



# HIGH POINT ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2 2023

Welcome to the latest edition of High Point Newsletter, we'll be taking a look at what our classes have been up to over the second half of the Autumn term. But first a note from our Headteacher, Mrs Kulyk:

## A NOTE FROM OUR HEAD TEACHER...

What an amazing and exciting term we have had!

It has been so lovely to welcome so many families into school to take part in our Christmas card making workshop. We are looking forward to offering an emotion coaching parent workshop and other workshops in the new year, so please keep an eye out for the dates on Class Dojo.

Class Dojo is our communication platform where letters, events and communication with our families take place. If you do not have access to Class Dojo, please contact the school reception so we can support you to set this communication platform onto an electronic device.

Pupils have been working extremely hard on their school performance and enterprise projects which they are selling at our first Christmas Fayre.

My particular highlight of this term was watching our amazing pupils practice for their Christmas performance and our Christmas dinner day.

I want to thank all of our High Point families for their continued support throughout this year and wish you all an amazing break. I also want to thank the amazing staff team at High Point who work tirelessly to support our pupils. We looking forward to welcoming all the pupils back on Tuesday 9th January.

Ambitious aspirations,  
Challenging the impossible,  
Encouraging independence for all!



## A NOTE FROM OUR DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER...

What a term this has been! So much has taken place in this busy, yet exciting, first term of our academic year. Firstly, well done to all of our 1C and 1D pupils and parents - both classes have made a really good start to their time here at High Point.

Meeting pupils' individual special educational needs is integral to our offer and we have our Speech and Language Therapist Harriet, and Occupational Therapist Hayley, who assist us with this. They have seen many pupils this term, delivered training to staff and have helped us in ensuring all pupil needs in these areas are met.

It has been wonderful this term to visit lots of lessons and look at exercise books in all year groups. Our leaders and teachers have worked extremely hard to prepare the very best schemes of work and lesson plans. We are proud to be offering such a varied and yet highly structured curriculum for our young people and the quality of learning opportunities is clear to see on these visits.

We will continue to work hard on developing our offer and opportunities - watch this space for more learning and curriculum updates in future newsletters!

Mrs Thomas



## OUR CHRISTMAS CARD CRAFT MAKING



Ambitious aspirations,  
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FUN IN THE SNOW!



Ambitious aspirations,  
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Encouraging independence for all!

SANTA'S GROTTTO



Ambitious aspirations,  
Challenging the impossible,  
Encouraging independence for all!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE



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## ATTENDANCE

This half term we have seen some unfortunate and unavoidable illness affect our pupils' attendance which is 86.8% (whole school) but we can still celebrate this!

This point last half term last year we had achieved 81.6% which is a 5.2% increase!

This is down to the support of families and the understanding of the children around the importance of attendance to High Point, so thank you for your continued support. We do still have to inform parents when attendance is under 90% and look at how we help improve that.

We are also continuing to celebrate our pupils' good attendance! Through praise assembly recognising our weekly 100% attendees and our half termly 100% attendees with Dimond time! We have one pupil that has significantly improved their attendance this year from 58% in the first half term to finishing now at 91%! This is an amazing achievement!



Well Done!

## SAFEGUARDING & FAMILY SUPPORT

We appreciate that family life in general is a very different experience for every family and there can be a mix of emotions for families and young people at Christmas time.

We hope everyone has the best Christmas they can, but I want to signpost some options of support if unfortunately, it was required.

In any event of an emergency always dial **999**

**NHS mental health service** – 111- 24 hours a day – <https://111.nhs.uk/>

**CAMHS Crisis Team** – 07816 075 218 – 0800am-2000pm <https://www.blackcountryminds.com/crisis-button/>

**Black Country 24hr Helpline** – 0800 008 6516 or text 07860 025 281 – 24 hours a day <https://www.blackcountryminds.com/crisis-button/>

**ChildLine** – 0800 1111 – 24 hours a day – [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**Black Country Womens Aid** – 0121 553 0090 – 24-hour help line – 0121 552 6448 – text or WhatsApp – 07384466181 – <https://blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk>

[www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com) is an online service for young people to access

**WYSA** is an app available through app stores for young people 13+

I will be available through the Christmas break – periodically (apart from Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Years Day) picking up any dojo messages or communications on 07756 287 381 for any support that may be required.

