



Highlands School Newsletter

6th February 2026



Dear parents and carers,

Next Friday is the end of the third half term of this school year, and marks the halfway point in this academic year. We are now only nine school weeks away from the first GCSE and A level exams and we are continuing our focus on making sure students in years 10, 11 and 13 are fully prepared for their examinations. I spoke with year 11 students this morning in assembly about making sure they are working hard and making a positive contribution to the year groups and to the school.

Next half term we have three parents' evenings in just three weeks. This is because we put our parents' evenings immediately after our mid-year assessments for each year group. This means the conversations at parents' evening can focus on the most recent academic and behaviour data. Please make sure you attend.

Next half term also features two after school events that I would encourage you to attend. We have our HPFA quiz night on Friday 13th March; as is tradition, I will be quizmaster. And, on Thursday 19th March, we have our Battle of the Bands competition at school. We held this event for the first time last year and it was such a success we are bringing it back again this year, even bigger and better. I hope lots of you will come along.

Have a great weekend,
Mr McInerney, Headteacher.

Key dates for this half term:

- Friday 13th February: final day of half term

Key dates for next half term:

- Monday 23rd February: first day of half term
- Wednesday 25th February: year 7 parents' evening
- Wednesday 11th March: year 10 parents' evening
- Friday 13th March: HPFA quiz night
- Wednesday 18th March: year 12 parents' evening
- Thursday 19th March: Battle of the Bands
- Friday 27th March: final day of term, students released at midday

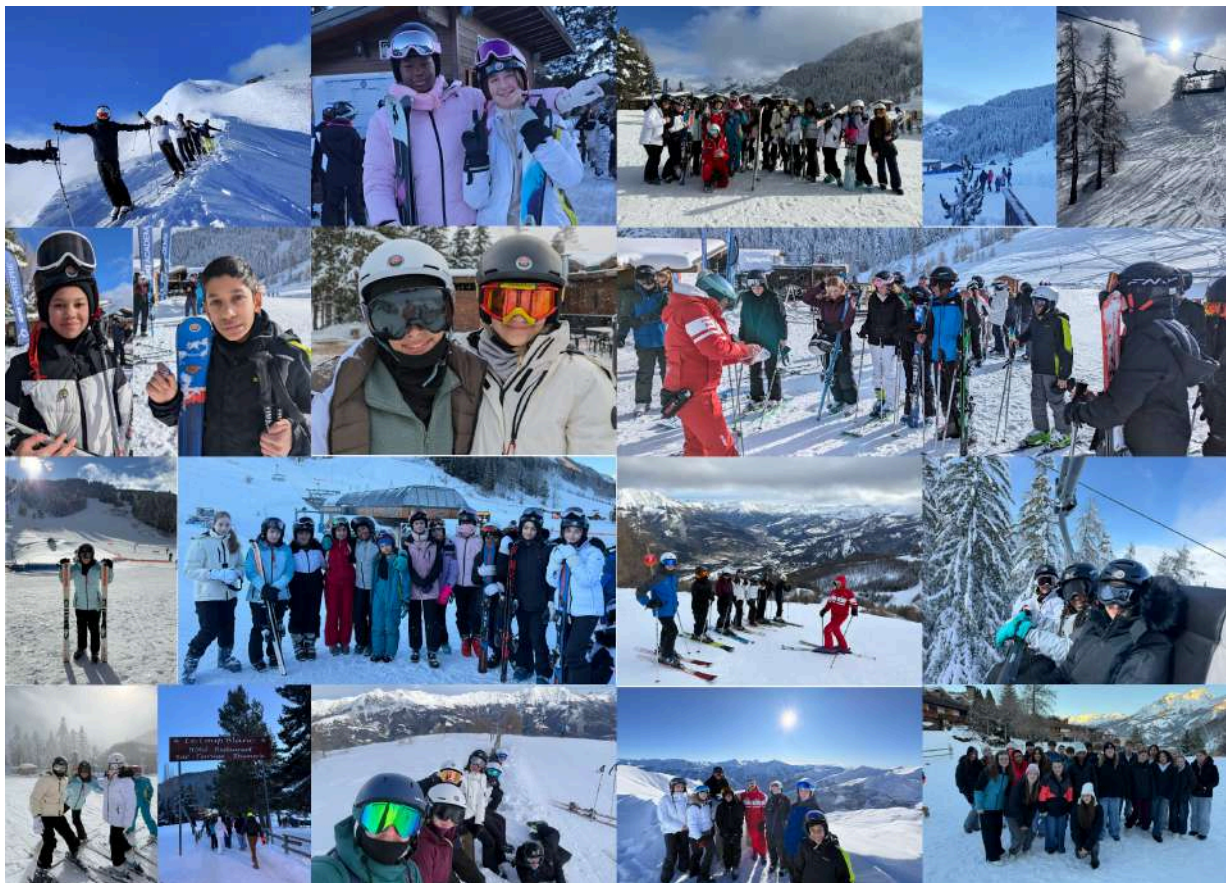
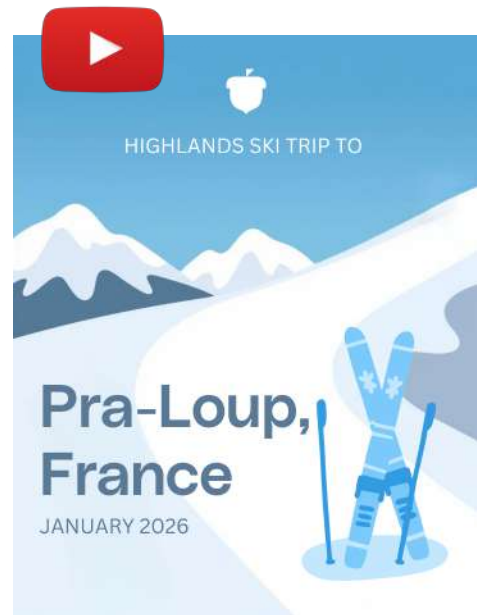


