



Highlands School Newsletter

12 September 2025



Dear parents and carers,

Today I am delighted to introduce to you this years' head students and deputy head students. They are, left to right in the photo above: deputy head students Joseph Brooks, Yasmin Alameddin, Neriah Muhelele, Lizbeth-Ann Thompson, and head students Elena Giudice and Luke Tyrimos. Dozens of students applied for these roles this year, we shortlisted and interviewed about twenty and then made the difficult decision of who to appoint. We look forward to working with them this year and you can read a written introduction from Elena and Luke on page 3.

I want to thank you all for your support with our push on uniform this September. Last year, many of you approached me to ask why the school was not enforcing its own policies on students wearing their uniforms appropriately, particularly around skirts and trousers. Before the summer we carefully and repeatedly explained to students that we would expect them to wear their uniform in line with our school policies from September and we wrote to you, too, so you could support us. Working together as students, families and the school we have seen a massive improvement. Thank you for your support.

Finally, thank you to all of you who gave up your time to join us at the online information evenings this week, regular communication is important to us and having the opportunity to take questions and answer them was valuable.

Have a great weekend,

Mr McInerney,
Headteacher.



Key dates for this half term:

- Friday 3rd October: INSET day - school closed to students
- Thursday 9th October: DARE Day 1
- Friday 10th October: DARE Day 2
- Monday 13th October: early finish for open evening (students leave at 12:40pm)
- Tuesday 14th October: late start following open evening (students arrive at 11:20am)
- Friday 17th October: final day of half term (two week half term holiday commences)
- Monday 3rd November: first day of new half term (students return to school)

Head Students 2025 - 2026



We are proud to introduce our newly appointed Head Students for this academic year - Luke Tyrimos and Elena Giudice. They have been selected for their outstanding leadership qualities, dedication, and commitment to making a positive impact on our school community. Throughout the year, they will work tirelessly to represent the student body, ensuring that every voice is heard and that meaningful changes are made. We are confident that their efforts will inspire and lead our school towards continued success.



“Hello parents, carers and students. My name is Luke and I am very proud to introduce myself as one of the Head Students. I have been at Highlands since the beginning of year 7, and my time here has been a very rewarding experience; during both my studies and extracurricular endeavours, the school has provided me with the necessary support to achieve all that I aspire to. Starting in year 7 has also given me the opportunity to witness Highlands’ growth and progression, with the relaunch of the House System being indicative of the school’s drive for improvement. As a Head Student, I hope to be a strong role model for the student body and will always be available to offer help and guidance to any students that need it. I will represent and lead the school with pride and the hope that, as a collective, we can achieve many successes this academic year.”

“Hello parents, carers and students. My name is Elena and I am delighted to introduce myself as one of the new Head Students at Highlands School for this upcoming academic year. I have been a student here since year 7 and throughout my time, I have always been very proud to be a part of such a supportive and close-knit community. The school has continuously encouraged me to achieve my academic potential, whilst also offering countless opportunities to develop my passions and interests, including musical extracurricular activities. Being involved in the student leadership team has been thoroughly rewarding and I am excited to further my role within the school community as Head Student. I have always valued the role as a contact to raise any considerations you have about the school and I encourage you to please come and speak to me if you have any suggestions about the school or for any advice you may need concerning areas of school life, to help make your time at Highlands even better. I am looking forward to meeting more of you and contributing to another great year, especially as the school marks its 25th anniversary.”



Meet our Deputy Head Students

Meet our Deputy Head Students for this academic year: Joseph Brooks, Neriah Muhelele, Lizbeth-Ann Thompson, and Yasmin Alameldin.

