Highcrest Highlights

5-9 October 2026 | 336th Edition

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to another packed edition of our weekly Highcrest Highlights!

Year 11 GCSE Intervention and Support

As our Year 11 students prepare for their GCSEs and November mock examinations, we have a comprehensive programme of additional support in place to help them make the best possible progress. This includes study skills and revision support, targeted after-school subject sessions and a six-week Saturday School programme in English and Maths for identified students. Students selected for targeted intervention will receive a Student Passport outlining the additional sessions they are expected to attend. Alongside their regular lessons, these interventions are designed to address gaps in learning, strengthen key knowledge and skills, and help students approach their mock examinations and final GCSEs with confidence. To see information about a range of interventions please click here. We will all continue to remind our Year 11 students that hard work from now on really will pay off in the summer!

Green Schools Challenge 2026

We are once again proud to be taking part in this year's Green Schools Challenge, organised by the Bucks Skills Hub. A selected group of Year 9 students are representing the academy and are currently taking part in Round 2 of the four-round programme. Throughout the competition, students are working together to develop innovative ideas that could help make their school and community more environmentally sustainable, while also developing valuable employability, teamwork and problem-solving skills. This year, Highcrest has been partnered with WiffAway, an environmental and green waste company whose head office is in High Wycombe. They are kindly supporting our students as they develop their creative ideas. The programme will culminate in a Grand Final at the Debating Chamber at Buckinghamshire Council in Aylesbury, where finalists will present their ideas and compete against other schools from across the county. Good luck to our Year 9 students!

Continued….

Clubs – Winter 2026

Highcrest Audible

Mr Shaw's Big Quiz

Restaurant Menus

School Day & Term Dates

Trip List

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 5 October
Year 7 Boys Football District League vs Sir William Ramsay (Away)

Tuesday 6 October
U13 Netball Fixture vs Pipers Corner (Away)

Year 8 Boys Football District League vs St Michael's Catholic School (Home)

Wednesday 7 October
Year 11 Boys Football vs Cressex Community School (Away)

Year 10 Boys Football District League vs St Michael's Catholic School (Home)

The Highcrest Academy, Hatters Lane, High Wycombe, HP13 7NQ
T. 01494 529866 | E. office@highcrestacademy.org.uk
www.highcrestacademy.org.uk | Principal: Mr G Burke

Sixth Form Enrichment Opportunities
I am pleased to announce that we are introducing a new opportunity for our Year 12 and Year 13 students to add greater variety and structure to their timetables while developing valuable skills beyond their subjects. During selected GLAS (Guided Learning and Support) sessions, students will support younger students in PE and Learning Support, giving them opportunities to develop their confidence, communication and teamwork skills while gaining practical experience that can contribute to future personal statements, job applications and CVs. Students will receive an individual timetable outlining when they will be participating in this exciting new scheme. For more information, please click here.

Open Evening – Thursday 8 October
A reminder that we are holding our annual Open Evening this Thursday, 8 October, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. To enable us to prepare for the evening, students will leave the academy at 1:00pm on Thursday. Students who are helping with Open Evening should return to school in full school uniform by 4:30pm and register with the department they are helping, or in Hums 1 and 2 if they are tour guides. Students will be dismissed at 8:00pm for collection. Please be aware that the site will be very busy at the end of the evening so please follow the directions of staff when collecting your child. Thank you in advance to the students who are helping for this extremely important evening.

Friday 9 October 2026 – Late Start
As many staff and students will not get home until late following Open Evening, the academy will have a late start on Friday 9 October to support everyone's wellbeing. The site will open at 10:50am, when students will be able to visit the canteen before starting lessons at 11:10am. Thank you for your understanding regarding these changes to our normal arrangements.

Year 10 SEND Parents' Evening – Wednesday 14 October
Advance notice that next Wednesday, 14 October, we will be holding our Year 10 SEND Parents' Evening virtually from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. Alongside our annual parent consultation evenings, this additional SEND Parents' Evening provides families with a dedicated opportunity to discuss their child's progress, needs and support directly with our SENDCo, Mrs Charlesworth. The evening will take place via SchoolCloud, with five-minute appointments available on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents and carers of our Year 10 SEND students can book an appointment via the link here. If you have any questions about the evening, please contact Mrs Charlesworth, our SENDCo, at SCharlesworth@highcrestacademy.org.uk.