Pra-Loup, France ski trip

Wow, what an adventure! Students experienced a truly unforgettable trip to Pra-Loup, France surrounded by mesmerising mountain views and packed with memorable experiences.

From ski lessons on the slopes building confidence and skills, to evening activities including games night, bowling, ice skating and quizzes, every day brought something new. A definite highlight was Mr Xenophon's iconic *"Shine Bright Like a Rhombus"* performance during the guess-the-song/artist quiz!

It really was a trip of a lifetime! You can follow the day-to-day activities via the [Ski France mini site](#) created by Miss Berrill, and catch the best moments in our [highlights reel](#).





Art house competition

The art house competition took place this term, with students taking on the clay vessel challenge. The standard of work was exceptional - beautifully crafted pieces and thoughtful, creative designs made it incredibly difficult to choose just a top three.

A huge well done to Nefes, whose outstanding entry won the competition for Beech, securing the trophy and earning 1,000 points towards the house competition.

- **1st:** Nefes Atas 9BLR
- **2nd:** Ciara Moore-McGowan 9WSW
- **3rd:** Esmee-Mai Coleman 9RJG



Options evening

Thank you to all the parents, carers and students who joined us for Options evening this week. It was a pleasure to welcome you and to see such positive engagement throughout the event.

We hope the evening was informative and helped to clearly explain the options process, enabling students to make confident and well-informed choices for the next stage of their education.

If you would like to revisit the information, please read the options booklet [here](#).

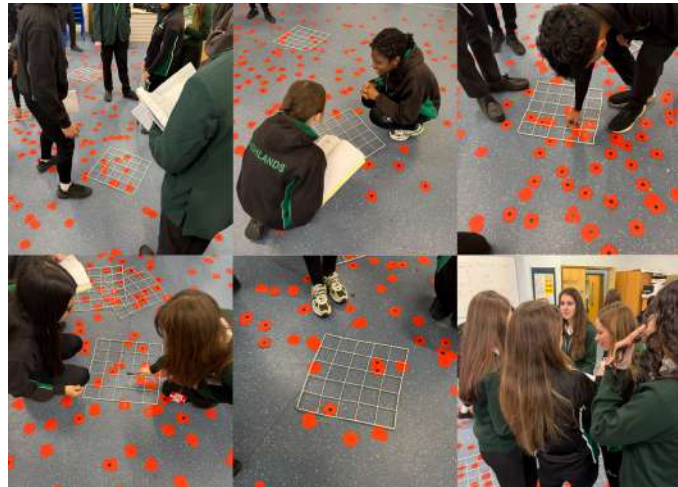




Inventive indoor sampling in science

Year 11 students carried out ecological sampling as part of their science work, and they didn't let the rainy weather stop them, adapting their investigation to work indoors instead.