See you in January! - **Andy Seward**

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## CLASS NEWS - 1C

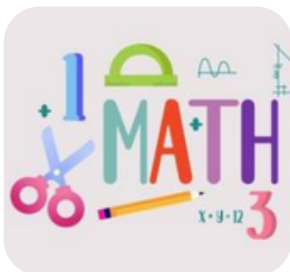
We are coming to the end of our Autumn term, and the pupils of 1C have definitely settled into their new form, making new friendships, and learning lots of new skills. As it is the run up to Christmas, we have had the opportunity to make some festive bakes in **Food Technology**, including stained glass window biscuits. We hope you enjoyed them!

We have all been working extra hard in **Design Technology** as well, creating our own wood cookie designs for our parents and carers to purchase at our Christmas Fair!

We were able to choose our own wood cookies, draw on a design in pencil, and then paint them how we wanted them to look. We all had the opportunity to drill the holes into the decorations as well, using a pillar drill. We all wore the correct PPE to carry out this task, and with a close eye from Mr Waterhouse, we all did a fantastic job. Another skill added to our list!



In **English** we have been looking at the beautiful story, 'Wonder', a story about a wonderful 10 year old boy named August, who was born with Treacher-Collins syndrome. The story of Auggie has shown us that it doesn't matter what anyone looks like on the outside. Our beauty is within us.



In **Maths** we have been looking at multiplying and dividing by 0, 1, 10 and 100. We have all worked really hard with this, and have been able to recap on topics learnt in primary school.



In **Art**, we have been looking at the work of Christopher Marley, an artist, designer, photographer and author who uses preserved natural specimens in his work. We have looked at his work with beetles and even created our work painting beetles of our own.



In **Food Technology**, as well as making our Christmassy biscuits, we have been looking at what makes a healthy breakfast. We all had the opportunity to make scrambled egg on toast, and enjoyed a hot drink to go with it (caffeine free). We also made lots of biscuits for Children in Need, in the shape of a Pudsey bear. We were able to enjoy some of these biscuits for ourselves and then sold some at our bake sale that was held in the school hall.

We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas break, and we look forward to seeing you all, happy and refreshed in the New Year! **From the 1C team.**

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**CLASS NEWS - 1D**

Hello 1D Parents and Carers. We hope that this newsletter gives you an insight into what we have been doing with your children during their days at School. Please enjoy the read and we look forward to seeing and communicating with you.

**English** - We have been looking at Superhero's and creating our own characters and comics. The children have come up with some amazing characters and ideas. They have completed paired activities and contributed to role playing their designs really well.

**Reading:** we ask that you actively encourage your child to read at home- This can be books, magazines and much more. When your child completes their reading book at School they will complete a short quiz about the book. If they get 100% they will receive a certificate.

**Maths** - We have been looking at number lines and more or less numbers. We have most recently been looking at Shape. The children have really enjoyed this topic and completed some amazing work on their shapes.

**Times Tables Rockstars:** we actively ask you to encourage your child to complete some time on Timetables Rockstars when at home if possible. If they score a certain amount they will receive a certificate. We have sent logins via Dojo to parents and carers. Please ask if you need any further support.

**Science** - In Science pupils have looked at plants. We have looked at how plants grow, what plants need to grow and how we look after them. The children have also completed an experiment and took apart a flower to look at the individual parts of a flower for themselves.



**Forest School & Trim Trail** - During Forest School we have experienced the area, we have worked together to make hammocks and swings and used the mud kitchen. We have had a new Trim Trail built and the children are loving it- I am sure they have told you about it. It is a great piece of equipment where our pupils have participated together to complete tasks or use the Trim Trial as an obstacle course. The in-ground trampoline has also been a massive hit! Forest School takes place on Mondays- Please send your child with suitable footwear and waterproof clothing if you prefer.

