

Summer Newsletter May 2019



Highfield
Leadership Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week, we see the publication of our very first edition of Highfield Highlights written and designed by our pupils to showcase the events in school from their perspective. Also this week we have had visiting speakers and mentors in school to work with our Year 7 pupils in their development as young adults from Blackpool FC, which has been very engaging and raised lots of questions from our inquisitive learners.

On 14th May, we received a very positive quality assurance visit from Star's Director of Quality Assurance and an External Expert from the Department of Education. They were very happy with our progress since the publication of the Ofsted report and in particular the impact of our new behaviour system in helping pupils to self-regulate around our disruptive and red line behaviours. They felt the school was orderly and calm and commented positively on the improvements in the quality of teaching. Pupils reported that they feel safe in school and know who to turn to if they have a problem. Our anti-bullying ambassadors impressed the QA team with their strategies and initiatives to stamp out all forms of bullying through our *Culture of Kindness* and *Be Your Best* campaign. Moving forwards, they would like Teachers to focus more on their use of questioning in the classroom in order to draw out more extended answers from our pupils to deepen their learning.

YEAR 11 – GCSE Exams 2019 Revision Masterclasses

Formal exams are now well underway and our Year 11 pupils are working really hard, extending their school day by attending breakfast and after school exam booster sessions. This offers a final opportunity for them to ask staff any questions and receive advice and support. An exam timetable, including scheduled revision classes, has been included below for your information. Please encourage your child to attend wherever possible. It really important that pupils feel confident before sitting their exams.

Day	Time	Subject
Mon 3 rd June	9.00am	History
	1.30pm	Psychology
	1.30pm	Creative iMedia
Tuesday 4 th June	9.00am	English Language
	1.30pm	Music: Listening & Appraising
Wednesday 5 th June	1.30pm	Geography
Thursday 6 th June	9.00am	Mathematics
	1.30pm	History
Friday 7 th June	9.00am	English Language
	1.30pm	Biology

Full details of all exams are available on the school website <https://tinyurl.com/y53ro2h3>

Year 11 **May Half Term classes** are running throughout the May half-term holiday. Please encourage your son or daughter to attend these really important revision masterclasses and to continue to study hard.

Day	Time	Subject	Room
Saturday 25 th May	9am to 11am	Science	119
		History	209
Tuesday 28 th May	9:30am to 1:45pm	Science	118
		Maths	106
		Health and Fitness	217
Wednesday 29 th May	9:30am to 1:45pm	Imedia	222
		Maths	109
Thursday 30 st May	9:30am to 1:45pm	Imedia	222
		Maths	109
		Health and Fitness	217
Friday 31 st May	9:30am to 1:45pm	English	213
Sunday 2 nd June	9:30am to 1pm	Science	119
Sunday 9 th June	9:30am to 1pm	Maths	109

After the May break, Year 11 revision sessions will continue to run every day at lunchtime and after school **(refreshments are 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. Keep up the good work as you head into these final few weeks and we wish you all the very best of luck in your exams! If you have any questions or concerns at all, please contact **Mrs Buchanan**, Head of Year 11.

Pupil Opportunities

Edge Hill University Visit

Since Easter, we have seen so many visitors in school working with our pupils on a wide range of activities. For example, our Year 9 pupils have worked with Edge Hill University to equip them with necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to familiarise them with University life, many returned inspired and enthused by what University has to offer.



Borwick Hall Visit

Highfield took 60 pupils to Borwick Hall for 3 days. The trip was a huge success. All the pupils engaged in many activities, including: Canoeing, Abseiling, Climbing, Low ropes and High ropes, Indoor caving, Orienteering, Local walk and various team challenges. The pupils conducted themselves superbly over the three days. They were mature and respectful and the Borwick Hall staff commented on this many times. Most importantly, they all had lots of fun and came back safe with smiles on their faces.



Mindfulness

Pupils had opportunity to take part in mindfulness workshops to support with exam stress and anxiety through this busy period. Cyber bullying is key focus for the ambassadors and they have created an online video to inform parents, pupils, staff and wider community how to stay safe online. These videos will be sent out soon and we would welcome your feedback especially as the ambassadors have worked tirelessly on them. Bill continues to support pupils, staff and regularly checks in to make sure the community is fully supported and happy.

