



Highlands Sixth Newsletter

April 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF SIXTH FORM

Dear all,

As we near the end of another busy term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements of our sixth form students, both year 12 and year 13, and the progress they have made so far.

Our year 12 students recently completed their first experience of formal exams with the mid-year assessments. These exams provided them with a valuable opportunity to gauge their progress and refine their study strategies. We were incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work they demonstrated throughout this process. Earlier this term, we also held the year 12 Parents' Evening, where we had the opportunity to discuss their progress and offer guidance as they continue their academic journey. Looking ahead, year 12 students will soon begin their work experience, which will give them valuable exposure to the professional world and help them develop essential skills for their future careers.

Year 13 students have recently completed their mocks, and with Easter school just around the corner, the countdown to their final exams is now in full swing.

We are also extremely proud to share that our sixth form has been ranked 47th among state school sixth forms in England and 106th out of 4,352 sixth forms nationwide. This is a remarkable achievement, and it speaks volumes about the hard work and dedication of both our students and staff. In addition, we continue to boast a well above-average progress score, highlighting the quality of the educational experience we provide.

Thank you to all our students for their continued hard work, and to our parents and carers for their unwavering support.

We look forward to what lies ahead as we continue to work together to ensure the success and wellbeing of our students.

Miss Husseyin
Director of sixth form

Happy Easter
From everyone at Highlands

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Sixth form success!
- Trip to Cambridge University
- Insight days
- Alumni success stories
- NHS work experience
- International Women's Day
- Charity fundraising



@Highlands_sch



@Highlandssch



Highlands School Enfield



highlands.enfield.sch.uk

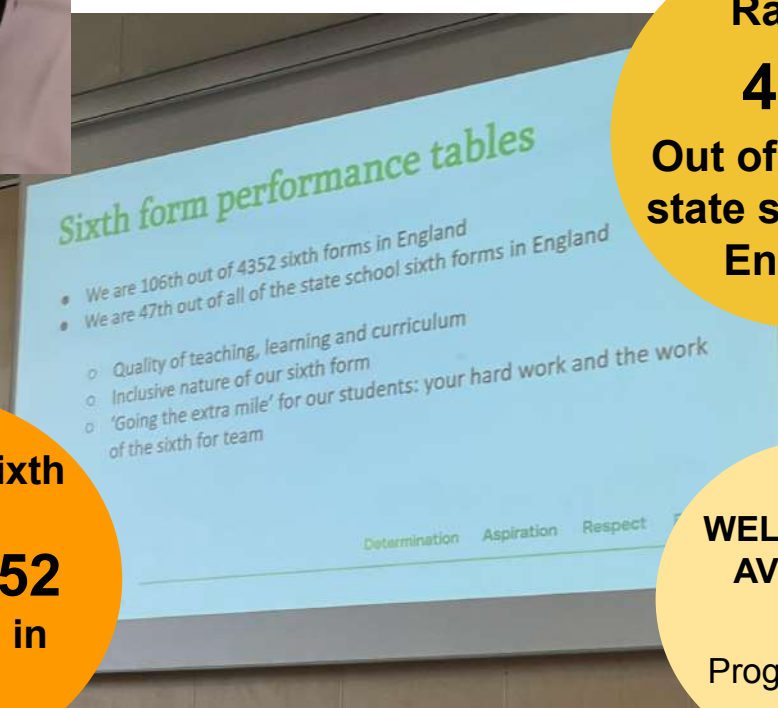
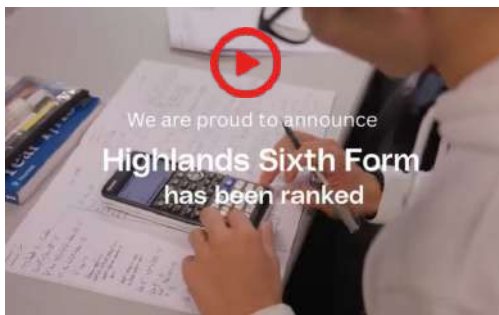
HIGHLANDS SIXTH FORM SUCCESS

Our sixth form is proud to be ranked **106th out of 4,352 sixth forms in England** and **47th among all state school sixth forms**. Our exceptional progress score, which is well above average, reflects our commitment to excellence. This achievement is driven by the quality of our teaching, learning, and curriculum, the inclusive nature of our sixth form, and our unwavering dedication to 'going the extra mile' for our students. It is a testament to the hard work of our students and the relentless support of our sixth form team.

[View the performance table](#)

School or college name	Type of school or college	Number of students with an A level exam entry	Progress Score and Description	Average result		Achieving AAB or higher, including at least 2 facilitating subjects	Grade and points for a student's best 3 A levels
				Grade	Point score		
Highlands School	Maintained school	109	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE 0.4	B	38.79	20.9% 91 students included in measure	B 39.67 91 students included in measure

The progress score figure tells you how much progress students who studied A levels at this school made between the end of key stage 4 and the end of their A level studies, compared to similar students across England. These scores are also known as 'value added' scores. Students at Highlands Sixth Form achieved almost half a grade higher than expected based on their KS4 results.



Ranked 47th
Out of all of the state schools in England

Highlands Sixth Form
106 / 4,352
Sixth forms in England

WELL ABOVE AVERAGE
0.4
Progress Score

UCL PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY MARCUS FRUTTIGER DELIVERS INSPIRING LECTURE AND LAB TOUR TO YEAR 13 BIOLOGISTS

All of our year 13 biologists recently took part in a Highlands competition for the chance to win a trip to University College London (UCL). The prize offers a unique opportunity to visit a world-class medical research laboratory led by the renowned Professor Marcus Fruttiger, awarded to students with the most effective study groups and revision techniques.

Professor Marcus Fruttiger is a distinguished academic, widely recognised for his contributions to ocular genetics and vascular biology. With a background spanning both medicine and scientific research, he has made significant advancements in understanding the genetic mechanisms behind eye diseases. His work, frequently published in leading scientific journals, has not only deepened knowledge in the field but has also opened pathways for potential therapeutic interventions. As a professor, he continues to inspire the next generation of scientists, combining rigorous research with a passion for improving patient outcomes.

The competition was fiercely contested, but six students stood out for their exceptional teamwork and innovative revision methods. Congratulations to Beirhan Guven, Eleanor McHale, Ethan Morgan, Chizara Okonkwo, Ilana Tanwie, and Amadora Teka for securing a place on this incredible visit. Moreover, Professor Fruttiger also generously donated £10,000 worth of teaching equipment to our biology department to inspire our next generation of molecular biologists!



UCL PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY MARCUS FRUTTIGER DELIVERS INSPIRING LECTURE AND LAB TOUR TO YEAR 13 BIOLOGISTS

'My experience on our trip to the Institute of Ophthalmology UCL was fantastic as I had the opportunity to further develop my knowledge on the functions of eyes as well as learn about the many retinal diseases and their treatments such as anti-VEGF drugs. It was fascinating to learn fun facts of the historical development of eyes over the millenia and how eyes evolved to what they are today beginning from the cambrian era. It was enjoyable to go outside to have hands-on experience on what working in an ophthalmology is really like, and the people at the facility were great, showing true passion in their work as they wanted to show us even more than we had time for. Overall the trip was an incredible experience as I had an opportunity to learn outside of school with my classmates and teachers.' - Beirhan

'On Tuesday, I was able to visit the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology. This opportunity gave us a great insight into what a career in academics looks like as we got to see a lecture hall as well as have some hands-on experience in the lab. The trip really brought much of our A-Level curriculum to life as we could see the procedures and equipment that we learn about and so, we were able to grasp a better understanding of their real life application. I was left with added motivation to continue with my A-level revision as it showcased the future that I am working towards.' - Eleanor

'The trip was very enjoyable, it was great visiting and seeing leading research into eye diseases at a world class university. The amazing team who showed us around gave us all insight into the varying career paths biomedical sciences can lead to, from staying in academia to heading into the commercial sector of science. Very grateful for this opportunity!' - Amadora

