a good adventure. ♦ **Ready Player One** is great for Pop-Culture and video game fans ♦ **Rich Dad. Poor Dad**, people inspired with the real estate world and gaining money. ♦ Stephen Hawkins' **Brief Answers to Big Questions**, and is suitable for anyone interested in science. ♦ **Steven Gerrard** I would recommend it to a Liverpool fan ♦ **The Half Bad** series by Sally Green is AMAZING but not too well known. People who like Harry Potter will probably like it. ♦ **The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas I would recommend to anyone because I feel as though it teaches people about the lives of others as well as being an enjoyable book. ♦ The last book I read was **Night of the Party**. It is set in a future where Britain had left the EU and all people not born in the UK were immediately deported. I would recommend it to anyone who is interested by political issues or who enjoys a futuristic dystopian novel. ♦ **The Promised Neverland** by Kaiu Shirai and Pozuka Demizu, and I would recommend it to my parents. ♦ The tenth book in the **Skullduggery Pleasant** series. I would recommend it to anyone who likes fire or magic. ♦ The last book I have read is **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee and I would recommend it to my friend Connor. ♦ I have just read **Wonder** by R J Palacio and I would recommend it to everyone who enjoys a good but emotional story. ♦ **Words In Deep Blue** is written by Cath Crowley and I would recommend it to people who like depressing books about grief and love.

RECOMMENDED READING



#OneReasonWhyImAGlobalFeminist

Highgate Wood School

student campaign

globalfeminist@hws.uk.com

Ms French writes:

Our global feminist group is going from strength to strength. As this issue of Insight is going to press the group are working on their first assembly, celebrating International Women's Day. The social media campaign also continues with a growing number of responses to our Instagram and Twitter feeds from people all over the world.

In the coming weeks we hope to expand our activities and grow our numbers so that more and more students join the group at their regular meetings on Wednesday lunchtime in W13.

None of this would be possible without the work of those who started up the group in September and I am delighted that Olivia B has now received a Jack Petchey Achievement Award in recognition of this.



Her award has allowed the group to design and produce badges to raise their profile and funding to support other activities.

Visit them **@globalfeminists1** on Twitter or **global.feminists** on Instagram.

OUR KITCHEN GARDEN



Ms Went writes:

With the days at last lengthening and the weather turning milder, spring is on the way and it is time to get back out in the Kitchen Garden!

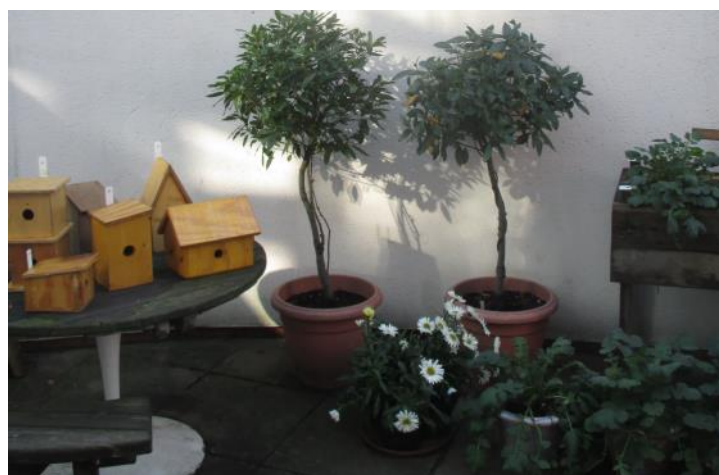
So here is an up-date on the progress so far....

Phase Three is near completion and we are just waiting to purchase a wheelbarrow and outdoor storage for the gardening equipment. We will shortly be moving the planters to their final locations before filling them with the tonne of topsoil that is ready and waiting.. And then the garden will be ready for spring planting.

So, now for a shout out.

I'm hopeful that some of you keen gardeners and allotment lovers might have a few vegetable seedlings surplus to requirement that we could have for planting up the containers. I'm hoping to have a variety of planting to include tomatoes, courgettes, pumpkins, runner beans, salad vegetables...whatever we can squeeze in.

Also, if you are considering up-grading your garden furniture this year and have a wooden (not plastic please) garden bench/ table/ chairs/ parasol (with base if possible) that is still in decent condition and needs a new home, we would be very grateful and delighted to take it off your hands.





Ms Zwicky writes:

Thirty Art and Photography students arrived in Paris on 15th February in glorious sunshine. Our hostel was in Marais, a quaint and very pretty little area of Paris.