Using a grid-based sampling method, they placed quadrats over a defined area and counted the number of species found within each square, allowing them to calculate an overall estimate for the whole area. Poppies were used as their sample species, which was both inventive and effective, helping them clearly apply the technique while reinforcing how scientists use sampling to make reliable predictions without needing to count every organism individually.



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Healthy relationships assembly

This week's assembly focused on the theme of healthy relationships, helping students understand why positive relationships are such an important part of everyday life. Students learned about the importance of respect, boundaries and personal wellbeing, as well as what a healthy relationship looks like. The assembly also explored how to build and maintain healthy relationships, how to recognise unhealthy patterns and where to go for support if concerns arise, ensuring students feel informed, empowered, and supported.





A recipe for success!

We are incredibly proud of James Nicolaou in year 11 on receiving an unconditional offer to attend Westminster Kingsway College, where he will study the Professional Chef Diploma. This is a highly respected course, one Ms Simons also completed, and it provides an outstanding foundation for a career in the culinary industry. We are so excited to see what the future holds for James.

Watch out, MasterChef!



Dancers of the week

Georgia Argue and Alexa Nicolau in year 9 are our dancers of the week. Well done for the great effort in your Indian dance classes.

Miss Brown

HPFA Quiz night

The HPFA will be hosting its annual Quiz Night on **Friday 13th March**, with Mr McInerney leading the quiz as our quiz master.

The event will begin at **7.00pm**, and tickets are priced at £5, available via ParentPay.

There will be drinks and refreshments available on the night, so come along for an enjoyable and sociable evening.





Show Racism the Red Card - deadline: 17th February

This year marks our fourth consecutive entry into Show Racism the Red Card and we are incredibly proud of our success to date, having won the competition three years in a row. Last year, we achieved outstanding recognition by winning the *Year 10+ Art & Creative Writing category*, the prestigious *Jo Cox Memorial Award*, and being selected as the *overall competition winner*. Our winning student, Neriah, was invited to the Palace of Westminster, met Keir Starmer, and performed her poem at 10 Downing Street. We hope this inspires everyone to get involved again this year and continue this incredible legacy.



What is the competition?

- The Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) school competition is free to enter and open to young people of all ages and abilities.
- We want to encourage participants to think about racism and produce their own work about this serious issue.
- This is a unique opportunity for schools to proactively demonstrate their commitment to equality and tackling racism by taking part in the UK's largest equalities themed school competition

How is it judged?

- An independent panel of judges select the winning entries and winners are invited to a special awards ceremony at a Premier League stadium.
- Prizes are presented by special guests including current and former professional footballers.

The categories:

- Everyone is welcome to produce work in any medium: **artwork, creative writing, song, film, music, t-shirt or football boot designs.**
- If it's about racism, we want to see it!

The **design a boot** and **t-shirt** categories is a creative task. The templates can be downloaded [here](#).

The music category: encourages students to use sounds, rhythm and lyrics as powerful tools to express their understanding of racism. Students can choose to write an original song, create a rap, compose instruments or reinterpret an existing piece to communicate a strong sense of equality and inclusion.





The rules

**SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD**

RULES

- **Artwork** must not exceed **A3 size** (297 x 420mm)
- **Music entries** must not exceed **5 minutes** & must be playable in **MP3 or MP4 format**
- **Film entries** must not exceed **6 minutes** & must be playable in **Windows Media Player**
- **Group entries** are permitted but limited to a **maximum number of 6 young people per group**
- **Please do not send more than one entry, per category, per school**

How to enter

All entries to be handed in or sent to [Ms Maple](#) by **17th February 2026**.

Please write the following information on the back of each entry:

- **Name of entrant**
- **Year group**
- **Name of school**

Paper templates of the boot and t-shirt can be found in Ms Maple's office or [here](#).





School announcements

Catch-up clinics

If your child missed their vaccination at school, Vaccination UK has scheduled a number of catch-up clinics around the UK which you can book onto. Click [here](#) for more details,

Lost property

Please click [here](#) for a list of lost property received since the start of term. If your child has lost anything listed, or any other item, please ask them to check with the school office as items arrive daily. All items being claimed will need to be identified by the student. Please can we also remind parents/carers to label all uniform and belongings so we can get items back to students as quickly as possible.