Here's to the week ahead!

Mr G Burke

Stars of the Week

Last week's **Stars of the Week** shared a hot chocolate with Mr Clarke.
As well as the hot chocolate, the winners also got to take home their very own Star of the Week mug as a memento of their accolade!

Year 7 Stars of the Week

Blue		For showing independence and problem-solving. **Resilience**
Green		For achieving the most positive reward points in lessons last week. **Purpose**
Orange		For showing leadership ability and achieving 20+ positive reward points last week. **Ambition**

Pink		For being ready to learn at all times and displaying excellent behaviour throughout the school day. **Integrity**
Purple	**R Yassin**	For achieving the most positive reward points in lessons last week. **Purpose**
Red		For consistent focus in lessons, and for achieving several positive reward points across the week. **Purpose**
Yellow		For having a great first few weeks at school and for settling in so well. **Ambition**

Year 8 Stars of the Week

Blue		For settling into Highcrest so well, keep it up. **Resilience**
Green		For a great attitude to lessons, and for being helpful in Form time. **Purpose**
Orange		For always trying her best and achieving a high number of positive reward points. **Purpose**

Pink		For achieving the highest number of positive reward points with no negatives. **Ambition**
Purple		For really making an effort in all subjects last week, with no negative points. **Purpose**
Red		For volunteering to help in Form time and keeping score with Highcrest Audible. **Purpose**
Yellow		For earning a really impressive number of positive reward points last week, and for always trying her best. **Sensitivity**

Year 9 Stars of the Week

Blue		For a really positive start to the new term, earning a huge haul of positive reward points. Well done! **Purpose**
Green	**J Adegbulugbe**	For having an excellent week, and a positive return to Year 9! **Sensitivity**
Orange		For being amazing through and through! Well done as always. **Ambition**

Pink		For consistently gaining positive reward points, with excellent focus in lessons, and for displaying integrity. **Integrity/Purpose**
Purple	**A Edan**	For an amazing start to Year 9 with a wonderful attitude to learning. **Purpose**
Red		For an excellent month, achieving lots of positive reward points and always being a pleasant member of the Form. **Integrity**
Yellow		For an excellent week, showing ambition and sensitivity to peers and staff. **Sensitivity**

Year 10 Stars of the Week

Blue		For his great attitude with loads of positive reward points. **Purpose**
Green		For helping her teacher with a survey for the whole Form. **Purpose**
Orange		For a great start to the term, engaging in all lessons to a high level. **Purpose**

Pink		For an excellent start to her GCSE revision, creating resources. **Ambition**
Purple		For being a great help and leader to support her Form to complete a survey. **Integrity**
Red		For achieving the most House Points. **Purpose**
Yellow		For her great work in English lessons. **Purpose**

Year 11 Stars of the Week

Blue		For doing really well in her lessons, and for achieving the most positive reward points in Form! **Purpose**
Green		For consistently displaying role model behaviour by demonstrating the school virtues and fulfilling her duties as Student Leader conscientiously. **Integrity**
Orange		For displaying a consistently positive attitude towards learning! **Ambition**

Pink		For her outstanding work in English and Science, consistently demonstrating enthusiasm, effort, and a strong commitment to her learning. Well done! **Purpose**
Purple	**H Aziz**	For always bringing such a positive and happy attitude to Form. She is so polite, well-mannered and respectful towards staff and other students. **Sensitivity**
Red		For her excellent application and progress, particularly in Science and PE coursework. **Purpose**
Yellow		For consistently putting in effort and doing her best across all subjects, making great progress in her core skills. **Purpose**

Sixth Form Stars of the Week

Blue		For consistently working hard towards her studies and showing great resilience. **Resilience**
Green	**E Murray**	For an excellent start to her Sixth Form studies, settling in well with a positive attitude to learning in all her studies. **Ambition**
Orange	**A Farid**	For her excellent attitude to learning, and for always working hard. **Ambition**