'I really enjoyed my school trip to the UCL Ophthalmology Centre because it was exciting to meet researchers and scientists working on cutting-edge eye care innovations. They explained how they study vision and develop new treatments for eye diseases, which I found really fascinating. Seeing the advanced technology they use and learning about their experiments made me appreciate the importance of eye research. It was inspiring to hear from experts who are making a real difference in the field, and the trip gave me a new perspective on the role of science in healthcare.' - Ilana

'Thank you for the opportunity yesterday Dr Len, it was truly inspiring. Being able to learn more about ophthalmology in depth and actually meeting someone who has gone down that career and excelled was very motivating as ophthalmology is a career I've been looking into. Furthermore, spending time in the lab and taking part in actual lab investigations gave me a little insight into what I will be engaging in in university, and this reassured me that I'm going down a path I know I'll like. Thank you again for the privilege of being able to experience this.' - Chizara

'Our trip to UCL was truly inspiring. It gave us the chance to look at the real world applications of what we learn in the classroom, we had the chance to get involved and even see the steps leading up to preparing for a lab experiment. We also got a chance to get a taste of a lecture on ophthalmology where it gave us a small glimpse of what we could be looking at if we were to continue our education into university. As a whole the experience was truly inspiring and I am so grateful to Dr Len and Ms Laurenzi for giving us a chance to go.' - Ethan



YEAR 12 TRIP TO CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 12th February, nine year 12 students went to Newnham College in Cambridge to learn about life at the University of Cambridge. We met several students from the college, had a guided tour and had sessions on the university application process and what makes a successful application.

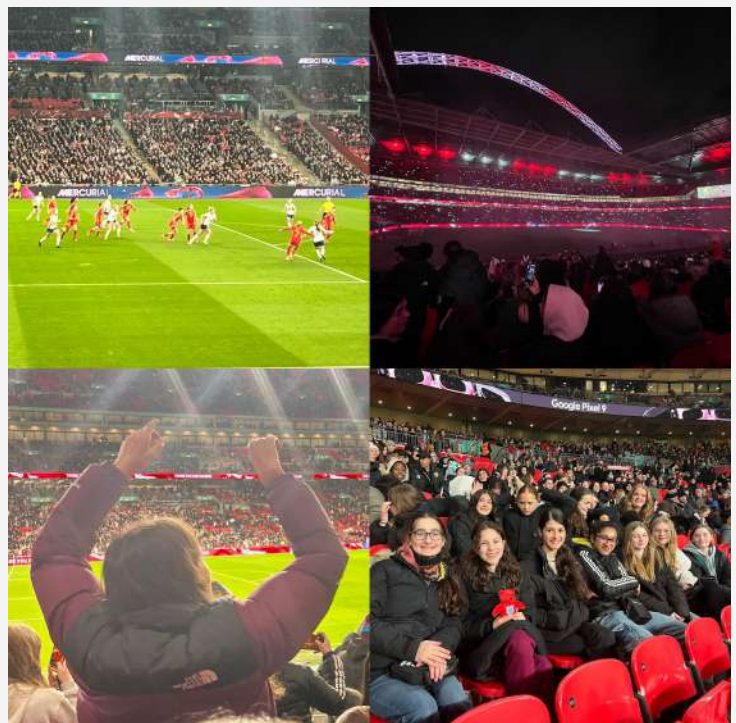
Our students heard about the importance of super curricular activities and were treated to a fantastic lunch in Newnham's 150 year old hall.



TRIP TO ENGLAND VS SPAIN AT WEMBLEY

The PE department took a group of very excited girls from years 9-13 to Wembley to watch the highly anticipated Nations League game between England and Spain. It was an enjoyable evening full of lots of cheering, plenty of snacks and a Lionesses win! The girls came home tired but inspired by seeing some of their sporting heroes in action.

Mrs Walters



GIRLS BOROUGH CHAMPIONS

The year 11,12 and 13 senior girls' team delivered a dominant performance in their match against Latymer School, securing a resounding 12-2 victory. With this win, the team has now been crowned the borough champions, marking an outstanding achievement.

Shekinah was unstoppable, scoring an incredible six goals, showcasing her exceptional skill and finishing ability. Jess also played a pivotal role, contributing three goals to the team's impressive tally. Holly and Elisia each added to the scoreline, with Holly netting one goal and Elisia scoring another, rounding off a stellar offensive display.

In addition to the fantastic attacking performance, Lexie was virtually unbeatable in goal, alongside Darcy and Niamh providing a rock-solid defence that helped ensure Latymer's attempts were thwarted throughout the match.

With this thrilling victory, the senior girls have demonstrated their strength and determination, securing the title of borough champions! Their collective effort, skill, and teamwork have been truly exceptional.

Well done girls. Another trophy added to the cabinet!

Mrs Hutchinson



FROM CLASSROOM TO OPERATING ROOM - A WEEK IN SCRUBS

We are incredibly privileged to work in collaboration with Chase Farm Hospital and cannot thank them enough for offering these incredible opportunities for our students. These experiences provide invaluable insight into the medical field and support our students in exploring their future career pathways.

Over the course of the academic year, twenty of our students will have the chance to gain an incredible week of experience at the hospital. Gracie in year 12 was the first student this year to take part, generously giving up her time during half term to participate.

Mrs Laurenzi



“During my work experience at Chase Farm Hospital, I had an incredible time. I met so many amazing people and witnessed some extraordinary procedures. I had the opportunity to observe multiple surgeries, including knee replacements, septum reconstructions, wisdom tooth removals, and maxillofacial surgeries, where the jaw is fractured and repositioned to align properly. I also saw hernia repairs, skin cancer removals, and even lump removals, which was one of the most vivid procedures I watched.

In addition to observing surgeries, I assisted in the recovery department, which was a great experience. I helped care for patients post-surgery, taking their temperature, measuring blood pressure, and performing other basic checks. I also spent time in the day surgery unit, where the staff were incredibly kind and welcoming, allowing me to get involved and learn even more.

Overall, it was a fantastic experience where I not only gained valuable insight into the medical field but also made new friends. Getting to wear scrubs was a fun bonus too! The hospital staff even mentioned that we are welcome to return for another week in the future, which I’m definitely interested in exploring.

Thank you so much for arranging this work experience - I truly had an amazing time!”

Gracie Mae Ticehurst



CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday 26th February 2025 marked a significant milestone at Cambridge University, Magdalene College - founded in 1428, with its own section of the River Cam and a well-regarded candlelit formal hall. This event was not a traditional graduation for university students but rather a celebration of a group of year 10 students completing the Scholars Programme, an initiative run by the charity Brilliant Club to inspire young people and broaden their awareness of opportunities at the UK's top universities.

Over the course of ten weeks, students participated in after-school sessions led by Alba Jiminez, a PhD student at Imperial College London. They developed the confidence and academic skills needed to apply to prestigious institutions in the future. Their journey culminated in a final dissertation, titled "Beyond the DNA Sequence: How Epigenetics Defines the Fate of the Cell", a challenging piece of work pitched at one Key Stage above their current level, which was assessed and awarded a university-grade mark.

As part of the day students were encouraged to reflect on their future university options, received a guided tour of the university led by current students, as well as an information, advice, and guidance session to support their aspirations for higher education.

This group of students demonstrated outstanding excellence, determination, and independence in achieving this success. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments! A special congratulations to Elis Cristovao and Harry Stylianou for courageously taking the stage as spokespersons for the group.

All students: Muhammad-Ibrahim Ahmad, Lois Anosike, Yunus Coskun, Isis Crawford, Elis Cristovao, Franceska Koci, Alan Kushova, Demi Kyriacou, Ruby Magrun, Jude Owusu-Ansah, Harry Stylianou, Alex Sultan, Ermioni Tsantikou and Enes Turan.