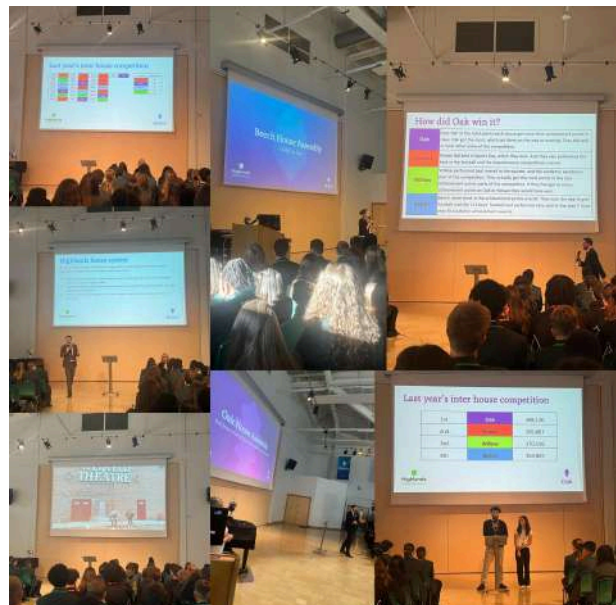
In their roles, they will support the Head Students, represent the voices of their peers, and help lead initiatives that promote our school values. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make throughout the year.



House assemblies

This week, we held our first house assemblies of the year. Students were given a preview of our new school show - *Annie*, set to take place in June 2026, and we proudly introduced our new Head Students, Luke Tyrimos and Elena Giudice.

We also shared an update on the house system and outlined the many ways students can get involved in the student leadership team this year.





Highlands' ice hockey star!

We're incredibly proud to share that Latif Defreitas in year 9, was recently selected to represent the *Elite British Selects (EBS)* in the prestigious CCM UK Cup, held at the National Ice Centre in Nottingham from 18th - 20th July 2025. As one of the top young ice hockey players in the UK, Latif made an impressive impact, scoring the opening goal in the team's 5 - 2 victory against the Leeds Junior Knights!

This fantastic achievement is a testament to Latif's dedication, talent, and hard work. He is truly a rising star, and we're thrilled to celebrate his success. Well done Latif, we are all cheering you on every step of the way!





Highlands students selected as Arsenal ball girls

Congratulations to Poppy Perkins in year 8 and Anaiya Dhaliwal in year 10, who have been selected as official ball girls for Arsenal's 2025/26 season. Chosen from hundreds of applicants, they earned their places after a competitive trial where only 20 were selected. This exciting opportunity will see them attend every home match at the Emirates Stadium across the men's, women's, youth, and Champions League teams.

A fantastic achievement, well done Poppy and Anaiya!



Annie - School Show, June 2026

The school show has now been launched with our promo video in assemblies this week, and we are proud and excited to announce that our show for June 2026 is the musical *Annie*.

We are also pleased to also let you know that we are doing the full Broadway unabridged version to give our students the best possible experience on stage in this wonderful Broadway hit. So I would like to confirm to you all, that yes, the sun will come out tomorrow!!

Auditions for students in year 8-11 will start on Monday 15th September. The audition schedule is now on Google Classroom, students should check to make sure they know when their audition is.

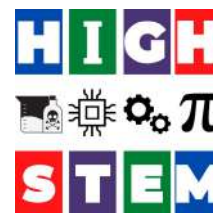
All students who signed up for the show before the summer should have already been allocated a slot. All auditions are in DD3, any questions please ask Miss Brown (dance)





STEM at Highlands - live on Google Classroom

Welcome back to another amazing academic year at Highlands! This year will bring more exciting STEM activities for all year groups and we can't wait to have them delivered to you. Students should always check their 'STEM Google Classroom' for opportunities that arise for trips that will take us to Space Observatory at Potters Bar to a race track in Dubai!



Until then these are some of the amazing opportunities that are coming up!