On the first day we meandered to the Picasso Museum via the Notre Dame, which was a great start to our recording, gaining an understanding of how one artist developed his practice throughout his career. On the second day we again made the most of the glorious weather and walked to the Musée Rodin; an amazing gallery showcasing how Rodin studied the figure and explored materials to work out the form of each sculpture.

Following this we made a short walk to the Musée d'Orsay, which happened to bring us across French police who were clearly preparing for a protest. The stark difference in how the cultures approach crowd control became apparent as we became familiar with balaclava dressed police with machine guns. That evening we went to the Eiffel Tower where the majority of the group decided to take themselves to the top. The rest got the French cafe experience, a less dramatic but warmer activity.

We got up early the next day to embark on a trip to the Orangerie to experience the display of Monet's water lilies. This quiet space really showcases how display and installation can transform a piece of work. In the afternoon we walked to Montmartre and Sacre Coeur. Though tiredness was showing, the group persevered to the top of the hill and managed to take in the breathtaking view of Paris.



In the evening we then were able to enjoy yet another viewpoint of the city, when we went on a boat trip along the Seine, the highlights of this trip would be the view of the Notre Dame which we only saw fleetingly on the first day.

The last day, involved a visit to the incredible Pompidou Centre museum for contemporary art. Unfortunately the time we had there did not seem enough as we needed to ensure we catch the train back to London in the afternoon.

Overall we worked out that we walked 34 miles over the 4 days, which was quite an achievement. Each day all students were photographing, drawing and noting down their experience ready to then develop into more refined artwork once back in school.

The entire group has been brilliant to take on this trip, and we want to thank them for working with us and help make this trip such a success!

We look forward to try and exhibit their work in a small exhibition in the next half term (date tbc), as well as how these starting points may develop back in London.



LGBT HISTORY MONTH



Mr Varrone writes:

Members of our Skittles club visited the Rio cinema at the beginning of February for an educational screening of Celine Sciamma's 2011 film, *Tomboy*. The award-winning French film tells the story of a 10 year-old tomboy part who moves into a new Paris neighbourhood one summer and experiments with her gender identity.

Tomboy was screened as part of **Into Film's** LGBT History Month programme, which runs every year. The students thoroughly enjoyed this sensitive and thought provoking film. Here are a few of their comments:

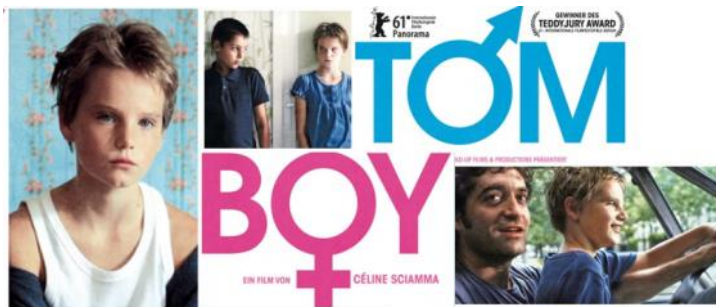
"I thought the trip made me feel warmhearted because of how positive everyone and the film was"

"I loved the trip to watch *Tomboy*! I think it was really interesting to see, and what it's like for those who don't find it easy to be accepted. The end was quite sad but the majority was A-M-A-Z-I-N-G!"

"I LOVED THE MOVIE! It was a great time and the movie had a good message."

"I really liked the movie and meeting other people of the LGBT community."

"*Tomboy* was a great film! (up until the end at least!) Even though the character Laure/Mikkel didn't share their views on LGBTQIA+, the movie still showed LGBTQIA+ ideas such as how it's ok to be different and not to be discouraged."



PATRON OF READING



Ms Ereira writes:

Our Patron of Reading, Keren David, came to meet our Year 7 book club at their first meeting of the New Year. She talked about her path to becoming an author and about the eleven books she has written.

Keren's work is very varied, covering very different subjects and genres, but she says the book she most enjoyed writing was *The Liar's Handbook* because its dishonest central character is so much fun! Her new book, *The Disconnect*, will be out in the spring.... watch this space!

HOMEWORK CLUB



Ms Otchere writes:

Don't forget that all students can use the Learning Resource Centre as a quiet place to study at the end of the school day. It is particularly important for those who are facing exams in the near future but it is open to everyone.