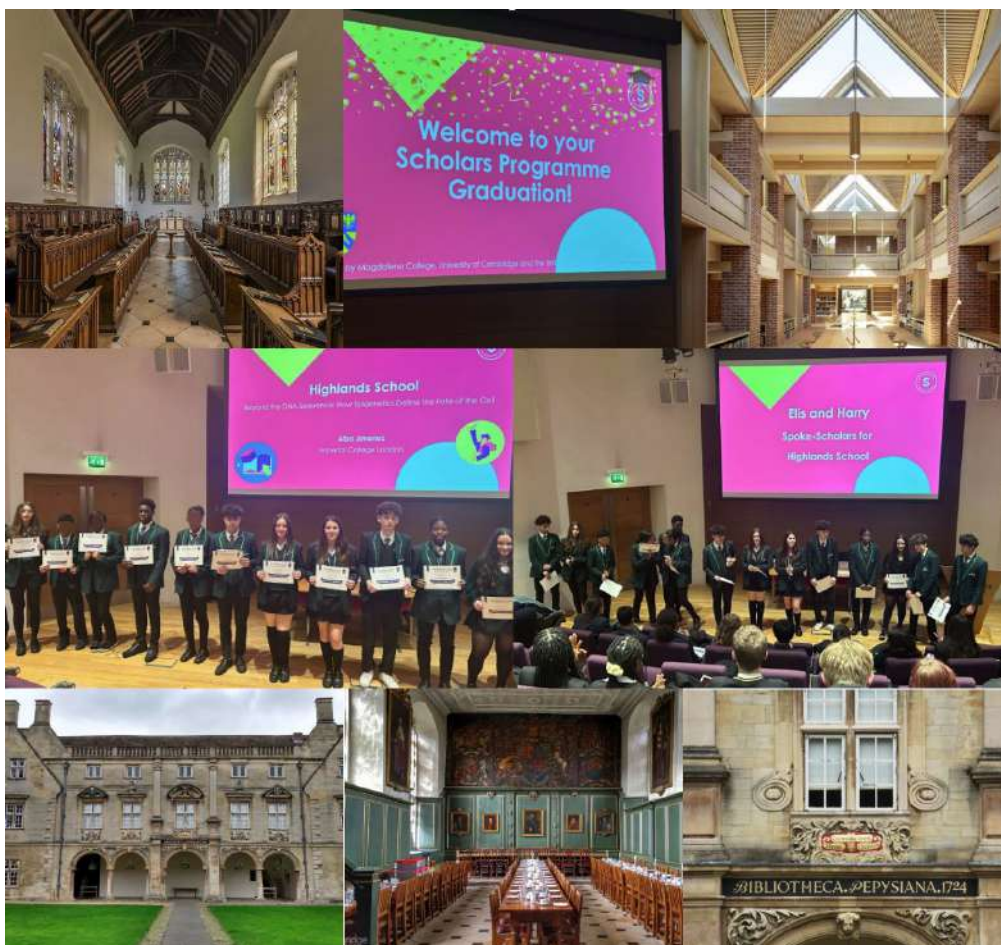


CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

“Throughout the course, we studied Epigenetics: Beyond the epigenome; taught to us by our PhD tutor, Alba Jimenez. In summary, this was about the undermining factors influencing the DNA, health, and appearance of humans, plants, and other organisms. Something new and interesting I learnt was plant priming and how they can produce primed seeds adapted to a range of harsh weather conditions, far from their ideal. I believe this process could contribute to great advancements in crop growth and survival. This course’s initial assignment and final assignment gave me the skills and confidence to write at a first class university level. Also, it provided me with the ability to analyse and evaluate graph data which I can easily transfer to other areas of study I may wish to pursue in the future.

At first, I found the many new biological terms related to DNA and genes difficult to understand. There were also some graphs we came across and I struggled to read and evaluate them. However, thanks to my tutor and their enthusiasm in answering our questions and explaining what we were covering, I began to understand how to retrieve information from these graphs and implement them into my answers.

Finally, yes, I am considering further education at a university when I finish school, because there is so much I still want to explore in STEM subjects. I think I might want to study a branch of engineering, such as mechanical engineering.” - Elis Cristovao



TATE BRITAIN - GCSE AND A LEVEL ART TRIP

The art GCSE and A level students visited TATE Britain where they had the opportunity to explore the works of renowned artists such as Chris Ofili, David Hockney, Alvaro Barrington, Henry Moore, John William Waterhouse, and the Morris family.

The students displayed exemplary behaviour throughout the trip, engaging deeply with the artworks and showing a genuine interest in the historical and contemporary pieces on display. Their enthusiasm and insightful discussions demonstrated their passion for art, making the experience both enjoyable and enriching for all involved.



YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE MONDAY 30TH JUNE - FRIDAY 4TH JULY

With two weeks off for Easter, now is the perfect time to focus on securing your work experience placement! Whether you're still searching or finalising details, use this time wisely to reach out to employers, update your C.V, and apply for opportunities.

Not sure where to start? Consider:

- ✓ Reaching out to local businesses, shops, or offices.
- ✓ Checking online job boards for short-term experience opportunities.
- ✓ Volunteering at charities or community projects.
- ✓ Asking family or friends if their workplace can offer a placement.



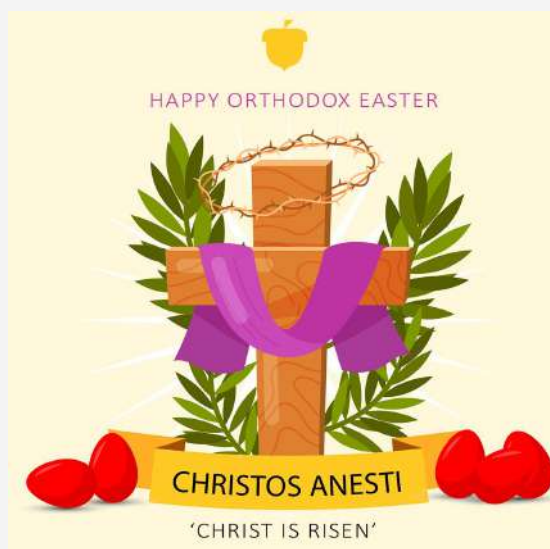
Once you've secured your placement, don't forget to log it on Unifrog to keep track of your experience!

Make this Easter count - take a step toward your future!

Mrs Laurenzi

EASTER, ORTHODOX EASTER AND PASSOVER

Happy Easter, Orthodox Easter, and Passover to everyone celebrating! May this special time bring you joy, peace, and togetherness. To our Orthodox community, Christos Anesti - Christ is risen! From everyone at Highlands, we wish you a wonderful celebration. You can read more about these celebrations in our [special feature newsletter](#).



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In celebration of International Women's Day, students enjoyed an insightful assembly presented by Yagmur, Flori, Joseph, and Eleanor, who are members of the school's first-ever feminist society, *FemSoc*. During the assembly, they explained the significance of International Women's Day and this year's theme, **Accelerate Action**, which emphasised the urgency of taking decisive steps toward achieving gender equality.

FemSoc provides a platform for discussions on women's rights and equality, and their efforts are truly making a difference. Additionally, the *FemSoc* members attended a seminar by Dr. Sian Oram from King's College London. It was an inspiring week filled with action and awareness!

Read our special feature newsletter on International Women's Day [here](#).



International Women's Day



Imagine a gender equal world.
A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination.
A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive.
A world where difference is valued and celebrated.
Together we can forge women's equality.
Collectively we can all #AccelerateAction.
International Women's Day, 8th March 2025



What is International Women's Day?
Since 1911, International Women's Day (IWD) has worked towards achieving gender equality by raising awareness of discrimination and celebrating women's achievements. Despite progress, IWD remains crucial in today's society.