Pink	**M Anjos**	For achieving the most House Points in Form for all the positive things she contributes to school. **Purpose**
Purple		For a positive attitude to Year 12, working hard in her subjects and having a can-do attitude. **Ambition/Resilience**
Red	**A Matin**	For settling in with positivity and resilience since joining Highcrest. **Ambition/Resilience**
Yellow		For a positive start to Sixth Form, and for displaying a stellar attitude to learning. **Ambition/Resilience**

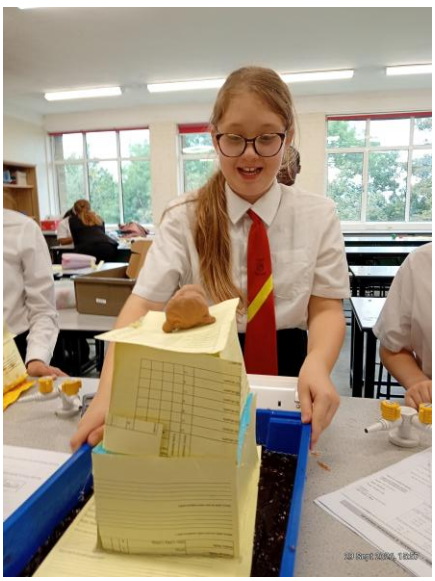
Star of the Week for Year Group

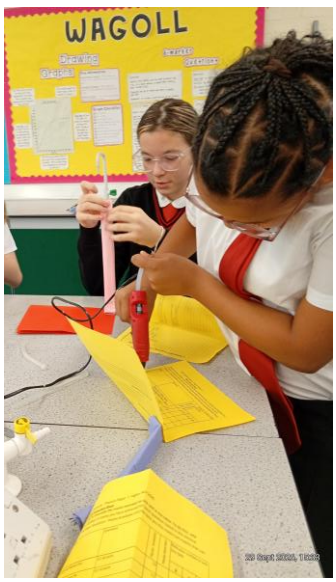
	Year 7 – Turing For showing leadership ability and achieving 20+ positive reward points last week. **Ambition**
	Year 8 – Turing For always trying her best and achieving a high number of positive reward points. **Purpose**
A Edan	**Year 9 – Armstrong** For an amazing start to Year 9 with a wonderful attitude to learning. **Purpose**
	Year 10 – Turing For a great start to the term, engaging in all lessons to a high level. **Purpose**
	Year 11 – Parks For her outstanding work in English and Science, consistently demonstrating enthusiasm, effort, and a strong commitment to her learning. Well done! **Purpose**
A Farid	**Sixth Form – Turing** For her excellent attitude to learning, and for always working hard. **Ambition**

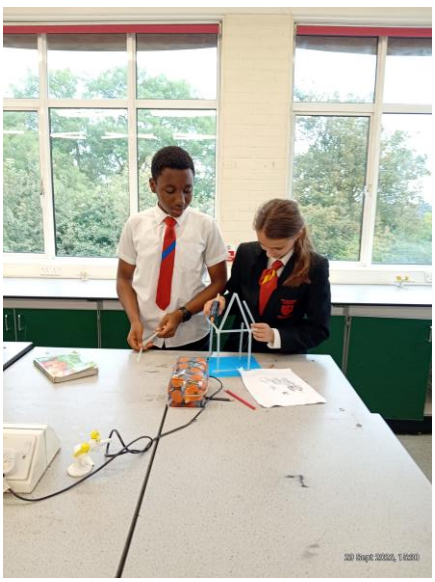
Science Club

In Science Club last week, loads of fun was had by all. We built houses from paper and glue guns, had a man of Play-Doh, who we named James Asteroid the First. He had to survive the jelly earthquake. Thankfully, the houses were so well built that James Asteroid the First survived. **Ryan** was rather enthusiastic with the jelly and ended up turning it into a jelly mud slide to much giggles and guffaws.

Mrs M Van Huyssteen, Science Teacher







LITERACY FOCUS

'Building Vocabulary, One Word At A Time'

Tier 2 - Word of the Week

isolation

[eye-suh-LAY-shun] *noun*

The state of being separated from other people or things

Isolation shapes Rapunzel's life because she is shut away in a tower, separated from the world and from the freedom to choose her own future.