STEM Virtual Career Talk from a Senior Engineer at PepsiCo (Y10 -13)

The speaker will share their personal journey, offering a behind-the-scenes look at their career path. The goal is to inspire students and make a career in STEM feel tangible and achievable. This will include:



- **Early experiences:** How they got started and what sparked their interest.
- **Challenges and successes:** The obstacles they faced and the milestones they achieved.
- **Key skills:** How they apply AI and/or coding in their job
- **Lessons learned:** Practical advice and insights they gained along the way.
- **Future outlook:** The evolving landscape of AI and what skills will be in demand in the future.

If students are interested in applying, they can head over to their STEM Google Classroom (Y10 - Y13) to get more information or use this [link to apply](#). There are limited places so do be quick in applying! **Deadline is: 4th October 2025.**

Get into Medicine and Dentistry FREE conferences (Y10-12)

Please see 'STEM Google Classroom' for more details - conference dates are coming up very soon so hurry and register!



STEM residential at Cambridge (y12 only)

A STEM based residential school has opened up at Cambridge for year 12 students! Please go to the 'STEM Google Classroom' for more details. Happy STEMming!



Dr Len



Dancers of the week

Our first dancers of the week for the academic year are Florence Holyomes, Sibora Myftari and Chloe Williams in year 9.

Well done on having a great start to your year 9 dance studies.



PE Clubs: starting Monday 15th September

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
Boys Football Years 7-8 Mr Avann Astroturf 3:15 - 4:30	Volleyball Years 9-11 Mr Avann Sports Hall 3:15 - 4:30	Basketball Years 9-11 Mr Edwards/ Mr Seston Sports Hall 3:15 - 4:30
Netball Years 7-9 Ms Berrill/ Mrs Walters Netball Courts 3:15 - 4:30	Girls Football Years 7-13 Mr Cross/ Mrs Hutchinson Astroturf 3.15 - 4.30	Touch Rugby Year 7 (Girls) Saracens Foundation Coach First come first serve - google form 3:15 - 4:30
	Rugby (contact - a gumshield is compulsory) Year 9 Boys Only Mr Handyside Field 3:15 - 4:30	

How to join a PE club

- Simply show up after school at the PE changing rooms at 3:15pm, after period 5.
- You must wear your Highlands PE kit and trainers to take part.
- You must wear your school uniform to school and get changed after school in the changing rooms (unless you have a practical PE lesson on the day of your club).
- Bring any medical devices with you. e.g. asthma pump.
- All clubs are for all students in the year groups stated. Year groups and clubs will change each half term.
- Inform your parents/carers that you are attending a club and your finishing time at school will be later (4:30pm).
- If a club is cancelled then an email will be sent home to inform parents.



Year 11 intervention programme

Last week, we kick-started our year 11 intervention programme with a fantastic turnout from both students and parents.

The event was designed to provide key information and support as students begin this crucial year. It was great to see such strong engagement, and we look forward to working closely with families to ensure every student is set up for success.



A level Dance

Highlands School are proud to announce that for the first time in its 25 year history, A level dance will be running as an option in the sixth form.

As a school we are already extremely proud of the provision we provide for students looking to extend their studies in a school sixth form setting and by adding A level dance to the curriculum, the school has shown its commitment to performing arts and enriching the educational experiences of the students.

Our current class can be seen here in the photo. Jessica, Anastasia, Laina and Evie all gained a GCSE grade 7 or above and are excited to develop their skills and knowledge at an advanced level.

During the course they will have to perform as a quartet, perform a solo dance based on a specific dance style and also create a group dance using a stimulus given to them by the exam board. They will also write three essays in their final exam paper, mainly focusing on dance history from 1968 - 2002 and the girls will become experts in their fields of study which will be Rambert Dance Company, the musical *Singing in the Rain* and the dance style of American Jazz.

Everyone in the dance department is very excited!