According to the World Economic Forum, it will take until 2156, approximately five generations, to reach full gender parity. The highlight is the ongoing need for continued action in promoting equality and breaking down barriers for women.

IWD is celebrated on 8th March every year. This year's IWD campaign theme is **Accelerate Action**.

#AccelerateAction
Challenging Stereotypes and Limiting Beliefs

- Urgency for change:** Accelerate Action emphasises the need for swift and decisive steps to close the gender equality gap, urging immediate action rather than waiting for incremental progress.
- Momentum for equality:** It stresses the importance of maintaining momentum in the fight for gender equality, pushing for quicker, more impactful results in the areas of education, healthcare, leadership, and workplace rights.
- Addressing systemic barriers:** The theme calls for tackling the systemic barriers and biases that women face in both personal and professional spaces, ensuring equal opportunities for all.
- Global Call to Action:** Accelerate Action serves as a global reminder that change is urgent and everyone has a role to play in creating a more equal world for women.

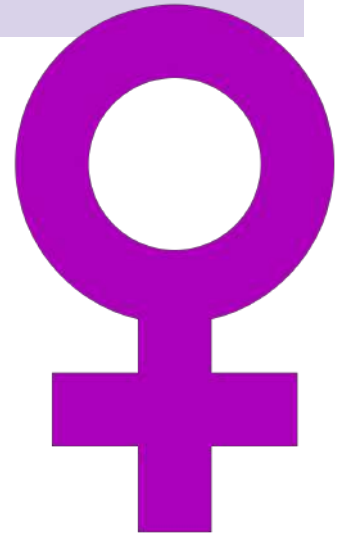


INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Here is some feedback from our students who were involved in the International Women's Day seminar with Dr. Sian Oram.

'During the seminar, we gained invaluable information about current issues surrounding women internationally. We learnt how deeply rooted sexism is in our healthcare system, due to the lack of representation of women in research fields, most new medical discoveries are centred around men, dismissing women's health entirely. It was eye-opening to face the harsh reality that women still have a long way to go in achieving equality to all extent.' - Yagmur

'The International Women's Day seminar was an incredibly insightful and invaluable experience. I learnt so much about the different contributors to the decline in women's mental health such as societal pressures and prejudices, and a lack of resources to combat mental health issues. This seminar really shone a light on an incredibly important topic and I am grateful I was able to be part of the discussion.' - Flori



JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS

Highlands School is proud to be affiliated with the Jack Petchey Foundation. Each year, students from both the main school and sixth form receive a Jack Petchey Award. These awards are given for various reasons, including bravery, academic achievement and consistent effort in one or more subjects.

Our Jack Petchey winners this year are: Baran, Warren, Orla, John, Elena, Laina, Kavish and Giles. Izsy also received a Jack Petchey award on behalf of Young Carers for making sure everyone felt welcome and included at Enfield Carers Centre.

students attended the Millfield Theatre to receive their awards and celebrate their achievements alongside other schools and youth groups participating in the Jack Petchey scheme.



HIGHLANDS STUDENTS SHINE AT EXCLUSIVE EMPLOYER INSIGHT EVENTS

Over 30 year 12 students were selected, following their successful applications to attend employer insight events at Pollen Street Capital Ltd and Legal & General head offices in London.

The events were hosted in partnership with **Future First**, a UK charity dedicated to connecting young people in state schools with relatable role models and alumni to expand their career horizons.

The day was designed to give students a deeper understanding of private equity, financial services careers, and essential skills such as CV writing and interview techniques, including a networking lunch and carousel event where students were able to speak to employers from different departments about their job/career, allowing them to explore different career paths.

Passionate professionals from across the companies, led sessions - including Investment - Legal and Compliance, Tech, Finance, ESG and Risk, sharing their expertise and inspiring the next generation as well as a virtual Q&A session with the CEO direct from Los Angeles.

Both Pollen Street and Legal & General commended Highlands students for their enthusiasm, highlighting how they asked thoughtful and insightful questions, demonstrating a strong interest in the discussions.

A huge thank you to Future First for providing this incredible opportunity, and of course, to all the employees at Pollen Street and Legal and General who generously gave their time to support and inspire our students. Your insights and encouragement have made a lasting impact, helping to spark new ambitions. We look forward to more inspiring initiatives in the future!

Lastly, well done to all the students that took part and it was wonderful to see our students being so engaged and looking extra smart for the occasion.

Mrs Laurenzi

"The insight day at Pollen Street was an eye-opening experience. Learning about private equity and financial services from industry professionals really helped me understand career paths I hadn't considered before."

"I really enjoyed the CV and interview skills session. The advice was so practical, and I feel much more confident about applying for future opportunities."

"At Legal & General It was amazing to hear from professionals who are so passionate about their work. The carousel session really motivated me to think about my future career and the different opportunities available in finance."

"I appreciate how interactive the day was. We weren't just listening—we got to ask questions, take part in discussions, and really engage with the speakers. It made learning about the industry so much more interesting!"

HIGHLANDS STUDENTS SHINE AT EXCLUSIVE EMPLOYER INSIGHT EVENTS



Founded in 2013, Pollen Street is an alternative asset manager dedicated to investing within financial and business services sectors across both Private Equity and Private Credit strategies.



Legal & General is a leading UK financial services group founded in 1836.

As one of the world's largest asset managers and a key global investor, offering strong asset origination capabilities.

INSPIRING LAW TALK - PATHWAYS, ADVICE AND OPPORTUNITIES

Year 12 students received an inspiring law talk from a recent graduate who shared her journey into the legal field. Originally studying a BTEC level 3 in Health and Social Care, she later pursued a career in law, offering valuable insights into her transition and experiences.

As a Londoner who has been in their position, she provided a relatable and encouraging perspective, answering students' questions and shedding light on different pathways into law. Beyond law, she also gave valuable advice on what students should be doing outside of academics - whether they plan to pursue law or explore other career routes. Her talk was both informative and motivating, equipping students with practical guidance for their future.

Thank you to Nashreen and Jessica from the University of Law.

Mrs Laurenzi



EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH KAINOS AND BIG BITE

Chosen from many applicants, one lucky year 12 student, Berat Bolec, had the incredible opportunity to take part in a highly competitive three-day work experience programme with Kainos, exploring software engineering, AI, and cybersecurity and a further day with Bigbite.

From tackling real-world coding challenges to engaging with industry experts, the experience was both insightful and hands-on. Highlights included developing a healthcare chatbot using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, delving into ethical hacking techniques, and gaining career advice from tech professionals. Berat created a preview page where viewers could test the chatbot and access healthcare information; his project was nominated as one of the best projects.

This unforgettable experience not only strengthened their technical skills but also cemented their passion for a future in technology.

“Overall, the experience was incredibly rewarding. It provided me the opportunity to learn new technical skills, receive instruction from industry professionals, and build meaningful friendships with fellow students. The cybersecurity session was particularly eye-opening, highlighting the significance of ethical hacking and cybersecurity awareness. This experience has reinforced my passion for technology, and I am excited to explore the opportunities that the future holds in this field.”



- Berat Bilmac 12WAD

A TRIP TO SEE **ANIMAL FARM**



On Friday 28th February, the A level drama students went to see a performance of George Orwell's ***Animal Farm*** at Stratford East Theatre.

It was an amazing performance and the students really enjoyed it!

We would absolutely recommend going to see it before it closes because it's a very short run!

Ms Cazeau

BANK OF ENGLAND AMBASSADOR VISITS HIGHLANDS

Sixth form economics students had an exciting opportunity to attend a presentation from a Bank of England ambassador who visited Highlands School. The speaker explained the key roles of the Bank of England, including its responsibilities for monetary and financial stability, as well as the tools it uses to achieve these goals.

Students gained valuable insights into practical applications of concepts they have studied in class, such as how the UK bank rate has changed over the years and how the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and the Financial Policy Committee (FPC) work to prevent financial crises.

The presentation also included a personal account of the ambassador's career journey, with tips for students interested in pursuing a career in related fields.

