



# HLA News

Friday 10th November 2023



Dear Families,

Here we are at the end of another busy week, we have some great news to share.

On Wednesday this week the Modeshift STARS Regional School Travel Awards took place. We were aware that we had been shortlisted for an award but were not able to attend. We were emailed following the ceremony to inform us that we had won not one but two awards! We have been awarded the Cambridgeshire SEN School of the Year and also the School of the Eastern Region. These awards recognise the work we are doing with our students within sustainable travel in the community, safe walking routes, transport management and travel education. We are very proud to receive these awards but also recognise that the work we do is part of our everyday curriculum offer so were surprised to say the least. I want to thank Jo for all of her hard work in coordinating this provision (and filling out the large action plans!). We have now been entered into the national awards to be held in March 2024 so we will of course let you know how we get on!

On Tuesday this week we had a very important visitor to our school. Jonathan Duff who is the Regional Director for Education for the Eastern region came to visit. He asked lots of insightful questions and engaged with the students beautifully. Jonathan was amazed by our provision and his leaving comments were 'keep up the great work'. It was lovely to get such positive feedback.

This week students in Eagles, Sparrows and classes S1 – S5 to watched the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime. The students returned from the performance with lots of smiley faces and all said how much they had enjoyed the acting and music.

Students in Key Stage 4 attended the annual Careers Fair at Ely cathedral. It was great to hear from the students about what they found out when they came back. It gave students some good ideas about what they would like to do after leaving education and all of them fed back to us that they felt it was useful. This is all part of our wider careers package which our students are engaging in.

This week we practised what we needed to do in the event of a lockdown in the event of a threat to the school. The students performed the drill fantastically and were all very responsible. The students were so silent it was very eerie when I was walking around the school completing my checks as part of the drill.

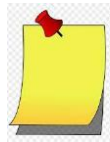
Next week is going to be a busy one. We are hosting a parent coffee morning on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> with our local PCSO Mags attending. She will be on hand to give lots of safety advice which is important as some of our students are particularly vulnerable. We also have another parent coffee morning focussed on Careers on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to share more information about planning for next steps after Highfield.

I hope you have a good weekend.

With all best wishes,

Yvonne Skillern

Head of School



## Important Information



- Parent coffee morning with our PCSO on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am
- Careers coffee morning on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00am for parents of students in Y9 and above
- Please don't forget to return the internet usage consent forms sent out a few weeks ago
- Don't forget to contribute £7.50 per term if you are able towards our extra-curricular activities. This can be done via Parent Pay as we are a cashless school.
- We have the catch up Flu Vaccination Clinic being held at school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December.
- We are on week 2 for the lunch menu this coming week.

## School Attendance

This week's whole school attendance was **91.2%**. This is down on last week – let's try hard to improve this. Please see this link for some NHS information which helps you to assess if your child is well enough for school. Please be reassured if your child is poorly when at school we will inform you. See some helpful information here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### Online Safety Tip of the Week:



### Emotion of the Week:

This weeks emotion is FEAR. Try to talk about how your child might be feeling, what their body feels like when they experience this emotion and what they can do to understand and react to them.

### Mental Health Tip of the Week:

Try to express how you feel. Talk to someone you trust. Sometimes a problem shared is a problem halved.

