



Options  
Higford

# HIGFORD NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 2

## Key Dates

Values - Readiness  
Myths and Legends

September Black  
History Month

22nd Sept Recycling  
week

10<sup>th</sup> Oct World  
mental health day  
Harvest



Hi all,

We are at the end of a really successful year for all of the students at Higford. I returned from my maternity leave this week and it has filled me with immense pride to see how much progress the students have made.

Over the past term the topic has been 'Me and my community' and there have been wonderful experiences and learning opportunities for all as part of this.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the opportunities the next term will bring within our Myths and Legends topic. We will continue to focus on personalised learning and fostering independence, ensuring each student is empowered to reach their personal best. In the first week back you will receive links to set up an account with Evidence for Learning where teachers will be able to digitally share work with you on a regular basis.

In September we are able to use our new classrooms and sensory/therapeutic spaces which we are looking forward to. I know some of you were able to see these when you came onsite for the summer fayre and sports day and I am sure you will agree they are going to be so beneficial for the students.

*Sam*



### **Staggered Start and Finish Times – September 2025**

From September, we'll be introducing staggered start and finish times across school. This is to help reduce congestion during busy periods, support smoother transitions, and ensure that students across all age groups have the space and staffing they need at key times of the day.

The updated times are:

Post-16 (KS5): 8:50 AM – 2:50 PM (Friday finish: 2:20 PM)

Primary (KS1 & KS2): 8:50 AM – 2:50 PM (Friday finish: 2:20 PM)

Secondary (KS3 & KS4): 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Friday finish: 2:30 PM)

These changes have been made with students' wellbeing and routines in mind, and we'll continue to review them as needed throughout the year.

### **CIRCUS SKILLS AT HIGFORD**

AS PART OF OUR ME AND MY COMMUNITY LEARNING, STUDENTS ENJOYED A FANTASTIC CIRCUS SKILLS DAY—AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRY SOMETHING NEW, BUILD CONFIDENCE, AND WORK TOGETHER. FROM SPINNING PLATES TO BALANCING ACTS, THE WHOLE DAY WAS FULL OF LAUGHTER, TEAMWORK AND RESILIENCE. WE ENDED WITH A JOYFUL ASSEMBLY TO CELEBRATE EVERYONE'S EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

### **OPTIONS HIGFORD SPORTS DAY – 25TH JULY 2025**

SUNSHINE, TEAMWORK, AND PLENTY OF CHEERING—SPORTS DAY AT OPTIONS HIGFORD BROUGHT ALL THE RIGHT ENERGY TO WRAP UP THE TERM IN STYLE.

THE AFTERNOON WAS CAREFULLY STRUCTURED TO SUPPORT ALL LEARNERS, WITH STUDENTS SPLIT INTO TWO ROTATING GROUPS ACROSS THE FRONT FIELD AND BASKETBALL COURT. EACH AREA WAS PACKED WITH FUN, INCLUSIVE CHALLENGES—FROM WATER RELAYS AND BEANBAG THROWS TO SACK RACES AND THE EVER-POPULAR EGG AND SPOON.

EVERY STATION WAS SENSORY-FRIENDLY AND ADAPTED WHERE NEEDED, ENSURING EVERY STUDENT COULD TAKE PART IN A WAY THAT WORKED FOR THEM. WHETHER IT WAS DRIBBLING A FOOTBALL, BLOWING BUBBLES, OR RACING A WHEELBARROW WITH A STAFF BUDDY—STUDENTS WERE ENGAGED, SMILING AND HAVING FUN ON THEIR TERMS.

OUR FRONT FIELD RACES WERE A BIG HIT, WITH STAFF AND STUDENTS GIVING IT THEIR ALL (AND EVEN A FEW BRAVE PARENTS JOINING IN). FLEXIBLE ROUTINES AND SUPPORTIVE STAFF MEANT EVERYONE HAD THE CHANCE TO STEP IN, STEP BACK, OR TRY AGAIN—NO PRESSURE, JUST PARTICIPATION AT YOUR OWN PACE.

STAFF WERE BRILLIANT THROUGHOUT—ENCOURAGING, HANDS-ON AND THOUGHTFUL IN THEIR SUPPORT. WHETHER HOLDING A HAND, CHEERING FROM THE SIDELINES, OR STEPPING IN AS A WHEELBARROW PARTNER, THEIR COMMITMENT TO EACH STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE WAS CLEAR.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED PLAN, RUN, SUPPORT AND CELEBRATE THE DAY—IT REALLY WAS A TEAM EFFORT. THE SMILES SAID IT ALL.

HERE'S TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPORTS DAY AT HIGFORD.



**SUMMER FAIR 2022** - HIGFORD'S SUMMER FAIR WAS FULL OF COLOUR, LAUGHTER AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT. FROM FACE PAINTING AND HOOK-A-DUCK TO PLANT SALES AND SWEET STALLS, EVERY PART OF THE SITE HAD SOMETHING TO EXPLORE—AND EVERYONE WAS INCLUDED.

STUDENTS RAN GAMES, JOINED IN ACTIVITIES AND EXPRESSED THEMSELVES PROUDLY, SUPPORTED BY STAFF WHO BROUGHT THEIR USUAL CALM, CREATIVITY AND CARE. COMMUNICATION SUPPORTS WERE IN FULL USE THROUGHOUT, MAKING SURE EVERY VOICE COULD BE HEARD.

PARENTS AND CARERS WATCHED THEIR CHILDREN SHINE, AND THE WHOLE DAY FELT LIKE A CELEBRATION OF EVERYTHING THAT MAKES HIGFORD SO SPECIAL. A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED—YOU MADE IT MAGIC.