During the Q&A session, students had the chance to ask questions and deepen their understanding of economics in the real world.

Ms Ryoo



HOUSE ASSEMBLIES



Our amazing house captains and strand leads took centre stage this term to present the house assemblies. All of the houses were updated with their current positions in the house competition.

They spoke about what went well last half term and what areas could be worked on in order to accumulate more points. The captains also shared the fantastic events that are coming up this term.

There is so much to look forward to, who will be crowned house champions 2024-25?

KS4 RAISING ACHIEVEMENT EVENING

Year 11 KS4 Raising Achievement Evening was a resounding success, with a fantastic turnout of parents, carers, and students.

The event highlighted the importance of raising achievement, providing practical guidance on how families can support their child's academic journey. Key topics included pastoral and wellbeing support, the critical role of attendance, and a focus on core subjects.

Attendees also received an overview of important dates and milestones for the year ahead. Parents and students left feeling more informed and prepared to tackle the challenges of year 11 with confidence and determination.



A LEVEL AND BTEC SUBJECT TALKS

Year 11 students received informative subject talks on A-level and BTEC courses to help prepare them for life at Highlands Sixth Form.

These sessions provided valuable insights into the subject content, helping students make informed decisions about their future studies and career paths.

The talks aimed to guide them through the transition, ensuring they are well-equipped for the next step in their academic journey.



LIVE MUSIC ASSEMBLIES



Our school hosted a series of live music assemblies, showcasing an incredible lineup of talented performers. Musicians amazed the audience with their own original songs, powerful live orchestra, solos and dynamic band performances.

It was a fantastic celebration of creativity and musical talent. Well done to all of the performers.



BATTLE OF THE BANDS EVENT

The Battle of the Bands event was one of the best events showcased at our school, with each year group competing in a thrilling musical contest. Students were judged on their musical ability and overall performance by a panel consisting of Ethan, our head student, Mrs. Chrysostomou, Mr. Hurst, and Mr. Savvides for sixth form. Mr. McNerney was in charge of crowd control and encouraged feedback from the judges, while Ceren, Joel, Lily, and Elena introduced each act.

A special thank you to Mr. Davies for capturing the event in photos.



Year 7: October Rain, All Too Well by Taylor Swift. Hus Gokpinar, Kosta Nicolaou, Tobey Harris, Jaden Garcia, Hollie Chambers and Skye Hawkins.

Year 8: Gravity, Everyday (original song). Wilfred Crutchley, Jasaiya Ollivierre, Archie De Souza, Marianne Smith and Kerem Hassan.

Year 9: Oak and Echo, When the World Falls Apart (original song) (joint winners). Ruby Wakeford, Tyanna Ferreira, Dennis Erdogan, Warren Kelly, Samuel Malaj, Mia Ioannou, Max Rich and Nicole Cisneiros-Martins.

Year 9: Rule, Love Like Fire by Rule (joint winners). Ruby Walford, Hayssa De Araujo Spinello, Matthew Nicolaou.

Senior students: The Plunge, Hotel California by Eagles. George Robinson, Daniella Ursache, Tarai Edgehill, Jorja Hodge, Darcy Smethurst and Cooper Ireland.

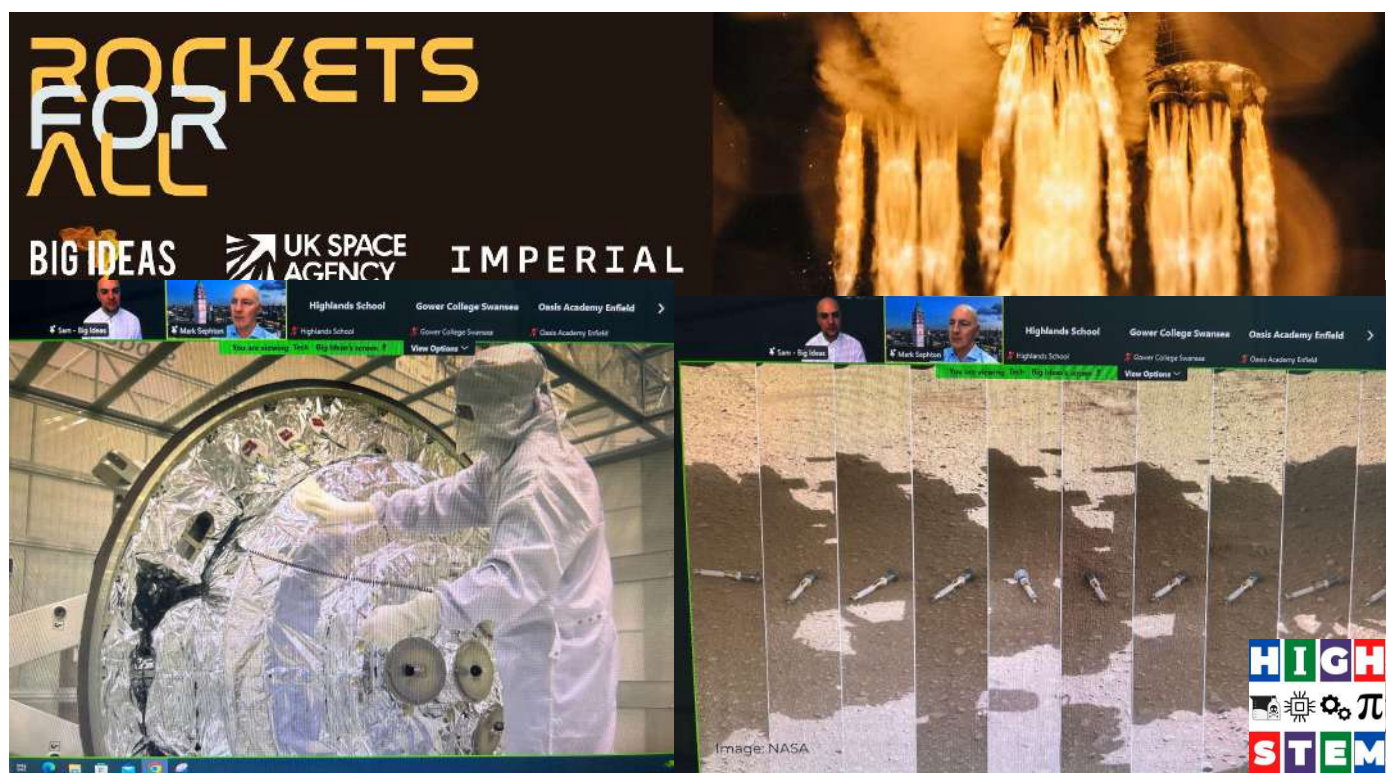
HIGHLANDS STEM WEBINAR: ROCKETS FOR ALL WITH MARK SEPHTON

Year 10, 11 and 12 students had the unique opportunity to attend *Rockets for All*, a live webinar hosted by renowned space scientist Mark Sephton. The session was an inspiring journey into the world of space exploration, focusing on the groundbreaking Mars Rover missions and the transferable skills that make them possible.

Mark shared his expertise on the interdisciplinary nature of space science, highlighting how subjects like physics, chemistry, maths, and computer science play a pivotal role in advancing humanity's reach into space. Students also gained valuable insights into choosing university courses and building skills to support careers in space and other STEM fields.

The highlight of the event was a lively Q&A session where students asked Mark questions about his career, challenges in space exploration, and advice for aspiring scientists and engineers.

The event left students motivated to aim high and explore the possibilities that science and technology can unlock but most importantly to *"follow your interests and passion, know your skills, and whichever route you take you will always learn something"*.