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## CLASS NEWS - 1D (CONTINUED)

**RE** - We have concentrated on Christianity this half term. The children have completed work such as designing their own front covers for a Bible and also researching the topic using BBC bitesize. We have also been on a local walk to look at the local area and looked at the church on Friar Park.

**Food Technology** - In our Food Technology lessons we have looked at Healthy snacks. We hope you have enjoyed tasting the foods made by the pupils-Unless they have eaten them in School before bringing them home. We will be making more yummy treats for you over time.

**Art** - This term we have looked at a famous artist 'Christopher Marley'. We have looked at his artwork of insects and the children have painted some of their own. The children are really delicate with their work in Art and take very good care when producing something- We are really proud of the work the children are producing.



**PE** - During PE we have been conducting some more team building games and actives. The pupils have had to work in pairs or multiples in order to complete games. We have concentrated on net games this half term including badminton and volleyball. This topic has continued to support pupils to develop friendships with peers. In 1D we have PE Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday please ensure your young person arrives in school wearing their PE Kit.

**Design & Technology** - In DT the pupils have completed some designs of hanging Christmas cookie Decorations and since made them. We pupils have used the Pilar drill in School to make a hole and then painted their designs onto these Christmas Cookies. One will be coming home with the children and some more may be available to purchase from our enterprise sale during the last week of term (More information to follow).



Please refer to our class Dojo page for updates and photos. Please do not hesitate to contact the staff via dojo- Mr Turrell, Miss Edwards and Miss Williams.

We would like to wish all families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year if you do celebrate these occasions.

Pupils return to School on Monday 8th January 2024.

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## CLASS NEWS - 2C

**English:** In English 2C have been reading and watching Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol'. The class have thoroughly enjoyed this, and it has sparked some great discussions about the difference between the rich and the poor at the time the story was set and even now and also what it means to be generous and how important it is to give back to others and be kind.

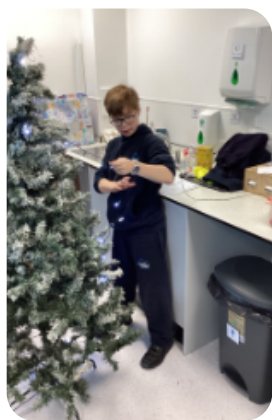
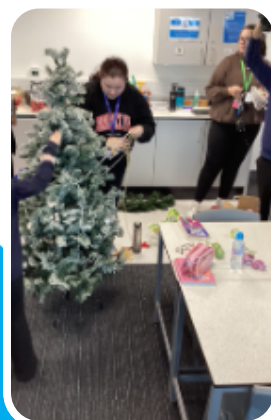


**Art:** In 2Cs Art lessons they have produced some beautiful work surrounding Vincent Van Gogh. They first learnt about the artist himself and then about his unique technique of painting, after this they gave it a go themselves and what they each produced was amazing. They started painting their snowmen for our Christmas fair, which we will sell to fund our DT and Art departments.

**Food Technology:** In food Technology 2C have been exploring different religions and their holidays e.g. Christmas and Rosh Hasanah and looking at what popular dishes people in who celebrate those holidays may eat and also cooking things from there for instance Honey cakes and Christmas Biscuits.



**PE:** In Pe 2c have been getting into the Christmas Spirit and practising singing and signing together with their staff to 'I wish it could be Christmas Everyday' and 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. They have been learning the different Makaton signs for the lyrics over the past few weeks and have enjoyed doing so that they have been even perfecting their Makaton skills in their spare time! As well as this they have been doing some work around inclusive sports and practising themselves how it would be to play the sports without some of their senses and abilities e.g. blind football and seated volleyball.



**HPA:** These sessions have been focused on a range of different things such as mental health, Christmas activities and socialising with their peers. They have played board games, decorated a Christmas tree together and watched a Christmas film in preparation for their WOW day. Their main focus was mental health and they have made keychains with techniques and ideas to help them when they are feeling down. They have learnt about the impact and importance of good and poor mental health and mental health management and shared their own experiences of when they have felt good and bad.