Tiers Explained

Tier 1	Everyday words
Tier 2	Academic words for all subjects
Tier 3	Subject-specific words

At Home Guide For Bedrock Learning

- ✓ Check For Homework
- ✓ Use New Words
- ✓ Praise Use of New Words

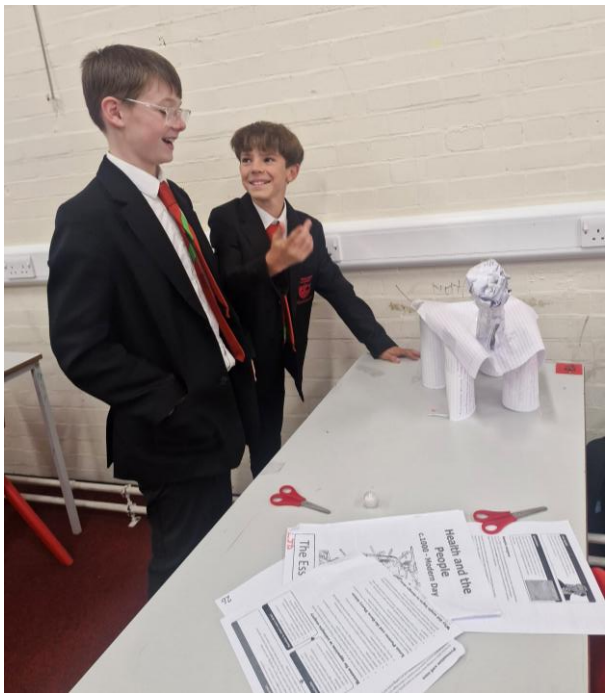
Bedrock Learning

House News

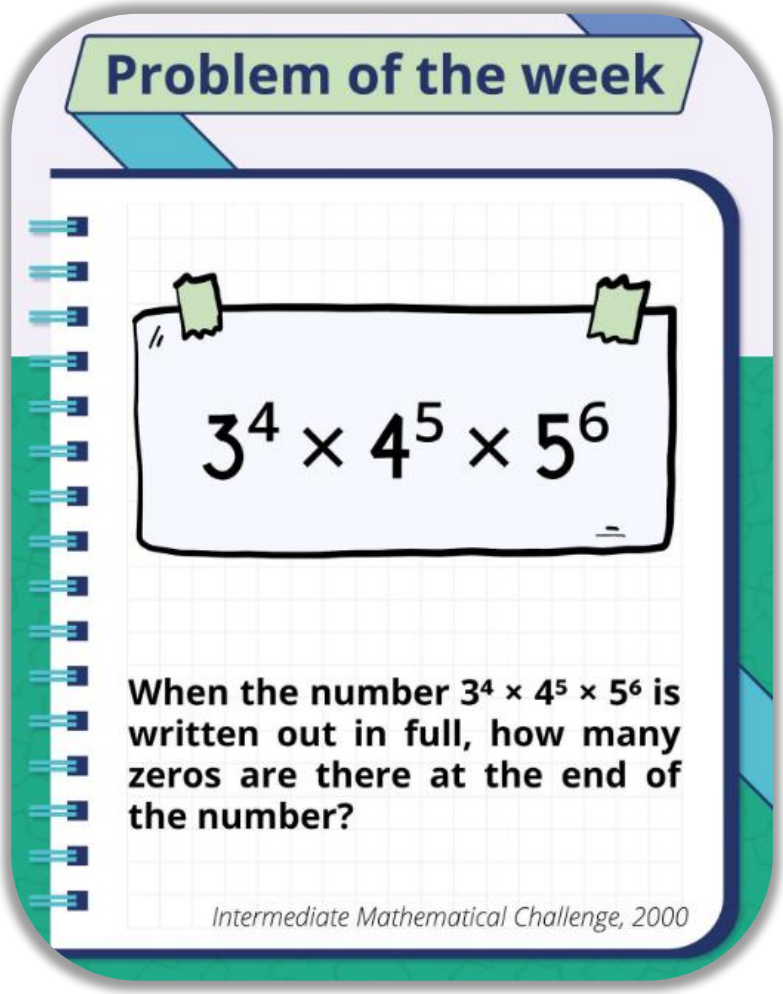
Another fun filled week has come to an end and what a week it has been. Last week we saw Mr Shaw and Mrs Richardson take on the students at a game of '9 darts' in our 'Beat the Teacher' session. Twenty students took part and 6 won, so a huge thank you to everyone who participated, and a well done to those who won. Friday morning was our Friday Challenge with Year 7 and 8s doing a team building challenge. In pairs they had to build giraffes out of paper, and they did such a great job really showing enthusiasm and amazing teamwork. The winners of this challenge were students from 8 Green, who had the tallest free-standing giraffe, and students from 8 Yellow who made the best giraffe overall.