'I would love to attend the Rockets for All workshop because I am passionate and open to learn about any area of engineering. I am eager to learn from experts in the UK Space Agency and gain insight into the exciting opportunities within the space industry. This event would be a fantastic chance to explore how engineering, geology, and policy shape space missions, and I'm enthusiastic about asking questions and taking part in interactive activities. Participating in the challenge would be an amazing opportunity to apply what I've learned and challenge myself creatively and academically.' - Elis Cristovao 10WCM

HIGHLANDS STEM WEBINAR: ROCKETS FOR ALL WITH MARK SEPHTON



'I have recently gained a lot of interest in aerospace engineering and the physics and mathematical side of everything including planes, their engines and rockets. I wish to study aerospace engineering after A levels' - Arnelijus Mankevicius 12OAT



'I have a very strong obsession with space and astrophysics; my dream job is to either become a doctor or an astrophysicist and work in NASA. The webinar will give me the opportunity to improve, learn and understand the skills that I need to have to become an astrophysicist and it gives me an opportunity to be able to have access to people who have already chosen this part of science and to learn tips from them.' - Diana Tangestani 10ODC

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

Alongside the main school newsletter, we also send out a **weekly Careers Newsletter** to all students via a separate link on Google Classroom. It is also available on our website. Click [here](#) to view all of our editions.

It's packed with exciting opportunities like competitions, insight days, work experience, and updates on universities and our "Job of the Week" feature.

Don't miss out on this exclusive information—make the most of it!

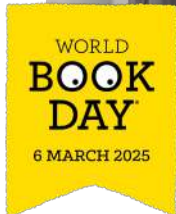


CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY AT HIGHLANDS

In celebration of World Book Day, our staff embraced the fun by dressing up as their favourite literary characters!

Each staff member who participated earned 100 points for their house, adding some extra excitement to the day.

It was a fantastic way to inspire creativity and show our love for reading while giving the houses a little boost in the competition!



WORLD BOOK DAY SELFIES

In celebration of World Book Day, here are the fabulous book selfies from both staff and students! From interesting poses to creative book choices, these snapshots capture the fun and enthusiasm that books can create.

A huge thank you to everyone who got involved, who knew reading could look this good?



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY - 27TH JANUARY 2025

Holocaust Memorial Day, on 27th January 2025 commemorated the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz. To mark this anniversary, special assemblies were held and presented by students. They delivered impactful and informative sessions about the Holocaust.

The sad truth of human history is that, too often, people have been discriminated against and dehumanised, sometimes leading to violence and then genocide. Education and schools in particular are crucial in helping students understand the past and making sure we show care and compassion towards others, regardless of our differences. We take this responsibility seriously at Highlands and we are proud of our diverse school community and proud of how our students treat each other.



HOUSE ASSEMBLIES



We celebrated Neurodiversity Week with informative assemblies that highlighted the importance of embracing differences and understanding the diverse ways people think and learn.

The assemblies helped raise awareness of neurodiversity, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all students. It was an opportunity to celebrate unique strengths and promote understanding and acceptance throughout the school community.

HPFA QUIZ NIGHT

Our HPFA quiz night was a huge success, raising over £750 for our school.

Around 70 people attended, enjoying a fun-filled evening of friendly competition and laughter.

It was especially wonderful to see so many students joining in with their families, creating a warm and inclusive atmosphere that made the event even more memorable.



SMOKING AND VAPING INFORMATION WORKSHOP

Below is a review by Mrs Lloyd of the anti-smoking and anti-vaping workshops led by staff from Evergreen surgery in Edmonton, specifically the healthy life advisors, Fateha Ali and Sophia Povey and a GP, Dr Ross Cunningham.

“NHS professionals from Evergreen surgery attended Highlands school to deliver assemblies and workshops to students in year 11,12 and 13 about the dangers of smoking and vaping. I was thoroughly impressed with their presentations. Fateha and Sophia were engaging, informative, and made a complex and sensitive subject very accessible for the students. The information was evidence-based and relatable, highlighting the potential health risks of vaping and offering practical advice on how to make healthier choices. The presentation also drew on wider societal concerns such as harmful marketing strategies and the impact vaping has on the environment.

The workshops which followed included the opportunity for targeted students to discern between myths and facts, think critically about their choices and ask questions in a non-judgmental space. Our students really appreciated the opportunity to hear first hand from medical professionals about the impact smoking and vaping can have on both their physical and mental health. Sophia and Fateha confidently handled a range of questions and it was evident that student opinions about vaping had changed by the end of the workshop.

This type of outreach is important preventative work which equips students with the knowledge they need to make informed, independent decisions about their health. We hope this will positively impact their choices in school, and the collective choices these young people make as adults in society.”

‘I took part in a workshop that talked about the risks and dangers of vaping. I found it knowledgeable and I'm glad that I learnt new information and how to keep myself and others healthy. I also think the school bringing in a doctor and two healthy life advisors from a local surgery really benefited the workshop as it showed the students taking part that we are learning from professionals in our community. I really thank them all for their time.’

- Asante (year 11)



JOIN THE DOTS: UNIVERSITY TRANSITION PROGRAMME FOR STEM - SUCCESSFUL HIGHLANDS SIXTH FORM APPLICANTS

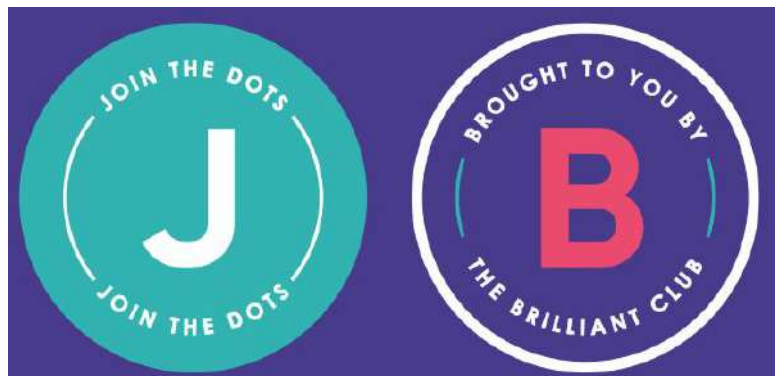
Congratulations to the below students who have been accepted onto the competitive university transition programme Join the Dots, which is run by the Brilliant Club.

Year 12:

- Isaac Mooney

Year 13:

- Selina Ramadan
- Shakeel Muuse ibraahim
- Ellie Kyprianou
- Candice Grossmann
- Jessica Griggs
- Rhea Mehta
- Ethan Strickland
- Beyza Artis
- Hana Fahmy
- Eleanor McHale



Join the Dots is split into two parts:

Before university:

UniPrep gives pupils access to free live webinars and is open to any year 12 or 13 student applying to university. It offers free guidance and tips on things like personal statements and student finance, as well as study skills support and insight into what life is like at university.

Starting uni:

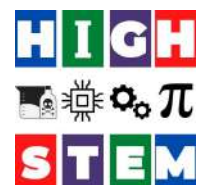
Successful pupils will be supported by a Join the Dots partner university, where a spot will be secured in the second part of the programme. University partners will be announced throughout the year.

In the second part of the programme, students have a personal coach who will give them 1-1 academic coaching for their first assignments and assessments, along with group sessions with other students in the network to share advice and support to help them settle in. All of this is for free!

If you would like to be a part of this amazing programme please look out for the announcement in your STEM Google Classroom.

Well done sixth formers!

Dr Len



RELIGIOUS STUDIES TRIP TO BLOOMSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Year 12 religious studies students recently visited Bloomsbury Baptist Church for an A-level religious studies conference on *Evil and the God of Love*. The thought-provoking event explored theological perspectives on the problem of evil and divine love.

It was a valuable opportunity for students to enhance their understanding of key philosophical and ethical debates, enriching their studies beyond the classroom.



DARE AWARDS

There are many students who turn up every day, who always bring equipment, complete work to the best of their ability and generally embody the values of our school: determination, aspiration, respect and equality. The DARE rewards are a way of celebrating these students.

DARE scores are entered by a range of teachers and reflect what students do day-in, day-out so the students who are being recognised and rewarded are those who are consistently doing the right thing.