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## CLASS NEWS - 2CC

This half term 2CC have been working towards lots of fun activities towards our Christmas Enterprise which we are looking forward to as well as working on activities to support us make good choices and learn appropriate behaviours for school.

In **HPA** we have been learning all about the importance of thinking before we speak and how positively impactful it can be when we are mindful of what we say. We have also been discussing the importance of respecting other people's personal space. We have become more aware of what parts of our bodies are appropriate for others to touch and what parts are not.

We also introduced the **Makaton** sign of the week with the intention to reduce noise levels in the class and sign where possible to help some of our peers who struggle with high levels of noise around them. We learn a new sign each week and our upcoming sign will be the letters of the alphabet.



In **English** we have been enjoying Charles Dickens book called A Christmas Carol which has helped us to have empathy and compassion for the less fortunate and understand how significant it is to make good choices while we can. In this topic we carried out activities to show our ability to retain key parts of the story as well as using lots of descriptive words to describe the characters.



For **Maths**, our initial video movement break is what really gets us motivated for this lesson. We have been working on multiplication and division as well as learning our measurements in CM, M, and KM. We now know how to work out sums by converting measurements first to find out the answer as well as using our times tables to help us.

Our **Art** and **DT** lessons have been closely tied together where we have been creating pieces to sell in our Christmas fete that will be coming up soon. We have been practicing our sawing to make wood cookies then decorating them into exciting Christmas themed creations which we can't wait to show off in our stalls.



Overall, we have been enjoying lots of different celebrations over the term but the ones we are looking forward to is our Christmas performance to which we are working hard on our singing and signing. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## CLASS NEWS - 2D

**Hello to all our parents and carers! 2D have had a fantastic term at High Point Academy!**

**Maths** - In maths 2D have been excellent Math whizzes. They have been learning repeated addition to help strengthen their multiplication skills, exploring odd and even numbers, greater and less than and have been exploring patterns. All children's progress has been incredible over this term, and we are seeing lots more independent working and self-confidence.

**English** - In English, our focus has been on Comics and Graphic Novels. 2D have been looking at the Comic Pizza and Taco and have been following their hilarious adventures. They have been using their knowledge of the features of a comic which includes sequence of pictures, speech bubbles and action words to produce some fantastic pieces of work. 2Ds writing skills have been fabulous, pupils are using paragraphs, finger spaces, connective words, and punctuation. The class team are very proud of all of their hard work.

**Forest School** - During Forest school students have been enjoying both the wet and wintry weather. Students have participated in using flint and steel to create a fire to help keep us warm. Students have been having lots of fun on our amazing new trim trail. All students have developed further on their social interactions in their forest school sessions thus building on their friendships and it has been wonderful to see.

**Science** - In science we have been learning all about habitats. We have completed a super cool hamster study, 2D have learnt all about the perfect habitats for hamsters, their behaviour, and how to take care of them and have explored the life cycle of a hamster. 2D have also been learning about minibeasts and have been exploring what different creatures live in High Points Forest School and exploring their habitat. This has been a fun and exciting topic for 2D.



**Science** - In science we have been learning all about habitats. We have completed a super cool hamster study, 2D have learnt all about the perfect habitats for hamsters, their behaviour, and how to take care of them and have explored the life cycle of a hamster. 2D have also been learning about minibeasts and have been exploring what different creatures live in High Points Forest School and exploring their habitat. This has been a fun and exciting topic for 2D.

**Art** - In art 2D have been looking at the war and have produced a range of artwork highlighting the poppy and have learnt many different skills, pupils have used their knowledge of Foreground, Middleground, and Background to create landscape paintings. 2D have also looked at the artist van Gough. 2D have learnt lots of interesting facts about van Gough and have produced some beautiful artwork which includes van Goughs starry night.



**Food Technology** - Our focus this half term has been protein and the importance of protein. The pupils have had more focus on eggs and have prepared and cooked scrambled eggs, boiled eggs, and fried eggs. Pupils have taste tested and identified their favourite type of eggs. Pupils have used their skills and enthusiasm in the kitchen and are becoming more independent.