The homework club also provides students with support and guidance on the homework they have been set. Why don't you come along and see if you enjoy working there?



Ms Ward writes:

During February half term, 60 students from Years 9 and 10 enjoyed five days of thrilling skiing on the Pyrenees. They endured a 22 hour drive through France and across the border to Andorra before getting to our destination.

The week started off with all students being assessed by their instructors. The advanced and higher intermediate ski group were quick to head up the mountain more or less straight away and then spent the whole week exploring the resort. The remaining groups mastered being able to stop and turn and before long were up the mountain to try the challenging blue back into the resort.

As the week progressed, all the students developed and improved their technique on the wide blue runs and steeper reds and before long it was time to return home.

Despite the tiredness kicking in, everyone enjoyed their week in the snow which was complemented by a full après-ski programme which included bowling, ice-skating and an epic quiz night.

Thanks to the students for behaving impeccably throughout the trip and making me immensely proud of their achievements. Thanks also to the staff that supported them and made the trip possible.





Mr Grimmett and Mr Ashman write:

Immediately after half-term break we had a student meeting to launch an Eco student action group to address some of the pressing environmental issues that concern so many of us.

As a result of that meeting and the widespread interest in trying to be more environmentally aware and environmentally conscientious we are pleased to announce that Highgate Wood School will now be reapplying for its EcoSchool status (which we last held a few years ago), will be taking in the part in

the Great Big School Clean campaign which runs between 22nd March and 23rd April and is also now involved in the Green Schools Project which will support our EcoSchool work and allow us to review and monitor the progress we are making.

Eliza Buckton and Chris Ochieng in Year 10 have agreed to be co-chairs of the student group and we hope that there will be lots to say in the next issue of Insight.

Assemblies are now taking place with Key Stage 3 groups to highlight the work of the group and to help make the changes that everyone appears to want.

Information about what is happening will be available on our twitter account [@highgateeco](https://twitter.com/highgateeco).



Travel and Transport.

Transport accounts for 26% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions and main sources are petrol and diesel cars. If more people start to use public transport, cycle or walk to school it will make a difference. Walk To School Week is not until May, but there is no reason to wait until then. We can change our habits now. And don't forget the impact of our travels when we go on holiday. Tourism is responsible for nearly one tenth of the world's carbon emissions and has a significant impact on climate change.

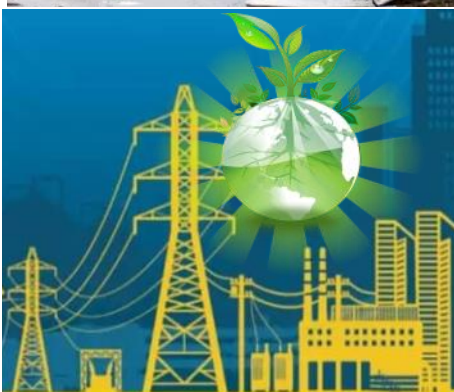


Reduce Waste, Reuse and Recycle.

We all have some way to go to be more mindful of our consumption, our waste and the impact we have on the environment. Just looking around the playground at the end of break or lunch shows how many of us are not as careful as we should be about the rubbish and waste we create. In the summer we are hoping to work with our neighbours to improve the local environment, but it would be good to start that action now. We must all take responsibility for the environment that surrounds us.

Energy

As a school we consume a large amount of energy. Whilst we do have solar panels to provide some of that power, we are far from self-sufficient. We must try to conserve power where we can: switch off lights, close doors to conserve heat, make sure the computer network is not wasting energy. We should also be mindful about things like printing and paper-waste. At home it is easier still to be more environmentally friendly. Why not put on a jumper instead of turn up the heating when it turns cold?





Water

How does conserving water help reduce climate change? By using less water, we don't need to treat and pump so much of it, so we use less energy, chemicals and other resources on additional reservoirs and extra provision. But there are also wider issues. Globally water supply and conservation is a huge issue that must be addressed, and locally the use and supply of plastic water bottles creates significant additional environmental problems. **Please always use re-useable water bottles.**



Food

More and more people are turning to a pescatarian, vegetarian or vegan diets. This is usually because they have looked at the environmental impact of eating meat or dairy products and decided that it is time to change. Simply reducing your meat and dairy intake is positive to the environment, and there are lots of environmentally-friendly alternatives: - beans, pulses, nuts and tofu are great sources of protein and soy milk or oat milk are fine alternatives to dairy milk.