The average DARE application score for each student has allowed us to rank the students in the year group from those with the best average DARE application score to the lowest.

Congratulations to the following students, who were ranked the top students in **year 12**. Their names are listed below. The top 100 achieving students will be receiving a letter home in recognition of their achievements in the DARE values.

Year 12 - Joint 1st:

- Berkay Akis (**Willow**): £10 voucher
- Harry Angelides (**Oak**): £10 voucher
- Joseph Brooks (**Rowan**): £10 voucher
- Rukiye Coban (**Oak**): £10 voucher
- Yasmin Farhadi (**Oak**): £10 voucher
- Elena Giudice (**Beech**): £10 voucher
- Elaine Ho (**Willow**): £10 voucher
- Wunfai Alex Lo (**Beech**): £10 voucher
- Ayla Okanay (**Willow**): £10 voucher
- Luke Tyrimos (**Willow**): £10 voucher

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD - WINNER!

We are incredibly proud to announce that our student, Neriah Muhelele in year 12, has won the **Year 10+ Art and Creative Writing** category in the Show Racism the Red Card competition. This marks the third consecutive year that our school has achieved a win in this prestigious competition, demonstrating our students' ongoing commitment to using creativity as a powerful tool for social change.

Neriah's outstanding work stood out among many entries, showcasing both artistic talent and a strong message against racism. The awards ceremony will take place at Nottingham Forest FC's City Ground on 1st May, where Neriah will be officially recognised for this incredible achievement. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Neriah and look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion!



Neriah's entry:

*I used to hate being black,
I thought that it meant that I was destined to be bad,
All those black men on TV with guns and drugs,
I thought that that was gonna be my brother or my dad.*

*My mum's right there,
She raised me right,
She raised me to cherish my heritage and fight,
And that's all well and nice,
But I've heard words that contradict every teaching she's cemented into me.*

*Eric Garner.
Died 17 July 2014.*

*He was the first black man I'd seen on my TV screen to be killed by the people who swore to 'protect and serve'.
I remember it like yesterday where the world I perceived with colour turned literally black and white.*

*I used to think how are we still losing this fight?
How in 2024 are we still struggling to be treated right?
I'm a teenager, I've seen people win fights but somehow, this is simply a fight we cannot win.*

*I'm Congolese, it's part of who I am,
I remember being 6 and my teacher said "raise your hand to tell us where you're from",
I said Congo and she said "where's that?"*

The embarrassment I felt reflected straight into being black and ever since then I wondered, who would want that?

*I used to love braiding my white friends hair and feeling my hand run through and it was silky smooth,
Run your fingers through my hair and it's getting trapped between the tangles that come with 4C hair and evidently, being black.*

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD - WINNER!

What's there to like at this point?

I've seen my male friends be stopped by police and I've been so frozen in time that I can't intervene because all I ever seem to think is "don't cause a scene".

I used to hate being black.

Yeah I did.

But now I know that I'm not destined to be bad.

And despite those black men on TV with guns and drugs,

That's not my brother or my dad.

With being black,

There's so much to love,

From music to food to community and more,

Being black is a constant war but one I would never give up.

My 4C hair used to make me sad but now I'm glad I was given such a blessing.

I get to style my hair 100 different ways and when I come into school, I receive all types of praise.

Black History Month content for a long time was at a lack.

It was like all there was to being black was MLK, Rosa Parks and Muhammed Ali.

And while those three are people to thank,

I used to wanna scream like a banshee because I'll always disagree as that's not all there is to the history of being black.

There was a crack in the curriculum because as a matter of fact, we're not even American.

So I used to always wonder why haven't I ever learned about Mark Duggan.

4 August 2011.

The shot that was heard around the world.

20,000 people gathered,

Every road was a hazard,

Police feared, their reputations smeared

A killing stirred five days of rioting that blurred

All so we could be heard.

Finally, we've reached a point where we can share more than just those American tales of black history.

I'm filled with glee because our pleas have finally been heard,

Though I still think it's absurd it took this long.

A lot of poems I have are unheard but I hope that with this one I've stirred something in everyone.

Whether the emotion be anger, happiness or sadness, my notion was to share my experience.

Trust me when I say I'm not always this serious.

Thank you for allowing me to share my art because it came straight from the heart.

Sadly this is the end and I have to depart.

Remember, being black has never been a curse, it makes the world more diverse.

This is me done and thank you for listening to my spoken word.



OAK THAI CUISINE DAY

Chartwells, our fantastic caterers, brought a taste of Thailand to our school, making a delicious Thai curry with apple red cabbage and noodles!

Delicious!



WILLOW TURKISH CUISINE DAY

Willow House hosted Turkish Cuisine Day this term, showcasing the rich flavours of Turkey.

Chartwells, our caterers, treated students to a delicious menu featuring beef kofte with tangy tomato sauce, served with rice and roasted vegetables, as well as a hearty pasta bake.

The event was a fantastic way to explore and enjoy Turkish culinary traditions, bringing our school community together over some tasty dishes!



BEECH GREEK CUISINE DAY

We had a great time celebrating Greek Cuisine Day at Highlands - Opa! Hosted by Beech House and our school caterers, Chartwells. Everyone enjoyed delicious food, including tasty pork with potato wedges and mint sauce, pitta bread, and a yummy vegetarian option with mixed beans and vegetables. It was a fun way to bring our school community together.



ROWAN SPANISH CUISINE DAY

Rowan House hosted Spanish Cuisine Day this term, bringing a taste of Spain to our school community.

Students and staff enjoyed a delicious selection of traditional Spanish dishes which included paella with chicken, sausage and bacon or mixed bean catalan with patatas bravas and mixed vegetables, while learning about the rich culinary heritage of Spain.



HONOUR BOARDS



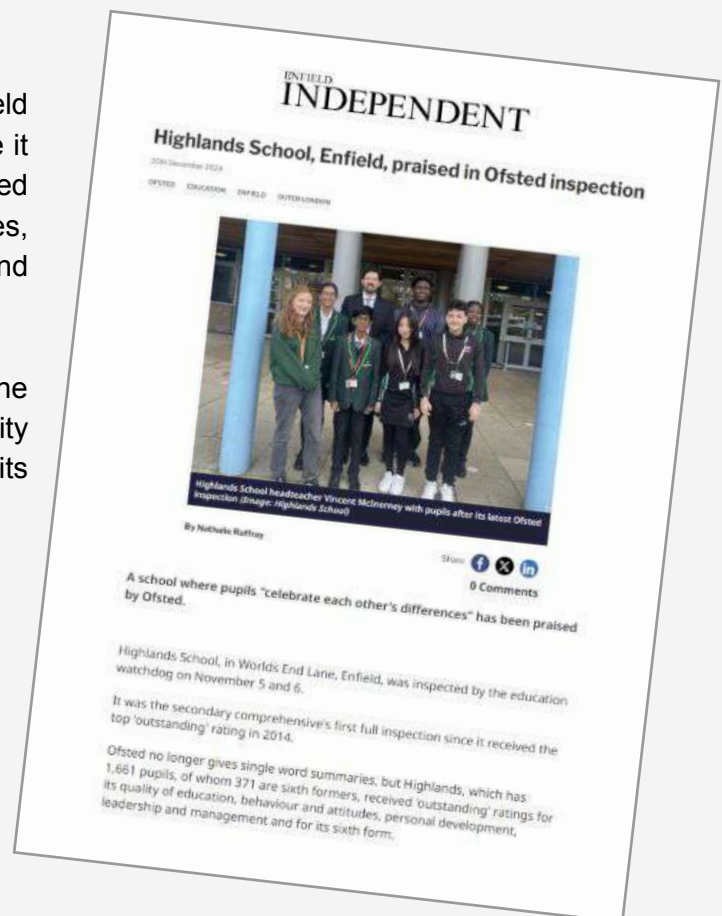
Each year, the honour boards at the school are updated in a tradition that marks the achievements of the past year. The names of the newly appointed strand leads, house captains, house champions, and head students are added to the boards, ensuring that their leadership and excellence are remembered for years to come.