Look out for next week's challenges and games update in the weekly House bulletin.

Miss C Hall, Head of Houses



Maths Challenge



Click here to see the answer!

amazon £13.98

TESCO £17.00

THE HIGHCREST ACADEMY
ASPIRE & ACHIEVE

Maths GCSE exams have 3 papers…
1 non calculator
2 calculator

Casio scientific Calculator fx83GTCW

£9.91 on School Gateway

Have you got yours?

See Mr Theobald for more details

PE News

Netball Year 7 Seeding Competition @ Great Marlow School

The Year 7 Netball Seeding Tournament, held at Great Marlow School on Tuesday 29 September, was the first competitive netball event of the year for our new group of Highcrest's Year 7 girls. The team represented the school with fantastic determination, positivity and enthusiasm throughout the evening.

Facing a number of experienced teams, the girls competed with resilience and a positive attitude. While not all of the results went our way, the team continued to work hard and support one another in every game. A particular highlight was a hard-fought draw against St Michael's, which demonstrated the progress the team made throughout the tournament.

Most importantly, every student gave their best effort and showed noticeable improvement as the evening progressed. The girls grew in confidence with their passing, positioning and communication, and it was excellent to see them developing their understanding of the game with each match.

A special mention goes to **Anesu**, who impressed with her strong attacking play through the centre court, helping to move the ball effectively and create opportunities for the team. **Alessandra** also deserves recognition for her excellent defensive interceptions, reading the game well and regularly winning possession back for Highcrest.

Well done to all the Year 7 players involved. Their commitment, teamwork and positive attitude made this a successful first tournament of the season, and we look forward to seeing their continued development in the fixtures ahead.

Mrs J Tipping Head of PE

PE News

Year 11 Boys Football vs Sir William Ramsay (Away)

The Year 11 Boys Football team kicked off their league campaign last week with an away fixture against Sir William Ramsay. Following an excellent turnout at the first training session of the season, competition for places was high and a strong squad was selected for the opening match.

Highcrest made a slow start and found themselves 2-0 down early on. However, the tenacity and determination shown by **Fynn**, **Max** and **Henry** in midfield helped the team regain their composure and begin to compete more effectively. At the back, **Leon**, **Harvey**, **Isa** and **Arash** produced an excellent defensive display, making a number of crucial tackles and last-ditch blocks to keep the team in the contest.

An early second-half goal from **Henry** gave Highcrest hope and reduced the deficit to 2-1. Unfortunately, Sir William Ramsay responded with a penalty before adding a late fourth goal to take control of the game. **Jayden** pulled one back with just two minutes remaining to make it 4-2, but the damage had already been done.

Despite the result, there were plenty of positives to take from the performance. The Players' Player award went to **Isa** for his commanding display in defence, while the Coach's Player award was presented to **Arash**, who repeatedly put his body on the line to keep the Ramsay attack at bay.

The team now looks ahead to this week's second league fixture against Cressex, where they will be aiming to secure their first points of the season.

Mr J Clarke, PE Teacher

PE News

Year 7 Boys Football vs Chesham Grammar (Away)

The Year 7 Boys Football team produced a resilient performance against a strong Chesham Grammar School side. **Yusuf** scored an excellent first-half goal, while **Marcel** was a constant threat in attack throughout the match. In midfield, **Adam** and **Daniel** worked hard and competed well, helping the team battle throughout. At the back, **Jude** was a standout performer, impressing with his combative approach and determination in defence. Despite a difficult fixture, the boys showed great effort and attitude from start to finish, providing plenty of positives to take into their next game.