School announcements

Flu immunisations years 7-11

The Immunisation Team will be at Highlands to carry out the Flu vaccinations this term for students in years 7-11. To give consent for your child to have this vaccine, please click on the link below:

<https://ncl.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/enfield>

There are also webinars with more information that you can join, see below:

Wednesday 17th Sept, 8:00 - 9:00pm

ID: 363 003 291 454 Password: jc3J83z5

[Click here to join](#)

Thursday 18th Sept, 6:00 - 7:00pm

ID: 310 543 675 2095 Password: gT7P9ci3

[Click here to join](#)

Vaccination UK
working on NHS
behalf of England

FLU IMMUNISATION FOR PUPILS IN SCHOOL YEARS RECEPTION - YEAR 11

**Prevent your child from being seriously ill this winter!
Vaccinating is crucial in protecting them and vulnerable friends and family from flu.**

NASAL VACCINE

No needles - just quick, painless, effective flu protection (contains gelatine)

THE INJECTION

We offer a PORK-FREE, GELATINE-FREE injection considered a faith-friendly alternative.

OR

Complete this form, even if you do not want the vaccine.
<https://ncl.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/enfield>

Secondary School students only: Young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

CONTACT THE TEAM

enfield@v-uk.co.uk
0208 150 7505

Need more information? Please see our FAQs sheet attached with this letter.

Or visit our website:

We endeavour to come to your child's school twice. If your child is absent or unable to be vaccinated at school, they can still receive this important vaccine by attending one of our community clinics for the vaccine.

Your consent will remain in place for the entire flu season. If your child misses a first visit, you do not need to complete a second form.

[LEARN MORE](https://www.schoolvaccinationuk.org/flu)

PRIVACY POLICY
Our 2024/25 policy can be viewed here: www.schoolvaccinationuk.org/privacy-policy
For data protection queries, please contact: dp@vaccinationuk.co.uk

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q WHY ARE CHILDREN BEING OFFERED THE FLU VACCINE?
Flu can make children feel very unwell and can sometimes lead to serious complications like pneumonia or ear infections. Some may even need hospital treatment. It's especially important for children with long-term conditions like asthma or diabetes, as flu can be more dangerous for them.

Q HOW DOES THE FLU VACCINE FOR CHILDREN WORK?
The nasal spray contains weakened flu viruses that help your child build protection without causing illness. Because flu strains change each year, the vaccine needs to be given annually. Most children only need one dose.

Q IS THE FLU VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?
Yes, it has a very good safety record and has been used for over 30 years in countries like the US without any major concerns. All vaccines available in United Kingdom must pass strict safety testing before being approved for use. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) only approve vaccines that have gone through rigorous safety testing measures. The regulators continually monitor them all the time.

Q SHOULD ANYONE NOT HAVE THE VACCINE?
Let us know if your child:
• Has a severe allergy to eggs, gelatine, or certain antibiotics
• Has recently had severe asthma symptoms or is wheezy on the day
• Has a seriously weakened immune system
Also, after vaccination, children should avoid close contact with people who have very weak immune systems for about two weeks—everyone else is fine to be around.

Q ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?
Side effects from the nasal spray are usually mild and short-lived. These may include a runny or blocked nose, headache, reduced appetite, or a slight temperature. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can help if needed.

Q WE DO NOT EAT PORK PRODUCTS. CAN MY CHILD HAVE A DIFFERENT FLU VACCINE?
Yes. There is an injectable flu vaccine is available that contains no pork (porcine gelatine). While the nasal spray is generally more effective and painless, we respect your preferences. Just complete the consent form for the injection—no need to fill out both.

CONSENT INFORMATION

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

Q NATURAL IMMUNITY.
While natural immunity from the flu can occur, it's not generally considered better than vaccine-induced immunity. Natural infection carries the risk of severe illness and complications, whereas the flu vaccine offers protection with significantly less risk. Natural immunity can be long-lasting against specific strains, but we know that the flu virus changes (mutates) overtime so natural immunity to one strain might not protect against a different strain that emerges later. Vaccines are a safer and more reliable way to protect against a wider range of flu viruses.

Flu vaccines are updated for each winter to give protection against the strains of flu that are most likely to be going around. For this reason, we strongly recommend that even if your child was vaccinated last year, they should be vaccinated again this year.