Notifying the school of student appointments

If your child has an appointment scheduled during school hours, please ensure you notify us promptly by emailing postbox@highlearn.uk for years 7-11 and sixthform@highlearn.uk for years 12-13 or by phoning us on the day of the appointment.

Your notification must include the date of the appointment and the exact time the student needs to leave school. Where possible, please also attach or provide proof of the appointment to the email.

To ensure your child is released smoothly from their lesson, please write a clear note on the appropriate day of your child's student planner, indicating the time they need to leave class. Students must show this planner note to their teacher to be excused from the lesson. They will then proceed to the school reception to officially sign out before being released to meet you at your pre-arranged location. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

School lettings

School Hire and Functions Ltd manage all our bookings for hiring of the astro, sports hall, field, main hall, dance and drama rooms and general classroom hire. We have had new floodlights installed on the astro meaning we can now take bookings in the evenings during the winter months.

For all booking enquiries, please contact **Jo Bukin, Director**, at **07855 042027** or email: school.hire@yahoo.co.uk. You can also find more details at www.school-hire.com

Highlands School
148 Worlds End Lane, London, N21 1QQ

Modern and spacious facilities to hire for community events, sports groups, dance and drama classes, language school, tutoring services...and more!

Welcome to Highlands

4G Astro pitch
Drama studios
Sports hall
Mirrored dance studio
Classrooms
Outside spaces

CONTACT TODAY
07855042027



Book of the month - February

Recommended read for KS3: *Sisters of the Moon* by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick

A wonderfully atmospheric story about holistic mysticism, the unexplainable and the power of female friendship.

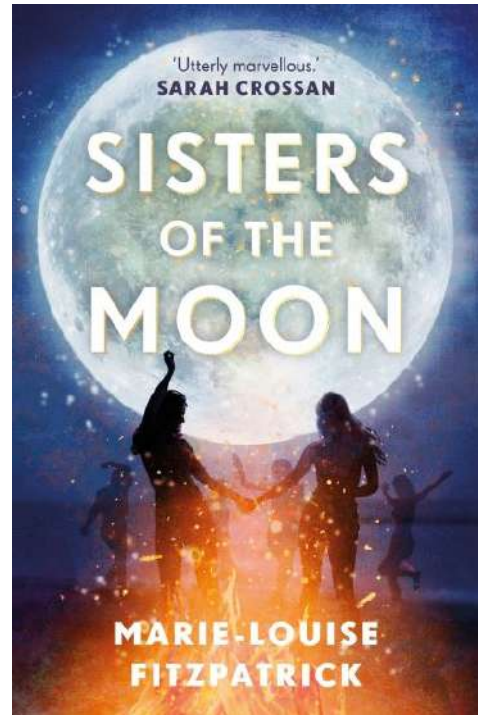
Suzy Button is grieving. Grieving for her dead mother, but also for the friends she's left behind, the father who no longer laughs and the life that she once had. In desperation she finds herself

in the garden in the middle of the night, under the light of a supermoon, wishing everything would change. And suddenly, it does.

Into school walks Rhiannon, a fearless new girl who makes Suzy her instant best friend. And Rhiannon seems to make things...happen. If Suzy wants something, somehow Rhiannon can make it so: friends, beach parties, midnight photoshoots under a moonlit sky...Suzy's life is finally moving forward again.

But where did Rhiannon come from? She doesn't seem to live in Sallycove. Why can't Suzy go to her house? And why does she never have any stuff?

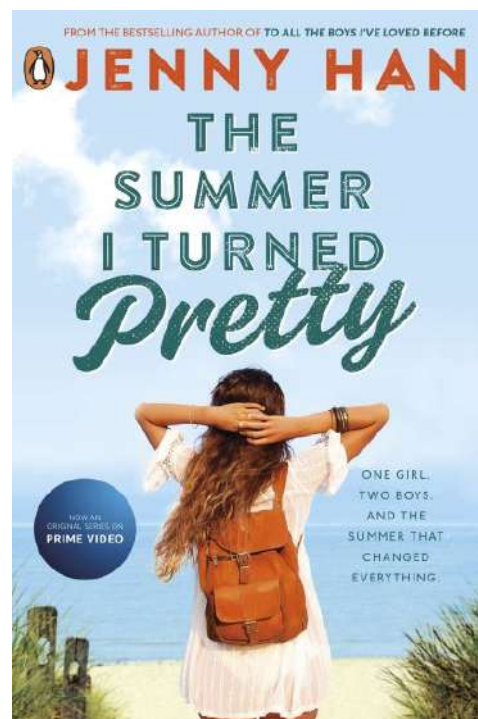
Suzy might be her best friend, but does she really know who Rhiannon is?



