



Easter Newsletter April 2019



Highfield
Leadership Academy

It has been an incredibly busy Spring term at Highfield Leadership Academy and there is a lot of fantastic news to share with you in this Easter Newsletter. I hope it will give you a flavour of the many opportunities on offer for all of our wonderful pupils. My pride in our pupils and our school community continues to grow with every week that goes by and I feel privileged to lead this school.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Mrs Bowie and Mrs Marsden. Both senior leaders have served the school for many years and worked tirelessly to support pupils of Highfield Leadership Academy. We thank them sincerely for their hard work and wish them all the very best in their new roles. Miss Pepper has joined the Senior Leadership Team on secondment from Eden School in Manchester and Miss Pendelbury will be joining us full-time after Easter as the Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Standards. They both come with strong track records of school improvement and will be great additions to our team.

There are several other staff changes to tell you about. Mr Charlton is leaving us to take on a new challenge and Mr Sibson will be replacing him until the end of Summer term, in the first instance. After the Easter holidays, we also welcome Miss Dewhurst – our new Director of Learning for Mathematics. I know that they are all looking forward to being part of the Highfield Leadership Academy team and are eager to support us on the next phase of our journey.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP

Our pupils are given the opportunity to take part in a diverse programme of events to grow character and to inspire charitable and social action. Since Christmas, pupils have taken part in a number of trips and we have welcomed many visitors to our school to work with pupils.

Careers programme



This term, our programme of careers education and advice has included a 'World of Work Day' event where seven of our former pupils returned to the classroom for the day to share their experiences of education, training and employment since graduating from Highfield. National charity Young Enterprise also delivered a session on business skills to arm pupils with the confidence, knowledge and skills to succeed in the workplace. During the programme, Year 10 pupils took part in their own 'The Apprentice' style challenge adopting the role of

business leaders to learn some of the skills needed to run a successful business, including negotiation skills, sales, communication, manufacturing and business strategy. Our Year 8 pupils also visited Blackpool Pleasure Beach to take part in a Future Careers and Changing Horizons event led by the Civil Service. Meanwhile, Year 11s had mock career interviews with a range of employers and Year 10 pupils had a visit from Westing House Electrical Company to talk about careers in nuclear power.



International Women's Day



Year 8, 9 and 10 girls took part in events to celebrate International Women's Day. We held workshops for Year 10 pupils to reflect on gender balance as part of the day's #BalanceForBetter theme. They spoke about tackling the prejudices and gender stereotypes both young women and men face. Our pupils also participated in the first-ever Fylde Coast International Women's Day Festival at Blackpool Sixth Form College where they met representatives of more than 30 local businesses, with the aim of spurring them on to future success. A number of girls also attended the Sharp Futures Digital Divas event in Manchester, celebrating successful women working in creative digital and technology.

RSC partnership

Two GCSE drama students were given the opportunity of a lifetime to star in the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) touring production of Romeo and Juliet. They acted in four scenes of the play at Blackpool Grand Theatre alongside members of the RSC's professional company. Our pupils were chosen to appear as part of the school's involvement with the RSC Associate Schools Programme.



Young Engineers competition



Last week, we were delighted to see Highfield pupils beat off tough competition from 16 other local schools to win the Blackpool Gazette's Young Engineers 2019 competition. The competition, which was organised by Blackpool and the Fylde College, saw teams of 13 to 15-year-old pupils design and construct a syringe pump operated digger. The team of four Highfield pupils scooped the top prize of £10,000, which is to be used by the school for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities.

Community Award winners

Our pupils have been recognised for their voluntary work helping older people in Blackpool to become more internet savvy. The Silver Surfers project aims to help older people boost their confidence when going online and to help overcome social isolation. Our fantastic team of Year 9 Highfield Helpers received special recognition in Blackpool Coastal Housing's Community Awards for marking a positive difference to the lives of local residents.

Young Chef finalists

Earlier this week two Highfield pupils made it through to the finals of the Reg Johnson Young Chef Schools Competition, which are being judged by celebrity chefs Nigel Haworth and Paul Heathcote MBE. Paul Heathcote commended the girls' Goosnargh duck – the dish that helped them to secure a place in the final.

