



Communication

A message from the Executive Principal

Dear Parent/Carers

We have had a truly outstanding remembrance commemoration in the academy this morning. It was a pleasure to welcome governors and visitors into our proceedings and all of our students were an absolute credit both to yourselves and the academy. Their understanding of the sacrifice that so many people made to ensure that we live in freedom today is truly amazing. I am aware that a number of young people are involved in commemorations throughout the weekend and I wish them well. I have included a poem called 'The inquisitive mind of a child' which I felt really encapsulates how young people question.

The Inquisitive Mind of a Child By Anonymous

Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in the town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
For the men who marched away.
But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
Why not a beautiful rose?
Because, my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.
But why are the poppies so red? Mummy,
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child,
The blood that our soldiers shed.
The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.
Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.
But why, Mummy are you crying so?
Your tears are giving pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.

I was delighted with the response to the careers convention this week. Many parents and young people attended to take advantage of the wealth of information and support available. My thanks go to Mr Hooper and Mrs Marsden for their organisation and management of this event. If anyone has any questions as a result of attending please get in touch with Mr Hooper.

As we look ahead to the next couple of weeks, we are working hard to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning and the way in which young people begin to take responsibility for their learning are at the centre of all that we do. I would urge family at home to ensure that your young people spend enough time to complete or extend tasks rather than just 'having a go'.

Once again, do ensure that you contact key members of staff if you require any further information or need to speak to someone.

With kind regards

Mrs Helen Mackenzie OBE

Important Notices

- **Forthcoming Events**

Week beginning 12th November – Anti-Bullying week

Monday 12th November – Odd socks day for Anti Bullying Week

Wednesday 14th November – Children in need Big Bake Sale

Thursday 29th November – Presentation Evening for last year's Year 11

Thursday 13th December 6.00-7.00pm – Carol Service at St Mary's Church

Thursday 20th December 11.45am-1.15pm – Christmas Tea Party at the Academy for the elderly and local community groups

Parent Evening Dates

Please note the following dates for forthcoming parent's evenings so that you can update your calendars!

Year 11 Parents evening Thursday 17th January 4.00-7.00pm

Year 10 Parents evening Thursday 24th January 4.00-7.00pm

Year 9 Parents evening Thursday 7th February 4.00-7.00pm

Year 8 Parents evening Thursday 28th February 4.00-7.00pm

Year 7 Parents evening Thursday 9th May 4.00-7.00pm

Christmas is fast approaching and the festive period offers an opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment to serving the wider community. Therefore, we will be collecting food for hampers for local residents living in sheltered accommodation hats, scarfs, gloves and toiletries for Streetlife, and Christmas gifts for young carers aged between 11-16. More details will follow next half term.

Children in Need

Here at Highfield Leadership Academy we encourage our young people to embrace opportunities to serve others; in doing so we aim to help them foster an appreciation and sense of responsibility for the environment and the community. Therefore, we are delighted to announce that our Pupil Leaders and Pupil Volunteers have requested to organise an event to raise money for the BBC Children in Need charity.

On Wednesday 14th November our Academy community will be hosting a Big Bake Sale. Pupils are invited to bring cakes, buns and biscuits into the Academy that will be sold to raise money for this important cause. Pupils and staff will have the opportunity to buy some of these treats during break and dinner time.

- **Careers**

Excellence Programme

On Tuesday 13th November, Pete Wright from Blackpool Sixth Form will be coming to speak to a targeted group of Year 11 pupils about their Excellence Programme

Young Enterprise

On Wednesday 14th November, Young Enterprise will be delivering to our Year 8 pupils as part of their PSHE drop down day. The session entitled 'I have a dream' will help pupils consider their personal dreams and aspirations and relate this to how much it will cost in reality. They will then have an opportunity to discuss potential salaries across the UK for specific jobs.

Drop ins Thursday 15th and Friday 16th November

Lytham Sixth will be running a drop in for all Year 11 pupils in the common room on Thursday lunchtime, with Blackpool Sixth Form College running a drop in for all Year 11 pupils on Friday lunchtime in the common room.

- **Remembrance Acts**

Highfield remembers

We fell silent on this morning as pupils and staff stood together to remember fallen heroes in an Act of Remembrance. Pupils reflected on the meaning of Remembrance Day and remembered the sacrifices made by those in the armed services during a ceremony at the school.

Year 10 pupil Faye Patterson gave a moving rendition of The Last Post on her cornet and representatives from each year group gathered with Executive Principal Helen Mackenzie and Principal Louise Riley to lay wreaths before a

Remembrance Day display produced by pupils, including not only the traditional red poppy but, as requested by the pupils, also purple and white flowers to remember the need for peace and the animals that died in war. Senior Prefects and members of the Student Council also led the period of reflection as the whole school observed a two-minute silence. Pupils participated in the Royal British Legion's Thank You 100 campaign, which encourages us to discover how Generation 100 not only made sacrifices for our freedoms but were great innovators in the fields of art, media and medical advances. They also designed peace posters and peace pebbles.

Earlier in the week members of the pupil's volunteering group Highfield Helpers worked with a team from Blackpool Coastal Housing and Blackpool and the Fylde College to deliver a special Silver Surfers Digital Remembrance workshop. On Friday the group joined the Friends of Highfield Road Park to help plant 1000 knitted poppies at their act of Remembrance.

Helen Mackenzie OBE, Executive Principal at the Highfield Road School, said:

"We have woven acts of remembrance into many areas of the curriculum in the run up to Armistice Day including PHSE lessons, as we feel it is important to involve and encourage all the children to remember the sacrifices made by the generation before them. We have spent time in our tutor groups and assemblies reflecting on why we pause to remember those who gave their lives to serve their country and linking this to modern British values. Many pupils have been involved in creating thought-provoking visual displays around school and large-scale poppies to adorn our windows."

2018/19 Term Dates and Holidays

21 DEC	Academy closes for the Christmas Break at 12.30pm
7 JAN	Academy open for all pupils
15 FEB	Academy closes for half term
25 FEB	Academy open for all pupils
5 APR	Academy closes for the Easter Break
23 APR	Academy open for all pupils

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIGHFIELD 24/7
Our website is full of information about the Academy.
Visit: highfieldleadershipacademy.com



We also share daily updates on Academy life through the @HighfieldLA Twitter account.
Follow us!

Key communication as from September 2018

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 7 – Nicola Eccles - nicola.eccles@highfield.staracademies.org

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 8 – Ailsa Bowie - ailsa.bowie@highfield.staracademies.org

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 9 – Claire Smith - claire.smith@highfield.staracademies.org

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 10 – Charlotte Marsden - charlotte.marsden@highfield.staracademies.org

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 11 – Nicola Dodgson - nicola.dodgson@highfield.staracademies.org

Vice Principal – Angela Robinson - angela.robinson@highfield.staracademies.org

Principal – Louise Riley - louise.riley@staracademies.org

Executive Principal – Helen Mackenzie OBE - helen.mackenzie@highfield.staracademies.org