Recommended read for KS4: *The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han

Follows the story of 15 year old Belly as she attempts to have the perfect summer. Every year Isabel spends a perfect summer at her family friends' house. There's the swimming pool at night, the private stretch of sandy beach... and the two boys. Unavailable, aloof Conrad - who she's been in love with forever - and friendly, relaxed Jeremiah, the only one who's ever really paid her any attention.

But this year something is different. They seem to have noticed her for the first time. It's going to be an amazing summer - and one she'll never forget...





The Boy At the Back of the Class - interactive workshop

Join multi-award-winning author Onjali Q. Raúf, creator of the beloved *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, for an unforgettable session sure to spark empathy and action in young readers.

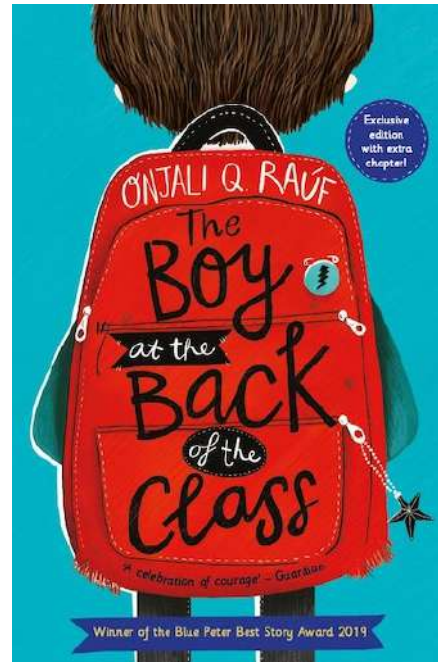
Through her powerful storytelling and engaging activities, Onjali draws on her bestselling novels to inspire thoughtful conversations about refugees, kindness, and the courage to make a difference.

This interactive workshop is perfect event for families looking to inspire and empower children with compassion and creativity

Winner of the Blue Peter Book Awards and Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2019 for *The Boy at the Back of the Class*.

Age recommendation 9-11 years

25th April, doors open at 13:30, Creativity Pavilion. Book [here](#).



ENFIELD BRANCH

Smiths
schoolwear

WE NOW STOCK



Highlands

AT OUR ENFIELD BRANCH
(STILL ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE COCKFOSTERS BRANCH)

223 BAKER STREET, ENFIELD, EN1 3LA



House weekly winners

The winner is the house with the most positive points, minus negative points plus the points from the art house competition. Well done **Willow!**

	Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Positive points	4,939	5,654	5,954	7,044
Negative points	-487	-406	-287	-343
Art house competition	1,000	-	-	-
Points overall	5,452	5,248	5,667	6,701

Top students in year 7

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Jaiden	Daley	7OPH	O	66
Lilly Ann	Anisko	7WTH	W	59
Charles	Nottage	7WTH	W	59
Amelia	Francis	7OPH	O	58
Stacey	Demo	7WDD	W	58
Ruby	Clee	7WTH	W	58
Cayan	Vural	7OPH	O	57
Darina	Abdulkadhim	7WTH	W	57
Seraphina	Mumba	7WTH	W	57
Maria	Elbashir	7WTH	W	57

Top students in year 8:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Gabriella	Lambrou	8WEL	W	48
Rayan	Mousawy	8WEL	W	47
Orhan	Ekiz	8WEL	W	47
Paul	Lambrou	8WEL	W	46
Hayal	Karakas	8BHV	B	45
Jessica	Airey	8WEL	W	45
Eliz	Sekmen	8WEL	W	45
Sebastian	Osinowo	8WEL	W	44
Maisy	Hannay	8BAS	B	43
Lilah	Zekayi	8WEL	W	43
Iyla	Shah	8WEL	W	43
Helin	Kekec	8WEL	W	43