Mr L Sargeant, Second in PE

Year 8 Boys Football vs Walton High (Home)

Highcrest's Year 8 Boys Football team were unfortunate to suffer a narrow defeat to Walton High School in the County Cup. After falling behind early on, **Emmanuel** equalised with a well-taken goal, assisted by a brilliant ball from **Harry**, before Walton regained the lead before half-time. Highcrest dominated large spells of the second half, creating several chances as they pushed for an equaliser, but were unable to find the goal their performance deserved. **Ali** and **Harry** were outstanding in midfield, competing brilliantly throughout, while **Ayaan** was a constant threat on the left flank with his direct running and attacking play. Despite the result, the boys can be proud of an excellent performance against strong opposition.

Mr L Sargeant, Second in PE

Year 7 Rugby Festival @ High Wycombe Rugby Club

On Friday last week, a group of Year 7 boys took part in a rugby festival hosted by High Wycombe Rugby Club. For many of the boys, this was their first time playing the sport and so both learned and applied the rules to a game all in one session! The whole team played brilliantly, with carries and tackles made by everyone on the pitch however, **Henry** ended with the Coach's Man of the Match and **Oli** won Overall Man of the Match, securing himself a new rugby ball. The game ended with a 2-2 draw after a couple of late tries from the opposing school however showed the team showed real dominance throughout the whole game.

Mr J Kendrick, PE Teacher

Embracing Freedom – Coming Soon

Ladies and Gentlemen, with the upcoming ban on social media scheduled for under-16s in March 2027, it gives us great pleasure to announce our next e-safety and staying safe online assembly based on the upcoming ban which will take place in late November 2026.

***Embracing Freedom* is all about breaking the addictive algorithm. We will explain why social media is so harmful, why a ban has been imposed for under-16s, and the importance of backing up your social media accounts before it's too late. In addition, we're going to speak about embracing freedom and exciting new adventures.**

It's going to be an enjoyable assembly packed with plenty of enjoyable/useful content and special guests showing that there really is so much more to life out there than just social media.

We want to encourage all our students to enjoy an outstanding future without the threat of online abuse and cyberbullying, while keeping their online reputation firmly intact.

The loss of social media isn't bad news!

Battery Recycling Competition

Help your House win big!

Calling all eco-warriors and House champions!

Get ready to unleash your recycling power in our electrifying **Interhouse Battery Recycling Competition**! This is your chance to make a massive difference for the planet AND score a HUGE win for your House. Let's turn those old batteries into a force for good and rack up those points!

BRING. THEM. ALL! That's right, we want every single battery you can find at home. **Flat batteries, round batteries, square batteries** – no shape or size is too weird or too wonderful. Dig through drawers, check those remote controls, and gather every last one! Every battery counts towards your House's total.

How it Works:

- This is a **FORM competition** – every member of your form contributes to the collective effort.
- Each form room has a designated **BATTERY BOX**. Your mission is to fill it to the brim!
- The **FIRST FORM to completely FILL their battery box** will instantly WIN **100 HOUSE POINTS**! 🎉

Let's see which House can become the ultimate battery recycling champions. Start collecting now and let the vibrant, point-scoring, planet-saving fun begin! 💪🌎

Old batteries might seem harmless, but they contain materials that can be harmful to the environment if they end up in landfills. Recycling them allows these valuable materials to be recovered and reused, preventing pollution and conserving natural resources. Plus, think of the energy you're saving!

This competition is not just about winning points; it's about building a sustainable future together. Let's show everyone what our school can do!

Pre-loved Uniform

We have a 'pre-loved' uniform shop @ Highcrest. If you are interested in buying some uniform that has been recycled, please email Mrs Hardaker to find out if we have items you require in stock at: chardaker@highcrestacademy.org.uk

*Blazer £6
Jumper £4
PE Tops £3
PE Long-Sleeved £4
Shorts/Skorts/Leggings £2
Tracksuit Bottoms £2
Skirts/Trousers £3
Shirts 50p
PE Waterproof Jacket £5

*You can purchase a blazer badge from us for £2 if you are buying your own black blazer.

All money raised goes back to school funds. If you have any pre-loved uniform in good condition you would like to donate, we would love to receive this from you. Please bring it into Reception or send in with your child. Many thanks.