Keep it local if we can

How often do we consider the journey of the things we buy? Food that travels from countries far away has a bigger carbon footprint than food grown locally. And it isn't just food that comes from overseas. Many consumer goods—TVs, mobile phones, shoes and clothes—as well as dry bulk goods, from timber to coal for our power-stations are shipped from overseas. Shipping goods is far better than sending them by air, but it still has an impact on our environment.



Shopping

Most of us have far more consumer products than we need, and that is reflected in some amazing statistics. Around the world more than 70 million cars, 220 million televisions, 1.5 billion smartphones and 80 billion items of clothing and 500 billion plastic water bottles are bought each year. And they are often seen as being “disposable.” For example, three in five clothing items that are purchased are thrown away within a year. Would you be able to live with less “stuff”?



Publicity, Awareness and Social Action

Concerns about the environment are not new, but today there is a new urgency. Greta Thunberg, a Swedish teenager, is one of those who has been highlighting the issue through her powerful speeches telling political leaders to stop ‘sweeping their mess under the carpet for our generation to clean up’. Many young people have now been mobilised to take action, whether that is writing to business and politicians, joining campaigns like EcoSchools or the controversial Youth Strike for Climate. We hope that the work our students embark on over the coming weeks will also help to highlight the issues and bring about positive change.

Ms Went writes:

Food Preparation and Nutrition Practical Exam season has begun. The Year 11 GCSE group have undertaken their mock 3 hour practical exam, with great success.

They arrived at school to prepare ingredients for their cooking marathon at 8am for a prompt start at 8.30. In true Masterchef style, they cook solidly for 3 hours (in exam conditions) to prepare a menu of three separate dishes that they have to create from scratch. This entails the precision cutting of fruit and vegetables, jointing and filleting of whole chickens, filleting whole fish, making noodles and pasta from the raw ingredients, making and shaping bread doughs and many other high level skills too numerous to mention. By so doing they are able to demonstrate their acquired complex cooking skills for their NEA2 - Food Preparation course work.



Issy Matthews: *Coconut and Turmeric Chicken Noodle Soup and Mini Kafir Lime Tarts*



Ezer-Ahern: *Chicken Gyoza*



Isaac Overton Farnham: *Onion Bhajis*



Archie Csajka: *Thai Green Chicken Curry*



Damiano D'Amato: *Vegetarian Sushi*



Sophie Alves: *Sweet and Sour Chicken Balls with Egg Fried Rice*



Caitlin Gillespie: *Snowflake Cake*



Eliya Panayiotou: *Chicken Korma with Naan Bread*



Esra Ozdemir: *Patlicanli Tavuk Kebab (Chicken and Aubergine)*

Here are pictures of a small sample of the beautifully presented dishes that the groups managed to create in the allotted time. And they didn't just look good, they tasted amazing too. I sampled every single one!

MEDIEVAL CASTLES



Ms Harding writes:

Year 7 history students are studying Medieval history, and have been researching Medieval castles. As part of their castle project homework, the students were invited to take part in our model castle building competition. The castles could be made from any materials, for example cardboard, clay, matchsticks, Lego, and even foodstuff to make edible castles!

Thank you very much to the following students for taking part -

Lena Kuyvenhoven, Ella Middleton, Dylan Cervi* , Arden Akalin* , Mia Bar, Joe Hanley, Jivan Banwalt, Hattie Munday, Bercan Aydemir, Chloe Longden, Ruby Lee Connell, Issy Shenker, Daniela Bahar, Sophia Kinder.

The winners will be announced shortly.

** both boys made a delicious castle cake!*

UPCOMING SCHOOL PRODUCTION



Ms Board writes:

The Drama Department are looking forward to this year's school production which will be staged a little later than is normal, on 1st and 2nd May.

Students are already working on a selection of Philip Pullman's Grimm Tales which he adapted from his

favourite original tales from the Brother Grimm. The tales take you into a world of powerful witches, enchanted forest creatures, careless parents and fearless children as they embark on a series of adventures full of magic, gore, friendship and bravery. Tickets will be available shortly.

TRIP TO PICKLED PEPPER BOOKS

Ms Ereira writes

Author Alexandra Sheppard has a couple of things in common with her main character, Helen: she's half-Jamaican, and she comes from Holloway. But there the similarity ends because Helen's father is the Greek god Zeus and her whole family of ancient Greek gods are living incognito in London.