Top students in year 9:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Aaliyah	Lascelles	9WSW	W	43
Hannah	Gibbons	9WSW	W	41
Anthony	Stavrou	9WSW	W	39
Isabelle	Cooper-Fitzgerald	9WSW	W	37
Sibel	Angelova	9ODM	O	35
Asya	Sagiroglu	9WSW	W	35
Israel	Nortey	9RGA	R	34
Kayla	Hassan	9ODM	O	33
Dylan	Makani	9ODM	O	33
Alexa	Nicolau	9RGA	R	32

Top students in year 10:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Kaelyn	Beisty	10WNK	W	38
Nea	Petritaj	10WNK	W	32
Zulaikha	Chaudhry	10RAB	R	31
Aisha	Gambo	10BBK	B	30
Aalycia	Udahemuka	10WNK	W	30
Kayla-Faith	Muhelele	10RAB	R	29
Nicholas	Andrews	10WNK	W	28
Faye	Etuazim	10WNK	W	28
Emily	Newton	10RAB	R	27
Tahlia Teoni	Boyele	10RCX	R	27
Krystal	Wright	10RCX	R	27
Amalia	Lamarca	10WMP	W	27



Top students in year 11:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Daniel	Boztas	11ODC	O	30
Zara	Petkova	11ODC	O	28
Sampson	Panayi	11BLM	B	26
Kingston	Barrow	11OSM	O	26
Sophia	Stavrinides	11BLM	B	24
Cooper	Ireland	11BLM	B	24
Elyscia	Lazarides	11BLM	B	24
Luke	Shearman	11ODC	O	24
Olivia	Aristodemou	11RCG	R	22
Joseph	Casali	11RJC	R	22

Top students in year 12:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Anastasia	Katz	12OMA	O	16
Raphael	Ponnou	12WBS	W	14
Mason	Newton	12WBS	W	14
Evie	Ferguson	12WTA	W	14
Skye	Creary	12WBS	W	13
Caiden	Paterson-Mckenzie	12WBS	W	13
Laina	Constantinou	12RCW	R	12
Jessica	Smyth	12WTA	W	12

Top students in year 13:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Sherihan	Mehmet	13BTD	B	14
Sophie	Gerrish	13RJB	R	14
Nida	Demirkaya	13RJB	R	14
Tiana	Martindale	13BTD	B	12
Florence	Charlton	13OAL	O	12
Giulio	Pappalardo	13OAL	O	12
Sia	Loomis	13OES	O	12
Alesha	Okoye	13WAD	W	12



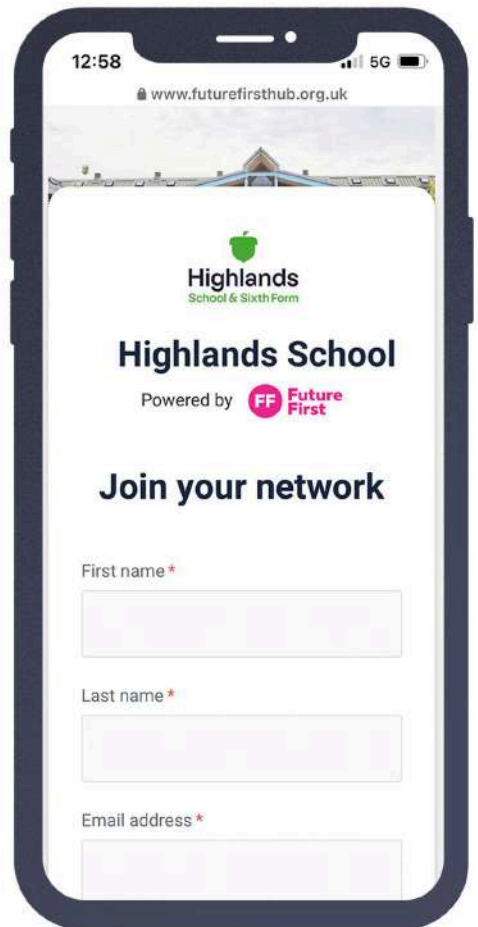
Highlands School Alumni

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](https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk) 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: Faithia Garffus – faithia.garffus@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.





Student medical needs

If your child needs to take regular medication in school, please fill out the following [Medicines Consent Form](#) to give the school consent to administer medication to your child. All medications that are kept in school must be stored in the medical room.