Q MY CHILD NEEDS A DIFFERENT VACCINE
If your child needs another vaccine you can speak to our team or attend one of our community clinics, all information can be found on our website: www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics

Q I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS
We run Q&A webinars which address frequently asked questions and gives parents an opportunity to ask their questions. You can find information and how to join on our website.



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 things 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.

School lettings

We're excited to announce that a new lettings company, **School Hire and Functions Ltd**, is now managing all our venue bookings - including the astro, courts, field, main hall, and various rooms within the school. They've already received a high volume of bookings for the next three months, so be sure to get in touch soon if you're interested.

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

The advertisement features a green apple logo at the top center. Below it, the text reads "Highlands School" in a large, bold, dark blue font, followed by the address "148 Worlds End Lane, London, N21 1QQ". A descriptive sentence follows: "Modern and spacious facilities to hire for community events, sports groups, dance and drama classes, language school, tutoring services...and more!". Below this text are three circular images: the first shows the school's exterior with a "Welcome to Highlands" sign; the second shows a large green astro pitch; the third shows an indoor sports hall with rows of green chairs. At the bottom left, there is a logo for "SH & F" and text stating "JOINING SCHOOL HIRE & FUNCTIONS LTD FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025". A white button with a green phone icon contains the text "CONTACT TODAY 07855042027". To the right of the button is a list of facilities, each preceded by a green checkmark: "4G Astro pitch", "Mirrored dance studio", "Drama studios", "Classrooms", "Sports hall", and "Outside spaces".



PSHE topic for this term - Autumn term 1

Year Group	Topic	Lessons
Year 7	Unit 1: Transition to Secondary	Lesson 1: An Introduction to PSHE. Lesson 2: Expectations at Highlands. Lesson 3: Emotional Health. Lesson 4: Positive Relationships. Lesson 5: Managing conflict in relationships.
Year 8	Unit 1: Mental and physical health	Lesson 1: Introduction to health. Lesson 2: Mental health: Resilience part 1. Lesson 3: Mental health: Resilience part 2. Lesson 4: The impacts on emotional wellbeing on relationships. Lesson 5: The impacts of emotional wellbeing on body image. Lesson 6: Managing our emotional wellbeing and mental health.
Year 9	Unit 1: Drugs - awareness and managing risks	Lesson 1: Types of drugs. Lesson 2: Awareness and peer influence. Lesson 3: Managing risk. Lesson 4: Assessing risk and personal safety. Lesson 5: Drugs exploitation.
Year 10	RS unit: Debate topic: "This house believes assisted suicide should be legalised"	Lesson 1: Introduction to the ethical topic. Lesson 2: Arguments for assisted suicide. Lesson 3: Religious views on assisted suicide. Lesson 4: Arguments against assisted suicide. Lesson 5: Debate preparation. Lesson 6: The grand debate.
Year 11	Unit 1: Parenting and pregnancy	Lesson 1: Readiness for parenthood and different routes to parenthood. Lesson 2: Fertility, age and health. Lesson 3: The stages of pregnancy and childbirth. Lesson 4: Miscarriage and abortion.
Year 12	Unit 1: Employment rights	Lesson 1: The Equality Act. Lesson 2: Rights and responsibilities in the workplace. Lesson 3: Minimum wage and trade unions. Lesson 4: Laws around young people and employment. Lesson 5: Work-life balance.



House weekly winners

This week's winner is the house with the highest achievement points minus concern points. Congratulations **Rowan**!