When Helen goes to live with her father – who is masquerading as a university professor - she must do her best to keep the family secret intact... but chaos ensues.

On Friday 18th January, a group of Year 8 girls went out to Pickled Pepper Books to Ms Sheppard and hear about the process of writing her debut novel: *Oh My Gods*. She talked about how much Greek culture is part of our language, giving examples of the Olympic games and phrases such as 'Achilles heel', 'Pandora's box' and 'Midas touch'. She told us how, in *Oh My Gods*, she has updated the Greek gods to fit into our modern world.

Helen's older sister is Aphrodite, goddess of beauty. She's the worst person to have as a sister: never has a bad hair day, won't share her makeup and doesn't get spots. She's a beauty YouTuber. Her half-brother is Apollo, god of the sun and of music. Naturally, he's a DJ in Ibiza while Athena, goddess of intelligence and justice, is a human rights lawyer. The talk was lively and entertaining and left us all eager to read our signed copies of the book. Come and find it in the LRC!



SIXTH FORM CALL OUT FOR BOOKS

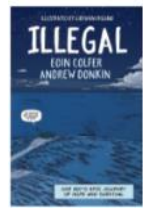
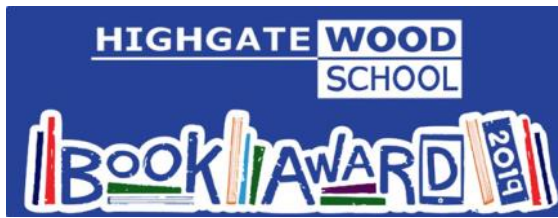


Ms Pinnick writes:

Thank you to those who have already helped us to make a start on our sixth form lending library, donating some fantastic books but also a magnificent bookcase.

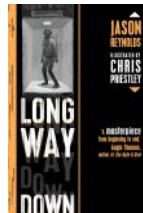
We are keen to build up our stock of fiction so that students are able to have a good choice of books to find something to read for pleasure. I would be particularly happy to receive sets of multiple copies so that the student book groups that have now started to emerge have a range of titles they can pick from. If you are a member of a book club and have some copies of books you have read and can recommend, please drop them off at the Wren office marked for my attention.

We would also welcome any revision guides or books to help with exam preparation. If you have these for Key Stage 4 subjects and GCSEs please could you mark them for the attention of Mr Hartley, otherwise please mark them for me.



Illegal: Eoin Colfer

It's fiction but elements are true, and it's a graphic novel! What's not to like about it? It is heart-breaking yet brings tears of joy.



Long Way Down: Jason Reynolds

Really good book. People interested in poetry would love its verses. The story is innovative and challenges morality.



The Loneliest Girl in the Universe: Lauren James

A blend of genres and a powerful ending. Good for those who love plot twists.



Night of the Party: Tracey Mathias

A serious book but a gripping read. I would recommend it to anyone who likes mysteries and drama.



The Sacrifice Box: Martin Stewart

I loved the characters, the quirkiness and the plot. It is for anyone who enjoys horror or the supernatural



They Both Die at the End: Adam Silvera

You think you know what will happen, and in a sense you do. But you don't really. An emotional ending. Be prepared to cry.



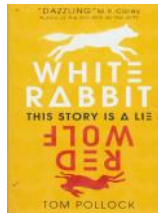
Twelve Nights: Andrew Zurcher

A beautiful book. Perfect for people who like magical worlds and fantasy creations, full of detail and description.



Your Turn to Die: Sue Wallman

A fast paced murder mystery, full of suspense and excitement - and you won't see the plot twist until it happens.



White Rabbit Red Wolf: Tom Pollock

This is a book for people who like action and mathematics. It has a huge twist that you would never expect.



Stranger: Keren David

A fast-paced and gripping story about how we treat strangers, children and those outside the law and excluded from society.

The above student summaries have been selected from student reviews of the shortlisted books.

The results of the 2019 Highgate Wood School Book Award will be announced in the LRC in early March.

METROPOLITAN POLICE LOOKING FOR PLAYERS

NA SCHOOLS & YOUTH FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
13-14 & 15-16 AGES BOYS & GIRLS
WE ARE LOOKING FOR PLAYERS OR TEAMS
CONTACT INSP PAUL DWYER OR PC HARRY MANSBRIDGE
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2019 11-3PM 3G ASTRO TURF OASIS ACADEMY
HADLEY SOUTH STREET ENFIELD EN3 4PX
WITH KICKOFF@3 BPA HAVEN HOSPICE DAMILOLA TAYLOR TRUST

The Metropolitan Police are looking for players and teams to take part in a football tournament in April. Please email Paul.Dwyer@met.police.uk for details.