It's a meaningful moment that celebrates both tradition and the continued legacy of student leadership.

HIGHLANDS FEATURES IN THE ENFIELD INDEPENDENT

Highlands School has been featured in the Enfield Independent following its recent Ofsted inspection, where it achieved 'Outstanding' ratings across all five assessed categories: quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, and sixth form provision.

We are very proud of this accomplishment as it reflects the school's commitment to excellence in providing high-quality education and fostering a supportive environment for its students. Read the article [here](#).



HIGHLANDS SCHOOL PRESENTS CHICAGO TEEN EDITION

Following on from the enormous success of Matilda last year, we can't wait to share the new school show with you.

Tickets are now on sale!

Tickets are priced at £9 and can be purchased via the Millfield Box Office [here](#).

The show is **Wednesday 25th June at 1pm and 7pm** and **Thursday 26th and Friday 27th June at 7pm**. The show lasts approximately two hours including a 20 minute interval.

Come and experience a night in a Chicago speakeasy! Immerse yourselves in prohibition America, in a city caught up in the murderous tales of wannabe stars Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly.

Students from all year groups are in the cast, so come along and support them. It promises to be a night full of jazz but maybe not justice!



YEAR 12 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

As part of our commitment to celebrating excellence in the house competition, we introduced the academic excellence awards based on student feedback. After each year group's mid-year assessments and mock exams, we honour the top achiever in each subject with an academic excellence trophy for their house, 1,000 house points, and a certificate. Additionally, the most improved student in each subject will receive a certificate to acknowledge their hard work and progress. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Student	Form	House	Subject
Sia Loomis	12OES	Oak	Art
Rukiye Coban	12OES	Oak	Biology
Rukiye Coban	12OES	Oak	Chemistry
Rhea Mehta	12RJB	Rowan	
Berat Bilmec	12WAD	Willow	Computer science
Aryan Vojdani	12OES	Oak	Design technology
Abdikarim Mohamed	12WDS	Willow	Economics
Noah Statham	12OES	Oak	
Luke Tyrimos	12WAD	Willow	English literature
Elaine Ho	12WDS	Willow	Further maths
Sophie Gerrish	12RJB	Rowan	Geography
Luke Tyrimos	12WAD	Willow	History
Mercedes Acquaye	12RHK	Rowan	Maths
Mea Branco	12WAD	Willow	PE
Holly Thewlis	12OAT	Oak	
Elsie Berko	12RJB	Rowan	Photography
Flori Macarthur	12OES	Oak	Religious studies
Elena Giudice	12BAS	Beech	Sociology
Victoria Salamanca	12WAD	Willow	Spanish

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL ALUMNI

We are thrilled to share the success story of our incredible alumni Rosa Vojdani, who is now a Proposal manager at Avania, a global clinical research organisation within the medical technology field.

Rosa Vojdani, Proposal manager at Avania

Qualifications: MSc Clinical Neuroscience, BSc Biological Science.

Tell us about your educational journey/or career since leaving Highlands.

After leaving Highlands, I studied Biological Sciences at undergraduate level and completed a master's in Clinical Neuroscience at King's College London. I then worked as a project manager at a clinical research organization conducting Phase I-III drug trials before moving to Avania.

What does a typical work day involve for you?

A typical workday involves working independently and with my team to create budgets, proposals, and contracts for various projects. I attend strategy meetings and collaborate with different departments to assist with client research and protocol review for proposal development.

What has been the highlight of your career journey so far?

The highlight of my career so far has been the opportunity to work with a diverse range of people, both within my company and with pharmaceutical and medical clients. This experience has helped me build valuable skills and connections that will benefit me throughout my career.

How would you say your Highlands experience has helped you to get where you are today?

Highlands laid the foundation for my education and career. The skills, confidence, and support I received there helped me have a positive experience and achieve the grades I needed to progress to university.

If you could give one piece of advice to current Highlands students, what would that be?

Enjoy your time at secondary school because it goes by so fast! Also to create results and memories that you can look back on and be proud of.



Highlands School Alumni

As a school, we want to reconnect with our former students so that we can keep in touch and let them know about volunteering opportunities that will benefit our current students. We want to show them the variety of pathways available to them after leaving Highlands School, and who better to showcase this information, than former students!

We are working with education charity Future First to set this up, and all you need to do to get involved is sign up here: [Highlands School Alumni](#) or alternatively scan the QR code below.

More information is on our [website](#) and if you have any questions please contact our Alumni Programme Manager at Future First: Tara Human – tara.human@futurefirst.org.uk

#HighlandsAlumni

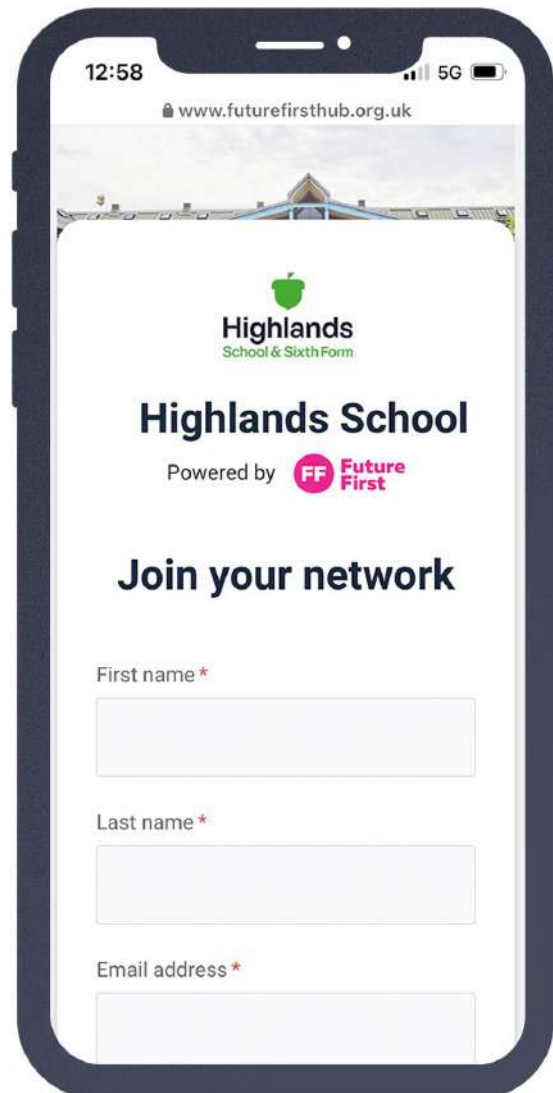


Former student?

Return to Highlands School to inform our current students about what life beyond school is really like.

Sign up to our former student network to receive news, updates and invites to events.

Once you're signed up there is no obligation to volunteer, you can get involved around your availability.



NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget

If you take part in any of the opportunities posted onto Google Classroom including virtual events, and any other career related emailed to you, you must inform Mrs Laurenzi to complete the relevant form.

Sixth form key dates

Year 12 work experience:
Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July 2025

Year 13 celebratory pizza party:
Friday 9th May 2025

Year 13 prom:
Tuesday 24th June 2025
(Final payment for this is Friday 9th May)

Year 13 leavers hoodies:
Delivered week commencing 22nd April 2025

A level /BTEC results day:
Thursday 14th August 2025

GCSE results day:
Thursday 21st August 2025

UNIVERSITY TASTER COURSE PROGRAMME

TRY A UNIVERSITY COURSE BEFORE YOU APPLY

Free for prospective
undergraduate students
APPLY NOW!

150+ COURSES
70+ SUBJECT AREAS
20+ INSTITUTIONS

Administered by



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

[LONDON.AC.UK/TASTERS](https://london.ac.uk/tasters)