Lost Property

To help items be located, please note:

- Learners are responsible for their own belongings in school.
- If something is misplaced, learners should search where they were that day, items are often left in classrooms, the canteen or the PE changing rooms. These are the places to search, not to ask a member of staff to search on their behalf.
- If an item is not found after the learner has searched, the next step is to check with Reception.
- **Please ensure all items (uniform, PE kit, coats, bags, water bottles, equipment) are clearly labelled with your child's full name, which makes returning items much easier.**
- Items will be kept for 4 weeks, and if unclaimed, will be recycled.

We are reinforcing responsibility for belongings with learners in school, and your support in reiterating this at home is greatly appreciated.

Breakfast Club

Runs from
7.30am to 8.20am
every school
day in the School Canteen

FREE
for all students

Cereal, bagels with cheese or jam, hot chocolate & tea

Chat with friends and catch up on homework

Should my child go to school today?

Your child should attend school even with the following...

- Headache, earache and stomach ache - if these persist seek medical advice.
- Coughs and colds - asthmatic children may need their inhaler more often.
- Sore throat, tonsillitis and glandular fever.
- Head lice.
- Hand, foot and mouth, warts and verrucae, athletes foot, molluscum contagiosum and cold sores.
- Conjunctivitis.

To help your child through the day, give your child a dose of paracetamol before school, and send them into school with plenty to drink. Let Matron know if you are concerned about your child in the morning.

The following will need some limited time off school

- High temperature, give paracetamol and plenty to drink. After paracetamol, if your child feels better, bring them to school. If your child's temperature continues for three days or more, seek medical advice.
- Diarrhoea and vomiting, your child can return 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.
- Flu (influenza), your child should return when recovered.
- Whooping cough, your child should return to school five days after starting antibiotics, or twenty-one days from the onset of symptoms if no antibiotics.
- Scabies, your child should be back to school after the first treatment.
- Threadworm, your child should be back to school after they have started treatment.
- Impetigo, your child can go back to school when their lesions are crusted or healed, or two days after starting antibiotics.
- Measles*, your child should go back to school four days after the rash has started.
- Chicken Pox*, your child should go back to school five days after the rash has started.
- German Measles*, your child should go back to school four days after the rash has started.
- Mumps, your child should go back to school five days from the start of swollen glands.

** Please let Matron know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.*

Medicines in School

Children can come to school even if they are taking medicines, as Matron is able to give them their medicine in school. Please complete a Medical Consent Form from Matron. Please make sure the medicine bottle is labelled with your child's name and year group.

Parents need to call 01494 529866 and select the Absence Option on the morning of each day the child is off school.

These guidelines are from the Department for Education and the NHS.

THE HIGHCREST ACADEMY

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE

Who can you report bullying to?

Staff

Prefects/Sixth Form

Confide

When you log on to any school computer

studentsupport@highcrestacademy.org.uk

ASPIRE and ACHIEVE

Our Motto

'Aspire & Achieve'

Our Vision

We work together, in a happy, caring and inclusive community, providing for students of all abilities, backgrounds and cultures, supporting their well-being and developing their characters, giving them every opportunity to aspire and achieve their unique academic and personal ambitions.

Our Virtues

We embody, role-model and teach our A-S-P-I-R-E virtues at every suitable opportunity, helping us to promote happiness and instill a culture of excellence that runs throughout every strand of our academy

Ambition	**S**ensitivity	**P**urpose	**I**ntegrity	**R**esilience	**E**loquence
To have a strong desire to achieve success	To have an appreciation of others' feelings	To work with determination and resolve	To be honest and have strong moral principles	To show strength of character with an ability to recover quickly	To be fluent and persuasive when speaking or writing

Our Core Aims

To help our students 'Aspire' to and 'Achieve' their ultimate ambitions, our aim is to provide ….

Quality of Education	Behaviour and Attitudes	Personal Development	Culture, Leadership & Management
A fully inclusive curriculum, that challenges students of all abilities, helping to develop our students as independent and autonomous learners, who strive to achieve their personal and unique ambitions.	An environment in which students work in harmony, respecting each other's rights and supporting one another in times of need, forging positive relationships and celebrating successes together.	Cohesive systems that support self-discovery and the development of character that ensures our students become healthy, confident and responsible citizens that make a valuable contribution to society.	A diverse, safe and happy community, where staff love to work, students love to learn and all are given the opportunity to develop.

If you do these things … if you Aspire … then you can, and you will, Achieve