National Citizen Service

We welcomed Dave Todd from the National Citizen Service to our school this week to present 30 pupils with awards for successfully completing the NCS personal and social development programme.

I would like to thank Mr Hooper and Mrs Thompson for making these opportunities possible. **Congratulations to all of our pupils for their wonderful achievements this term.**

READING MATTERS!

This term, we celebrated World Book Day and were delighted to see so many of our Year 7 pupils take part by dressing up as a character from their favourite book. Our pupils also decorated their form room doors as a book cover and their teachers read parts of their favourite books to them throughout the day. At Highfield Leadership Academy, we know that reading supports cultural capital and helps our pupils in every aspect of their learning. **We expect every pupil to have a reading book with them every day. Please make sure your child has a good book with them every day when we come back after the holidays!**

FOLLOW HIGHFIELD ON TWITTER

We recognise the importance of celebrating the many achievements of our talented pupils. We regularly post about our pupils' achievements and share news about the school on our Twitter account. You can follow the school on Twitter @HighfieldLA.

CHARITY EVENT AND LENT COLLECTION

To end this term, we have focused on two charity events that are very important to us:

- ★ **Anti-bullying Campaign** - all Year 7 pupils organised and took part in a charity fun run and a number of activities that focused on the themes of respect, inclusivity and friendship to raise money for the NSPCC. During the campaign, pupils learnt what to do in the event of a bullying incident and were encouraged to talk to parents and staff if they are worried about bullying. We have a school mascot, Buddy Bill, who aims to give pupils the confidence to speak up and stamp out all forms of bullying.

- ★ **Food Drive** - during Lent, we have been collecting toiletries, food supplies and clothes for Blackpool Food Bank (@BlackpoolFood on Twitter) to support members of our community who are in need of urgent help. All donations have been gratefully received and demonstrate our STAR value of Service to communities. Thank you for helping us to help others.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY MATTER!

Congratulations to all of our pupils who have achieved excellent attendance this week. A particular mention must go to our Star Citizens who enjoyed an Easter Brunch for 100% attendance, zero negative behaviour points and never being late to school for the whole of this half term. More than 150 pupils were rewarded this week and we hope many more pupils will be rewarded next half term!

YEAR 11 – GCSE EXAMS 2019

Year 11 GCSE exams begin on 30th April with the GCSE Art exam. All pupils have a personalised exam timetable and full details of all exams can be found on the school website.

Thank you to all Year 11 parents who have attended the parents' evenings this term. We really do appreciate your support and know that it will make a difference to your child's success in their exams.



Year 11 **Easter revision sessions** are running throughout the Easter holidays. Please encourage your child to attend as many as possible and to study hard during the break. *It will be worth it!*

Easter revision timetable

Monday 8th April	Science & English	9:30 – 11:30 11:45-13:45	Monday 15th April	Science, English & iMedia	9:30 – 11:30 11:45-13:45
Tuesday 9th April	Maths & English	9:30 – 11:30 11:45-13:45	Tuesday 16th April	English, French, Computer Science & NCFE PE	9:30 – 11:30 11:45-13:45
Wednesday 10th April	Maths, English & Art	9:30 – 11:30 11:45-13:45	Wednesday 17th April	Geography, History, NCFE PE & iMedia	9:30 – 11:30 11:45-13:45
Thursday 11th April	Maths, English, Art & Food	9:30 – 11:30 11:45-13:45	Thursday 18th April	Maths & English	9:30 – 11:30 11:45-13:45
Friday 12th April	Art, Food & RE	9:30 – 11:30 11:45-13:45	Friday 19th April	CLOSED	

After the Easter break, Year 11 revision sessions will continue to run every day at lunchtime and after school (**refreshments will be provided for after school sessions**). We have set up a rewards package to incentivise pupils to join our valuable revision sessions.