	Beech	Oak	Rowan	Willow
Positive points	9290	10410	11016	9527
Negative points	-217	-179	-180	-144
Points overall	9073	10231	10836	9383

Top students in year 7

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Grace	Mcgrath	7OPH	O	79
Isabella	Constantinou	7OPH	O	71
Margot	Holdcroft	7OPH	O	68
Khloey	Ferreira	7OPH	O	66
Charlie	Shi	7BNI	B	66
Yasemin	Suleyman	7OPH	O	66
Logan	Mcgrane	7BNI	B	64
Nya	Akhtar	7BNI	B	63
Aoibhèann	Higgins	7BNI	B	63
Raphael	Ismail Mohammad	7BNI	B	63
Ismail	Mohamed	7BNI	B	63
Jialin	Wei	7OPH	O	63
Dilay	Yuksel	7OPH	O	63

Top students in year 8:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Levi	Xhetani	8RAC	R	71
Emily	Dent	8RAC	R	65
Joseph	McHale	8RAC	R	65
Toni Everton	Spinelli Filho	8RAC	R	64
Rena-Nicole	Pelekanos	8RAC	R	63
Sienna	Calcutt	8RAC	R	62
Holly	Gemechu Dotie	8RAC	R	62
Skye	Hawkins	8RAC	R	61
Isabella	Kasamias	8RAC	R	61
Lucy	Smyth	8RAC	R	61
Hollie	Chambers	8RAC	R	60
Ediz	Kara	8RAC	R	60



Top students in year 9:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Jack	Moules	9RJG	R	61
Ioannis	Stavrinoudis	9RGA	R	56
Bekir Berk	Yalcin	9RJG	R	53
Michael	Angeli	9RGA	R	51
Ben	Clitherow	9RJG	R	51
Sophia	Andreou	9RGA	R	50
Kastina	Pashku	9RJG	R	50
Muhammed Akif	Yalcin	9RGA	R	50
Ruby	Thaichi	9RJG	R	49
Yashar	Ismailoglu	9RGA	R	47
Leo	Smith	9RJG	R	47

Top students in year 10:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
India	Barron	10BBK	B	60
Bibiana	Edwards	10BBK	B	53
Hayrullah	Ozdemir	10WMP	W	51
Edward	Campbell	10BBK	B	49
Zayn	Akhtar	10BBK	B	47
Alina	Siby	10BAM	B	47
Micah	Codrington	10WMP	W	46
Amelia	Hilmi	10BAM	B	46
Xhorxhia	Kuvertaris	10RCX	R	46
Alexander	Florides	10BAM	B	45
Simra	Hassan	10OAC	O	45
Sena	Oguz	10WNK	W	45



Top students in year 11:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Yunus	Coskun	11ODC	O	50
Lorin	Varli	11ODC	O	47
Elliz	Arkin	11RJC	R	44
Cora	Drysdale	11WJQ	W	43
Beatrice	Afhim	11OSM	O	42
Zainab	Ali	11RCG	R	42
Nicole	Kozinos	11RJC	R	42
Ermioni	Tsantikou	11OSM	O	42
Owen	White	11OSM	O	42
Sophie	Jones	11BLM	B	41
Omyur	Karadzhoa	11BLM	B	41
Noble Darius	Nlewedim	11WCM	W	41
Erkan	Varlik	11WJQ	W	41

Top students in year 12:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Elena	Bornea	12BJT	B	22
Megan	Faulkner	12OMA	O	20
Matthew	Guest	12RSL	R	19
Ethan	Baxter	12BCR	B	18
Evie	Ferguson	12WTA	W	17
Anastasia	Katz	12OMA	O	17
Emma	Simon	12BCR	B	17

Top students in year 13:

Forename	Surname	Form	House	Points
Sophie	Gerrish	13RJB	R	20
Tiana	Martindale	13BTD	B	20
Florence	Charlton	13OAL	O	16
Nida	Demirkaya	13RJB	R	16
Sara	Hussain	13OES	O	16
Jack	Dicker	13WAD	W	15