Mr Grimmett writes:

We had the pleasure of welcoming SexFM back to school for another of their highly engaging and extremely valuable presentations on issues around sex, relationships, consent and contraception.

Especially in the age of mobile communications young people find themselves under so much pressure, and are also at risk of so much confusing and sometimes misleading information about sex and relationships that the work of companies like SexFM are crucial in helping them understand the reality of the teenage world they face.

Year 9s were a real credit to themselves and to the school. They listened attentively and also asked extremely perceptive and intelligent questions. I know they benefitted from it hugely.

Thanks to everyone involved in making it happen.

We hope to repeat the event next year.



POSITIVE CHOICES - RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION



Mr Ashman writes:

You may have already read in the news about the proposed changes to the national Relationships and Sex Education curriculum. Parents and carers of students in Year 9 may also be aware that we have been piloting a programme called Positive Choices that addresses this.

The researchers of the programme, which involves the London School of Tropical Medicine and the Sex Education Forum, would like to discuss Positive Choices with parents. If you would like to be part of that focus group please email me at tas@hws.haringey.sch.uk

Ms Pinnick writes:

It was great to welcome all sixth form students back after the Christmas break. We were also pleased to see so many parents at Parent Consultation Evening. Year 13 sat their mock exams towards the end of January. It is evident from the results that many had started revising from September as we advised. There were some excellent results.

While results are promising in many subjects, the mocks exams also allow staff and students to reflect on the areas of knowledge and application where some may be underperforming and to take action. Some Year 13 students will re-sit a few of their mock examinations in March. A timetable will be issued shortly. We will also issue the timetable for intervention sessions so all students are aware of when these sessions run.

UCAS offers are coming in with universities still making decisions. There were 106 applications this year with offers at an all time high. Offers come from a range of universities including Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kings College London, Leeds, Liverpool, Loughborough, Nottingham, Plymouth, Sheffield, Sussex and UCL. Currently 38 students are awaiting responses. The deadline for replying to UCAS offers is 1st May. There is no need to rush and students have received information in assembly regarding this. We have a number applying for Art Foundation courses and will soon be attending interviews; Mr Astrop is available for extra support with preparing for this. I will provide information about Student Finance to students in an assembly this term and to parents on Wednesday 3rd April at 6pm.

Year 12 will be starting their preparation for life 'Beyond Post 16' this term. Approximately 20 students will attend a conference at Highgate School on 11th March to find out more about applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. We are also taking the whole of Year 12 to the UCAS exhibition at the London Excel Centre on Tuesday 26th March. This provides an opportunity to meet UCAS experts and hundreds of university representatives, employers, and gap year specialists.



In addition, this year we will launch the use of Unifrog, a destinations platform which helps students to research apprenticeships, universities, gap year activities and write CVs and their Personal Statement for UCAS. Year 12 will receive a demonstration later this year and we will provide information for parents too.

The logo for Unifrog, featuring the word 'unifrog' in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font.

The Complete Destinations Platform

Make it easy for your students to find and apply for the best courses and apprenticeships for them.

Attendance

There is much research, including from the DFE, on the link between attendance and attainment at school. Students with attendance of 95% or higher do achieve higher attainment. We ask that parents continue to support us in getting their child to school every day on time.

We continue to monitor students' attendance on a weekly basis. There are some who need to improve their attendance and punctuality. For Year 13, in particular, there are only 30 lessons per subject until the examinations start so EVERY lesson counts. Both Year 13 and Year 12 are reminded of the requirement to attend every Tutorial session. If students are too ill for school, parents should call and speak to Ms Gordon (extension 239) before 9am on each day of absence. We do not authorise routine medical appointments during the school day; these should be made outside of lessons. Hospital consultations will be authorised providing we receive a copy of the letter from the hospital.



Ms Eades writes:

Instead of our usual session with our Debate Mate mentors, on January 28th 12 Debate Mate students travelled to Hornsey School for Girls to take part in the first round of Urban Debate League.

They debated on two motions – ‘this house believes that the rise of digital technologies (e.g. mobile phones, social media and online games) have done more harm than good’, and ‘this house believes that schools should teach arts subjects (English, art, music) through modern rather than classical works’. This second motion was selected by the late Alan Rickman, who was a huge supporter of Debate Mate’s work.