Highfield in the Community – Young Chef of the Year

Congratulations to 2 fantastic Highfield pupils, Ruby Williams and Katie Weekes who took part in the Lancashire “Young Chef of the Year Competition” and after a gruelling set of heats they were crowned as winners “Young Chefs of the Year!”

They came through heats to beat 17 other schools from across Lancashire, producing a wonderful Duck dish. In the finals the girls produced a great chicken dish, which Nigel Haworth thought was way ahead of any of the other dishes produced, served along with a fantastic rhubarb trifle for dessert.



Charity Events

During this term, our pupils have been supporting Trinity Hospice. Trinity is a purpose built hospice on Low Moor Road in Greenlands, Bispham, which provides palliative care to people in the Blackpool area.

- ★ Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors ran a 'chocbola' at break and lunchtime to raise money for Trinity Hospice.
- ★ Congratulations to Grace Blincow in Year 8 who successfully completed the Blackpool Beaverbrooks 10km Fun Run to raise money for Trinity Hospice.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors – Buddy Bill

Our anti-bullying ambassadors have been running the 'Be Your Best' campaign- pupils wanted to select 10 words that they felt that if everyone adopted those words they would be the best person they could be: Be friendly, helpful, forgiving, respectful, safe, patient, open-minded, kind, hopeful and brave.

Posters have gone up around the academy and presentations given in assemblies. This will eventually feed into our respect charter. Some of the anti-bullying ambassadors and pupil leaders have created a dance about the 10 'Be your best' words to promote within our community. They have been focussing on discrimination and prejudice. These important themes have also been discussed during our PSHE lessons.

Pupils have completed an 18-mile marker challenge in memory of Steven Lawrence and this was conducted in the academy fitness suite. Pupils requested staff take part too.



Thank you and a little reminder...

I would like to express my thanks to you for your support in our drive for high standards. Our pupils look incredibly smart in their full school uniform and PE kit and we are very proud to see them wearing it correctly. I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to continue to support us on this matter in the final summer term and to ask you to sort out any issues with your child's uniform, including school shoes (not trainers) over the May break so that all pupils return on 3rd June feeling PROUD of how they look in full uniform. 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 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

Monday 3 rd June	School reopens
Week Commencing 3 rd June	KS3 Assessment Week
Wednesday 5 th June	Visit from Sir Michael Wilshaw
Monday 17 th June	Headstart transition visit – Year 6 (after school)
Friday 21 st June	Yr 8/9/10 Injections Catch Up
Thursday 27 th June	Yr11 Prom
Friday 28 th June	Sports Day
Monday 1 st July	Headstart transition visit – Year 6 (after school)
Week Commencing 8 th – 12 th July	Transition Week (New Intake Yr7)
Thursday 11 th July	Partnership Evening - Parents of New Intake (6:30pm start)
Thursday 18 th July	Last day of the Summer Term

Principal's message

I hope you have enjoyed this round up of a very, very busy opening Summer term at Highfield.

I am so proud of everything that our pupils achieve and especially of how well they are representing themselves, our school and our community. Leaders and staff are working very hard to transform the culture of the school with the stronger emphasis on rewards for our STAR values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect. Over the last half term, we have awarded thousands of achievement points and given pupils the 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.

Next half term, we will be rewarding all of our pupils with 100% attendance and punctuality and zero behaviour points with a Star Citizens Award along with a Sundae Fun Day experience.

Thanks go to our STAR Trust Central Team for their continued support in helping us to move forward rapidly, particularly around behaviour, rewards, teaching, curriculum and outcomes.

As validated by the quality assurance team, the new behaviour system is continuing to have a strong impact and learning time for all pupils has increased along with the quality of learning in lessons. The data collected from learning walks that are carried out every lesson continues to show improvements and a more positive picture each week. The vast majority of pupils are complying with our high standards and are able to self-regulate, which is very positive and all pupils have improved the number of achievement points received this half term. The screening checks in place for struggling pupils have clearly identified personal barriers to behaviour and learning which is resulting in more personalised support to help these pupils succeed both pastorally and academically.

I am very grateful to all of the 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. They are 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. We really do appreciate how you are engaging with us to make the school a brilliant environment for our pupils. Next half term, we will hold our first Parent Forum for those who expressed an interest in supporting us on our journey. Through a closer working parental partnership, we look forward to a very bright future for your children.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful May Day Bank Holiday!

Andrew Galbraith
Principal