House department competition calendar

Year group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 7	English and library bookmark competition	Interhouse Football Interhouse choirs D&T Textiles Maths quiz		Computing Quiz Interhouse Steel Bands English 100 word story Maths quiz	Dance - group choreography	Interhouse Rock Bands
Year 8	D&T food - pasta salad	Interhouse Football CyberFirst Girls Competition D&T RM - lamp Maths quiz	Dance - musicals performance (whole class - Aladdin)	Interhouse Rock Bands English 200 word story Maths quiz	Drama script writing competition Spirited arts RE competition	
Year 9		Interhouse Football D&T - Timbers - desktidy Maths quiz Problem of evil philosophy essay (RE)	Food - sausage rolls	Drama devised performances English 500 word story Maths quiz	Textiles Spirited arts RE competition	



College open days

Barnet & Southgate college

- **Colindale:** Wednesday 19 November 3.30pm-6.30pm (significant distance to travel from Enfield – these courses are offered at Capital City College in borough or at an alternative campus)
- **Southgate:** Wednesday 12 November 3.30pm-6.30pm
- **Barnet:** Wednesday 5 November 3.30pm-6.30pm
- **Colindale:** Wednesday 4 March 3.30pm-6.30pm (significant distance to travel from Enfield – these courses are offered at Capital City College in borough or at an alternative campus)
- **Southgate:** Wednesday 11 March 3.30pm-6.30pm
- **Barnet:** Wednesday 18 March 3.30pm-6.30pm

Course information can be found [here](#).

Capital City College (including CONEL)

- **Enfield Campus (formerly CONEL Enfield):** Thursday 16 October 4:30-7:00pm
- **Tottenham Campus (formerly CONEL Tottenham):** Tuesday 11 November 2025 4:40pm-7:00pm

Course information can be found [here](#).

Capel Manor College - London's environmental college

- **Enfield Campus:** Saturday 11 October 10am-3pm, registration requested - click [here](#).

*Course information can be found [here](#).

Highlands school attendance and punctuality policy summary

At Highlands school we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

Key roles and responsibilities

- **Parents/carers:** It's a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly and on time. Parents should contact the school on the first day of an absence by 8:30 a.m. and provide a reason for it.
- **Students:** Students are expected to arrive at the main gate between 8:20 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. and be present for registration at 8:40 a.m.. If a student arrives after 8:30 a.m., they are considered late and will receive a 30-minute detention.



Absence and punctuality procedures

Reporting an absence:

- If your child is absent, you must contact the school as soon as possible by phone at 020 8370 1191 or by email.
- If an absence is known in advance (e.g., a medical appointment), notify the school at least one day beforehand, and provide evidence of any appointments during the school day.
- For absences lasting more than one day, inform the school each day unless a doctor has recommended a fixed number of days off, with supporting evidence.
- Failing to contact the school with a reason for absence is considered a safeguarding concern.
- Absence due to illness will be authorised for two consecutive days. After two days, absences will be considered unauthorised unless medical evidence is provided. Minor illnesses like a cold, cough, or headache will not be authorised.
- Failure to report an absence is considered a safeguarding concern. The school will try to contact you via text, phone, or email if they don't hear from you. The school may make a home visit should there be safeguarding concerns in relation to student absences.
- This [NHS guidance](#) is helpful in understanding whether you should send your child to school or not if they are unwell.

Monitoring attendance

The school tracks attendance and places students into one of five groups based on their attendance percentage.

- **Green group** (97%-100%): No concern.
- **Yellow group** (95%-96.9%): Concern.
- **Amber group** (93%-94.9%): Risk of underachievement.
- **Pink group** (90%-92.9%): Severe risk of underachievement.
- **Red group** (0%-89.9%): Extreme risk of underachievement.

The school will regularly communicate with parents, carers and students about attendance. This could be through our newsletter, letters, emails, telephone calls and meetings.

Interventions for poor attendance

- A student with attendance below 90% is considered a 'persistent absentee' and may be referred to the education welfare officer (EWO).
- A student with attendance below 50% is considered 'severely absent' and the local authority must be notified of any such cases.
- If a student is absent without explanation for 10 consecutive days, it will be reported to the local authority, and a 'child missing in education' referral will be made.