We’ll have to wait and see where our results put us in the national leader board! Another 12 students will have the chance to represent the school at Urban Debate League round 2 in March.

The students who were involved were Jasneet Bains (8G), Natalia Bloch (8I), Amelia Brady (8T), Luka Elson (8E), Kate Freeman (8G), Isi Iannaccone-White (8S), Alvina Jakupi (8T), Thomas McDermott (8T), Emil Norrman-Hijazi (8S), Noah Norrman-Hijazi (8W), Yumi Shemesh (8E), and Mia Sowerbutts (8E).



Ms Eades writes:

Over 500 students from across Haringey participated in this year’s Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, but only 14 made it to the regional final held at Gladesmore on February 6th.

Representing HWS were Alice Jenkins (10T) and Daisy Daman Underwood (10E), who both gave utterly incredible speeches about issues really personal to them both. Daisy spoke about negative attitudes towards homelessness, while Alice spoke about her experiences of allergies. Special congratulations also go to Ms Bielby’s daughter Amelia who was there representing Fortismere.

After all students had been presented with awards by Haringey’s deputy mayor, Councillor Shelia Peacock, the top three were announced – and Alice placed 3rd in Haringey!

The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge for 2019-20 will open in October for next year’s year 10 students.





Ms Birnie writes:

6th Form students from Year 12 and 13 competed with over 20 schools in a weekend of debate in January at the Model United Nations Conference organised by Woodhouse.

Our students were delegates of the United Kingdom and Iran and debated a whole range of issues from the humanitarian crisis in both Syria and Yemen to global transgender rights, gender equality and the Iran nuclear deal. Students argued their country's position in the committees and then worked with others to pass resolutions as to what they believed the United Nations should do to intervene to secure global rights and justice.

All our delegates did immensely well, especially those that had never been part of Model UN before. Competing against other great schools, including some selective ones, Highgate Wood School led the way, winning the best delegation award! Well done, we are very proud of you all.



OXFORD SCHOOLS' DEBATING ROUND

Ms Eades writes

Visitors from 25 schools including Harrow, Camden School for Girls, Westminster and South Hampstead joined our debating students for two rounds of debating organised by the Oxford Union.

Although neither of our teams progressed to the finals day in Oxford, our four speakers did an absolutely fantastic job and were a real credit to the school. We entered a 6th form team: James Lenton and Mia Popovic and a year 11 team: Selin Tas and Romily Gosling

Students debated two motions – 'this house would ban single sex schools' and 'this house would ban climate change denial'. Enthusiasm for HWS debating is growing this year, and we hope to enter even more students next year!

The event would not have happened without my amazing team of volunteers, who also deserve a shout out in Insight!

The team of volunteers were:

Nancy Levy-Vegh, Rosa Georgiou, Dani Weiss, Katya Levine Breslin, Adi Hamlyn, Zain Ameen, Jah'ran Douglas-Jones, Aoife Davey Gunn, Zandile Mathebula-Jonah, Amy Taflik, Clementine Gosling, Mae Mathews, Natalia Bloch, Emil Norrman-Hijazi, Noah Norrman-Hijazi and Isi Iannaccone-White.

KEY DATES

Year 10 Work Experience	4th - 8th March
Comic Relief (Red Nose) Day	Friday 15th March
Year 11 Mock Exams 2	18th—22nd March
Year 7 Parents Consultation Evening	Tuesday 26th March
End of Spring Term	3:10pm Friday 5th April
Easter Holidays	8th— 22nd April
Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening	Tuesday 30th April
School Production	1st and 2nd May
End of summer half term	Friday 25th May

SPRING 2019

Monday 7th Jan	Term Starts
18th - 22nd Feb	Half term break
Friday 5th April	Term Ends

SUMMER 2019*

Tuesday 23rd April	Term Starts
27th — 31st May	Half term break
Friday 19th July	Term Ends

AUTUMN 2019*

Monday 2nd Sept.	Term Starts*
21st - 25th October	Half term break
Thursday 19th Dec	Term Ends

* Provisional



The school calendar is available on-line at www.hws.uk.com

Keep informed

Find out what is going on at Highgate Wood School and keep up with our news

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www.hws.uk.com

follow us on twitter

twitter.com/highgatewood

Insight is available on-line at www.hws.uk.com