



## Communication

### • Highfield Leadership Academy

I am pleased to inform you that Highfield Leadership Academy is making rapid progress as part of Tauheedul Education Trust. This has been further endorsed by the Department for Education this week. They were particularly impressed with the:

- The quality of leadership and management and their drive and commitment to both the school and local community.
- Behaviour for learning
- Improving attendance rates
- Assessment information driving rapid improvements.
- Safeguarding and personal development, behaviour and welfare provided for our children.
- Encouraging forecasts for this year's summer results due to ambitious targets and improved teaching.

The next stage in our journey to Outstanding is to review the current infrastructures within school. This process will continue to be reviewed throughout this academic year. I will update you regularly throughout the process. I would like to remind you that parents are welcome to my weekly coffee mornings.

### • Admission Arrangements 2019/20

Parents who wish to view the determined admission arrangements for 2019 /20 academic year for year 7 admissions for Highfield Leadership Academy can do so by accessing it on the school's website at [www.highfieldleadershipacademy.com](http://www.highfieldleadershipacademy.com)

### • BBC Question time

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March the BBC 1 flag ship current affairs programme Question Time will be filmed at Highfield. This is a huge privilege. If you require tickets you must apply via the BBCs website [www.bbc.co.uk/questiontime](http://www.bbc.co.uk/questiontime) and click on "be in the audience".

### • 25-day Easter Attendance Challenge

At Highfield we value the importance of attendance and recognise the direct link between good attendance and progress. As a result, we have many attendance initiatives across the academy such as attendance challenges, certificates, congratulatory letters and attendance raffles.

Each half term we run an attendance challenge, this challenges all pupils to achieve 100% attendance during specified dates. The challenge this half term is the '25 day Easter Attendance Challenge'. We have challenged all pupils to attend every school day between Monday February 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Those pupils who are successful in the challenge will be invited to watch a film on the last day of term.

Year 9, 10 and 11 will be able to watch a film rated '12' and Year 7 and 8 will be able to watch a film rated 'PG'.

We are an inclusive school and wish to support and nurture all pupils. We realise that there may be exceptional circumstances that have prevented pupils from attending the Academy, in such cases please contact your child's Head of Year who will be able to liaise with you over whether this qualifies as an exceptional circumstance. Thank you for your support in raising attendance and progress.

- **19<sup>th</sup> February - 'Commonwealth Voices' competition launch**

Highfield Leadership Academy will be participating in 'Commonwealth Voices,' a Lancashire-wide spoken word performance poetry competition for secondary schools. The competition draws on the theme for this year's Commonwealth Day and Heads of Government Meeting – "Towards a Common Future" – and invites Lancashire's young people to voice their vision for a better and brighter tomorrow. Pupils will have the opportunity to explore priorities that have relevance across the curriculum, including fairness and equality, safety and security, environmental sustainability and prosperity. Competition entries will be coordinated through the academy. Pupils must prepare a video performance piece of no longer than three minutes to address their chosen priority, which we will then upload as an unlisted YouTube video and submit to the competition's organisers.

The competition has been arranged in conjunction with the Rt Hon the Lord Shuttleworth, KG, KCVO and has been endorsed by Blackpool Council and other key local authorities across Lancashire. After shortlisting takes place in March, six finalists will be invited to perform live in front of a prestigious judging panel at the Lancashire Civic Leaders' Commonwealth Celebration Event on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. The winning school will receive £600, with cash prizes also available for two runners-up. Pupils securing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will each receive an Android Tablet.

We hope you will encourage your child to enter 'Commonwealth Voices.' You can find out more information about the competition, and what spoken word performance poetry involves, on the competition's website: [www.commonwealthvoices.com](http://www.commonwealthvoices.com)

- Week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Report Cards will be sent home
- LIPA trip (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts) x 15 Year 10/11 pupils and Mrs Marr & Mr Hooper
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Parent coffee morning with Mrs Helen Mackenzie – 09:30-10:30am
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March – BBC 1 Flag ship current affairs programme Question Time will be filmed at Highfield. This is a huge privilege. If you require tickets you must apply via the BBC's website [www.bbc.co.uk/questiontime](http://www.bbc.co.uk/questiontime) and click on "be in the audience".
- **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Year 9 Parents' Evening (4:00-7:00pm). Sorry for any inconvenience due to the change of date.**
- 8<sup>th</sup> March – Grand Theatre – RSC Associate School Programme – performance of Macbeth (Matinee and evening)
- 12<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> March – Assessment week for Years 7-10
- 12<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March Year 11 Mock exams
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> March Krakow, Poland trip x 30 pupils with Mr Hyams, Mrs Marsden & Miss Fitzpatrick
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Easter Brunch for Year 11 pupils – details to follow

## *STARs of the Week*

BIG congratulations to the following pupils who are our STARs of the week: -

Year 7 – Sameer & Coby, Year 8 – Amalia & William, Year 9 – Finlay & Emily, Year 10 – Tom & Abigail, Year 11 – Tia & Joshua



- Harry Potter World in Watford
- Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds
- Year 11 have requested events and training days focusing on Life Skills. These will take place after the exams.

### • **Year 11 - National Citizen Service Programme**

I am delighted to let you know that this term year 11 pupils will be given the opportunity to sign up to National Citizen Service (NCS), a government-funded programme for 15-17 year olds. Working through physical, personal and creative challenges, this once-in-a-lifetime experience empowers young people to build skills and confidence to get ahead in work and life, whilst engaging with their local area.

The Challenge, the country's largest provider of NCS, is delivering 1000's of places across the Summer 2018. It is an 18-day programme set up to develop new skills throughout the entire process with the first two parts being residential, with all meals, kit and accommodation provided. First, teams develop their leadership and teamwork skills by working with some of the best outdoor instructors in the UK, enabling them to create friendships and build confidence. After a short break, young people return for phase two, where they stay away from home in accommodation provided and gain new skills. Finally, teams have the unique opportunity to design, pitch and deliver their own social action project. Then they graduate, receive a signed certificate from the Prime Minister and join the graduate programme, The Challenge Society.

The programme is worth over £1000 per head, but as it is government backed, they only ask for a maximum of £50 for a young person to take part with financial assistance available when needed. At our school, The Challenge are also offering an early applicants' discount of £30 when applying via paper application or online by Monday 5th March 2018. The application fee covers all accommodation, food, transport, and specialist kit for the residential parts of the programme.

Representatives from NCS are speaking at a Year 11 assembly on Monday 26th February 2018, during which your young person will have the opportunity to express their interest in the programme.

For more information, visit [NCSTHECHALLENGE.ORG](http://NCSTHECHALLENGE.ORG) where you will also be able to book a place on the website.

We highly recommend this unique and valuable opportunity and hope you will encourage your child to take part.

### • **Reminder**

Pupils who are taken out of school during term times to go on unauthorised holidays may be subject to a fixed penalty notice. All holiday requests must be placed on the holiday form obtained from reception and returned to reception. Parents will then be notified in writing of the decision. Holiday request forms must be submitted 4 weeks prior to the holiday and will only be approved under exceptional circumstances.

### • **Parent Drop-In Sessions**

Our parent drop-in sessions continue to run every Tuesday 9.00-10.00am and every Thursday 3:20-4:20pm. If you have any concerns or pupil issues pop in to the academy reception and Mrs Benson will meet you on either day between those times.

### • **Lost Property**

If your child has lost an item of school uniform/jacket/bag in the academy, we hold a Lost Property Collection every Friday afternoon from 3pm to 4pm in Reception. Please do come in and check as there is a lot of 'lost property' that has no names. All items that have been named will be given back to pupils.