



Newsletter February 2020

This half-term has passed very quickly for students and staff at Highfield and as we are now over half way through the academic year, I wanted to let you know about the huge improvements that have been made again this term and the achievements of our students at Highfield this year.

It has been an incredibly busy Spring Term at Highfield and there is so much to celebrate: whole-school attendance has improved, behaviour points have reduced, achievement points have increased dramatically and the number of students eligible for rewards this term has been the highest it has been during my time at the school. This really does show the fantastic effort that both students and staff are making on a daily basis to #BeYourBest at Highfield. My pride in our students and in 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 half-term, we say goodbye to Mrs Holmes who is moving on to a new role after more than 5 years at Highfield. Mrs Holmes has worked with and inspired so many students to success in English and Maths during her many years as part of our school family and we wish her every success and happiness in her new role.

During this term, we were joined by Ms Mahmood and Miss Smith in English along with Mr James as Teacher of MFL.

Year 8 Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Our Year 8 students have visited Fulwood Barracks for their first experience of a military environment this half term. They also had the opportunity to experience the assault course and the history of the Duke of Lancaster's regiment which we are affiliated to. This term during curriculum time they have also completed a variety of activities including CPR.

Visitors and Guest Speakers

Since the start of term, we have welcomed many visitors into our school to work with our students and get them involved in a wide range of activities. These experiences provide brilliant opportunities for our students to meet people from different backgrounds with varied life experiences who can challenge them to think about new ideas and alternative perspectives.

As part of our STEAM activities, Miss Taylor (Science) arranged for HADO UK to visit the school. HADO is the first-ever physical eSport in the world using Augmented Reality (AR) technology where players are allowed to run freely within a real-world arena. Students had the opportunity to take part in eSports based activities which included wearable devices and AR technology using head mount displays and motion sensors, and just like real-life sports, players didn't need to be connected by cables or restricted to being in front of a screen.

Visitor Shelly Woods, ex-Highfield student and professional wheelchair racer, was a 1500m silver medallist at Beijing paralympics and a Bronze medallist in the 5000m. Shelly is the 1500m World Record holder and our IWD team really enjoyed listening to her inspirational story and advice. The students commented that "Shelly is an amazing example of how we can Be Our Best when faced with challenge. We look forward to celebrating her story with our community over the coming weeks." #BeYourBest

Next term, we will be continuing work with Lancashire Constabulary in raising awareness of knife crime and we are hoping to work with other departments including the K9 section.

YEAR 11 – GCSE Exams 2020

Year 11 students have continued to work hard towards their final GCSE exams in May. January saw them take part in a Mock Result Day that is aimed at giving our students a real-life experience of what it will feel like in August when they receive their final GCSE results. At the event, parents had the opportunity to work with their son or daughter to understand those revision techniques that will support them in the summer GCSE exams as well as hearing about the study support and revision sessions they are required to attend. Revision materials have been made available from school to all students and if you have any questions or want to know more about how you can support your child through their exams, please contact Mr Kerr, Head of Yr11 or call into school.

We are really impressed by the hard work and dedication shown by our Year 11 students. Keep up the good work. It will be worth it!

During the half-term week, the school library is open to any Yr11 students for independent study. The timetable of activities is listed below:

February half term intervention overview

<u>Day</u>	<u>Intervention session information</u>
Saturday 15 th February	10am – 2pm iMedia. Room 112 with SHU/EHU. (B/L)
Monday 17 th February	10am – 2pm Maths (11S1 and 11S2). Room 109 with VDE and PJO (B/L) 9am – 3pm D&T coursework support. Room 004 with AHA (B/L) 9am – 3pm Music coursework support. Room 002 with RHO (B/L) 10am – 12pm English. Room 215 with BGO (B only) 12:30pm – 2:30pm German. Room 215 with BGO (L only)
Tuesday 18 th February	9am – 3pm D&T coursework support. Room 004 with AHA (B/L) 10am – 1:30pm Science intervention masterclass. Room 117 / 118 with GEM/CTA/VRI (B/L)
Wednesday 19 th February	9:30am – 11:30am French. Room 220 with SUG. (B only) 9:30am – 11:30am H&F. Room 216 with NID. (B only)
Thursday 20 th February	9:30am – 11:30am History. Room 207 with VIF. (B only) 10am – 1pm iMedia. Room 114 with MSB. (B/L) 12pm – 2pm Maths (11P1 and 11P2). Room 206 with JPN. (L only)
Friday 21 st February	9:30am – 2pm English. Room 213 with LMU (B/L)

Thank you and A little reminder . . .

I would like to express my thanks to you for supporting our drive for high standards. It makes me very proud to see our students looking so smart in their full school uniform, CCF uniform and PE kit.

I am taking this opportunity to ask you to sort out any issues with your child's uniform over the half-term break so that **all students return on 24th February** feeling PROUD of how they look: in full uniform including school shoes, **not trainers**. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your child's Head of Year at school.

It is also very pleasing to see so many of our students coming to school with all of the equipment they need in order to be ready to learn each day. All students should have pens, pencils, a ruler, highlighter pens, their planner and a reading book every day. Pencil cases and equipment will be provided for students where necessary when we return from the half term break and will be available for sale through the main office.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of your child, our school and for your continued promotion of the STAR values that bind us together. We really do appreciate it. I hope you have enjoyed this round up of a very, very busy spring term at Highfield.

As ever, I am so PROUD of everything that our students achieve and especially of how well they represent themselves, our school, our community and our Star Values. I am also very grateful to all of the staff for their dedication and commitment to ensuring that our students get the very best experience and support during their time at Highfield. They always 'go the extra mile' and I feel so PROUD of how hard they work to make sure that our students have the best possible chance of success.

Communication

Students' first day back: Monday 24th February. School re-opens (8am)

- 24th February – KS3 Assessment Week
- 5th March – Yr9 Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm)
- 16th March – KS4 Assessment Week
- 4th April – School Closes for Easter at 3.10pm

Important Notices

Drinks & Food in the building

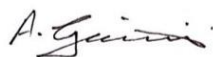
As we continue to promote healthy life-choices in school, I'd like to remind you that students should not have any type of fizzy or high-energy drink in school. Please do not send these to school for snacks and lunch. Any student found in possession of these items, will have them confiscated. Children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to school each day so that they can drink during the day. There is the facility to refill these if needed.

In addition to fizzy drinks, we will be working with students to stop the consumption of 'share size' bags of crisps and full packets of biscuits before school as well as during breaks and lunches as these do not promote healthy life-choices.

Earphones, just like mobile phones, **are not allowed in school** during the school day. Please remind your child that any phone or earphones seen in school during the school day will be confiscated.

Please help us to maintain these high standards throughout the spring term and let us know if there are any issues.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and enjoyable half-term break.



Mr Galbraith
Principal