We are really impressed by the hard work and dedication shown by our Year 11 pupils. We urge all Year 11 pupils to keep up their good work as they head into these final few weeks and we wish them all the very best of luck in their exams!

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please contact **Mrs Buchanan**, Head of Year 11.

THANK YOU AND A LITTLE REMINDER...

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for your support in our drive for high standards. It makes me very proud to see our pupils looking so smart in their full school uniform and PE kit. I wish to take this opportunity to ask for your support in resolving any issues with your child's uniform over the Easter break. When pupils return on 23rd April I expect them all to be wearing the correct uniform, including school shoes not

trainers. I want them all to feel PROUD of how they look in their full uniform. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your child's Head of Year.

It is also very pleasing to see so many of them coming to school with all of the equipment that they need to be ready to learn. As a reminder, all pupils should have **pens, pencils, a ruler, highlighter pens, their planner and a reading book** every day. Pencil cases and equipment will be provided for pupils where necessary when we return from the Easter break and will be available for sale through their Form Tutor and available to pay on ParentPay.

Please remind your child that any **phone or earphones** seen in school during the school day will be confiscated and will need to be collected by an appropriate adult.

Please can I also remind you that pupils should not have any type of **fizzy or high-energy drink** in school. Any pupil found in possession of these items will have them confiscated.

Please can I ask that you help us to maintain these high standards throughout the summer term and kindly let us know if there are any issues.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 23 rd April	School reopens after Easter holiday
Monday 6 th May	School closed for May Day
Tuesday 7 th May	Year 8 Options Evening
Wednesday 8 th May – Friday 10 th May	Year 8 Residential to Borwick Hall
Thursday 9 th May	Year 7 Parents Evening (4.00pm- 7.00pm)
Monday 13 th May	GCSE Exams start
Monday 20 th May	Year 9 Visit to Westing House
Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May	School closed for May half term
Monday 3 rd June	School reopens

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope you have enjoyed this round up of an extremely busy Spring term at Highfield Leadership Academy. I am very proud of everything that our pupils achieve and especially of how well they represent themselves, our school and our community.

Our leaders and staff are working very hard to transform the culture of the school with a stronger emphasis on rewards for demonstrating our STAR values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect. Over the last half term, we have awarded thousands of achievement points and given pupils opportunities to take part in a number of memorable activities. As part of this, an increased number of reward postcards have also been sent home. This week, all our pupils with 100% attendance and punctuality and zero behaviour points received a Star Citizens Award followed by an Easter Brunch. We have also launched an incentive programme for our Y11 pupils to attend additional intervention sessions after school, at weekends and over the holidays to ensure they are exam ready.

We continue to receive very strong support and challenge from Star Academies, the multi-academy trust that we are part of. Their support is helping us to move forward rapidly, particularly around behaviour, rewards, teaching, curriculum and outcomes.

The school is moving forward. The new behaviour system is having a strong impact. Pupils' behaviour is becoming more positive each week, which is also demonstrated by the data we collect on behaviour. The vast majority of pupils are complying with our high standards and are able to self-regulate, which is very positive. We are now putting in place screening checks for struggling pupils to identify any potential barriers to behaviour and learning.

We carry out climate and learning walks every lesson to monitor the effectiveness of behaviour for learning and teaching to ensure that all pupils are progressing at the expected rate. These walks show that learning continues to improve. Last week, we held a teaching and learning training session after school for all staff. The session was led by our own teachers and was part of our ongoing staff training and development programme. The evening was a huge

success, which underpinned the importance of planning for progression in order to secure strong outcomes for our pupils.

I am very grateful to all of our staff for their dedication and commitment to ensuring that our pupils get the very best experience and support during their time at Highfield Leadership Academy. We are all working hard to make sure that our pupils have the best possible chance of success.

Finally and most importantly, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of your child and our school. Your support makes a huge difference and we value it immensely. In the coming months, we will be looking at many more opportunities where parents and carers can become involved in the life of the school and experience the many wonderful opportunities that are being afforded to your children.

We look forward to welcoming pupils safely back to school on 23rd April 2019.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter!

Andrew Galbraith
Principal