Unauthorised absences

The school classifies each absence as either authorised or unauthorised. If an absence is for medical reasons, the school can request medical evidence to support the authenticity of the illness, such as a doctor's note, prescription, or appointment card. If the school is not satisfied with the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised, and parents will be notified.

Examples of absences that will not be authorised include:

- Absences for minor illnesses like a cold, cough, headache, period pain, or tummy ache.
- Failure to provide evidence for a medical appointment.
- Taking a whole day's absence for an appointment that only requires a minimum amount of time out of school.

Unauthorised leave

Parents and carers are legally responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly. Taking a child out of school for non-urgent medical or dental appointments and booking holidays or trips during term time should be avoided.

Regulations state that headteachers cannot grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances that are unexpected and unavoidable. Parents must make requests in advance using the school's ['leave request form'](#).

Leave of absence and penalty notices

- The school will only grant leave of absence during term time for exceptional circumstances. You must request this in advance using the school's 'leave request form'.
- Penalty notices and legal measures may be used by the local authority where attendance concerns persist.
- Penalty notices can be issued by the local authority for persistent unauthorised absences, or for unauthorised term time leave

Support

If you are struggling with your child's attendance to school and require support in improving their attendance and/or punctuality to school, please do contact our attendance team or your child's head of year. We aim to work closely with parents and carers to ensure the best possible outcomes for all of our students.



Help us fund raise for our school

Did you know when you sign up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and purchase goods from shops on the **website** or **app**, **Highlands School will earn a commission from the sale?**

All you have to do is search for **Highlands School Enfield** and select us as your chosen charity and shop as usual.

Highlands School Enfield

Winchmore Hill, London

£3,565.00 raised

96 supporters

Sign up and support this cause

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

GET STARTED

How to support Highlands School Enfield

1

Sign up

Provide us with a few details to set up your profile with easyfundraising.

2

Download our browser extension

Our Donation Reminder plug-in pops up automatically when you shop to let you know when a donation is available.

3

Track your donations

You'll be able to see how much you've raised in your account and we'll send updates on when Highlands School Enfield gets paid.

Support us through
easyfundraising



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

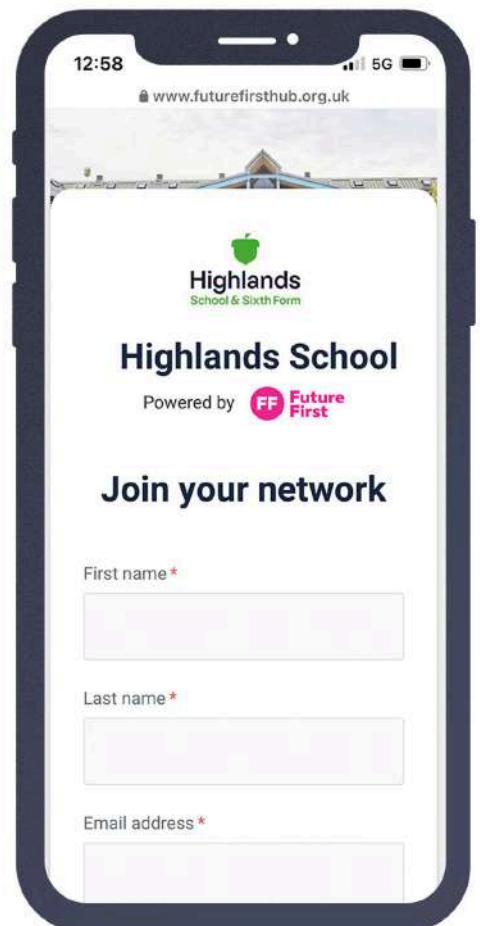


Former student?

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](#)) 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
ONLINE 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 all 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 upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- 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/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)

 Facebook [Highlands School](https://www.facebook.com/Highlands_School)