Mental health

We are continuously working hard to improve our understanding as a community of mental health, to enable us to provide the best possible outcomes for the young people in our lives. If you are ever concerned that your child is at risk due to very poor mental health please inform the school. You can also contact one of these numbers to seek support from a specialist. The Crisis line is there to offer guidance if your child may be having suicidal thoughts and is possibly in immediate danger. If you do ever find yourself in a position where you need to use these resources for your child, please make the school aware so we can provide appropriate support within school for your child.

Urgent mental health support - 24/7 crisis lines

Area	Boroughs covered	24/7 crisis line number
North West London	Brent, Hillingdon, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster	0800 0234 650
	Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham	0800 328 4444
North Central London	Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington	0800 151 0023
North East London	City & Hackney	0800 073 0006
	Newham	0800 073 0066
	Tower Hamlets	0800 073 0003
South West London	Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest	0300 555 1000
	Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth	0800 028 8000
South East London	Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark	0800 731 2864
	Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich	0800 330 8590

Every mental health trust in London has put in place a **24/7 crisis line** for people of all ages - children, young people and adults. The lines which are free to call can provide advice to those in a crisis. These crisis lines are supported by trained mental health advisors 365 days a year.

You can find the 24/7 crisis line numbers using the NHS Service Finder ([link below](https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline)) but the table provides all of the telephone numbers in London.

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline>

Urgent and other support available

shout
85258

Shout offers confidential 24/7 crisis text support for times when immediate assistance is required
Text "SHOUT" to 85258 or [visit Shout Crisis Text Line](#)

SAMARITANS

Samaritans 24/7 365 days a year - they are here to listen and provide support
Call: 116 123 or email: jo@samaritans.org

Crisis Tools

Crisis Tools helps professionals support young people in crisis - short accessible video guides and text resources
Sign up for free resources [here](#)

PAPYRUS

Papyrus provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person
Call: 0800 068 41 41 or Text: 07860 039967 (opening hours 9am to midnight - 365 days a year)

childline
SOMEONE ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Childline confidential telephone counselling service for any child with a problem
Call: 0800 1111 anytime or [online chat with a counsellor](#)

Good Thinking

Good Thinking is London's digital wellbeing service and provides a range of resources for young people to help improve mental wellbeing including free NHS-approved apps

THE MIX

The Mix provides free, confidential support for young people under 25
Call: 0808 808 4994 (11am - 11pm every day) or [Email](#)

Beat

Beat provide support to help young people who may be struggling with an eating problem or an eating disorder
Call the Youthline (under 18's) 0808 801 0711 or Studentline 0808 801 0811 (9am - 8pm during the week and 4pm - 8pm on weekends and bank holidays)

kooth

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community including live chat with the team, discussion boards, magazine with helpful articles and a daily journal a magazine



Safeguarding contacts

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or the wellbeing of any other student at Highlands School, please contact the school on 020 8370 1100 or email the DSL at staysafe@highlearn.uk. This email address can also be used for students, parents and carers to share any safeguarding concerns or to request support.

If you are concerned that a child has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed and school cannot be contacted, please contact Enfield Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 020 8379 5555, and call the police on 999 straight away.

Helpful numbers and websites

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC helpline: 0808 800 5000

The police: (if you are in danger): 999

LGBT switchboard: 0300 330 0630

Kooth: www.kooth.com - support service for students wellbeing

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0300 500 80 90

Barnardos: 0800 008 7005

Sign Health: <https://signhealth.org.uk/contact/>

Deaf young people: <https://signhealth.org.uk/with-deaf-people/supporting-young-people/>

Talk to someone....

- if you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- if you feel anxious or unable to cope
- if someone has hurt you physically, emotionally or mentally
- if you feel worried about someone at home
- if you are being threatened or forced to do things
- if someone has done something to you without your consent
- if you feel unsafe in school, at home or on the streets
- about anything else worrying you

Follow Highlands School on:

 [X@Highlands_sch](https://twitter.com/X@Highlands_sch)

 Instagram [@highlandssch](https://www.instagram.com/@highlandssch)

 YouTube [Highlands School Enfield](https://www.youtube.com/Highlands School Enfield)

 Threads [@Highlandssch](https://www.threads.net/@Highlandssch)

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