**D.T** - During DT they have used their skills and knowledge of tools to create some impressive wood cookie snowmen. 2D have had lots of fun and their confidence with using various tools has excelled.

2D have had lots and lots of fun on the build up to Christmas, our focus has been The Grinch and the story of how he stole Christmas. 2D have been working hard designing their WOW board. 2D have participated in an enterprise topic. 2D have designed and planned their own hot chocolate reindeers to sell and they are AMAZING. Well done 2D! **Merry Christmas to you all! We look forward to welcoming pupils back in January.**

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## CLASS NEWS - 3C

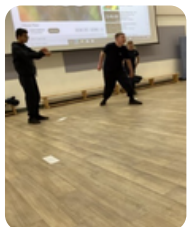
3c have had a wonderful, hardworking and festive term, they have worked incredibly well in all subjects and have had a fantastic term learning and are ready for the holidays. Here is an overview of what 3C have been learning and doing this term. Enjoy!

**English** - In English 3c have now finished the 'Lord of the flies' novel and have now moved onto their new topic which is 'Media', 3c are producing a magazine of their choice including pages of different areas such as an interview, review on something they are interested in.

**Science** - This term in science 3c are learning about Respiration and Breathing, 3c have worked really hard and have shown great understanding in their learning, contributed really well in lessons and produced amazing work.

**Maths** - In maths 3c have worked extremely hard even though maths is not particularly their favourite subject 3c have been working and learning on decimals/percentages and fractions, place value charts and number lines.

**DT** - This term in design technology 3c have been learning all skills sets involved in woodwork, this is evidenced by their wood making Christmas trees they are making for their Christmas stalls on WOW day!



**P.E** - The boys have been enjoying their P.E lessons a lot, they have been doing fitness related lessons by a mix of well-being and sports, also completing their P.E booklets which they all have done very well on. Enjoy some pictures of the boys having fun!

**Food Technology** - Our focus this half term has been protein and the importance of protein. The pupils have had more focus on eggs and have prepared and cooked scrambled eggs, boiled eggs, and fried eggs. Pupils have taste tested and identified their favourite type of eggs. Pupils have used their skills and enthusiasm in the kitchen and are becoming more independent.



**PSHE** - In PSHE lessons, 3c have done remarkably well studying the topic of British Politics and Extremism around the world, also learning about the recent wars in Israel and Palestine. This topic can be difficult and heavy to learn, but the 3c boys have contributed amazingly well in group discussions and have produced some great work.

From all 3C Staff we are very proud of the 3C boys this term. They have worked very well, and we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2024!

Happy Holidays!

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## CLASS NEWS - 3D

## Hello there from 3D

We have had a fun term at school, we have raised money for Children in Need, and we have had a new sensory room at Highpoint Academy.



In **Food Technology** we have been designing our own pizzas, and taste tasting. Then finally making our favourite pizza. 3D has enjoyed eating and finding their favourite toppings.

In **English**, we are now learning about Man on the Moon, and we are exploring what the main character does for work. All pupils thought about what they would need to take to the moon, to carry out the work of Bob. Pupils have practised using punctuation such as commas, capital letters and full stops.

In **Maths**, 3D are describing and comparing sizes. We are just about to move onto time. Pupils are exploring time language vocabulary. This will help us to understand how time is used in everyday life.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

From all the staff in 3D



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## CLASS NEWS - 4C

**This half term, leading up to Christmas has been another fantastic one for 4C.**

At college, students have been learning about British Values and have been very keen, prompting some very good discussions and views. In school, 4C have been making their own custom circuit and putting it to use in **PE**, showing each other what different exercises they can do and setting themselves targets.

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

In **maths**, 4C have been learning about algebra and cartesian geometry. This is definitely a high as algebra can be a tricky topic but the students of 4C have been amazing with it.

During **English** lessons, they have been focusing on the speaking and listening aspect of English. The students have thought about a preferred job, searched for a job advertisement and written about why they should be hired. They have then done a mock interview.



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In science, 4C has been learning about the periodic table and the contents of it. Students blew staff away with how well they retained the information they were taught so a huge well done is in order for 4C!

**Overall, it has been an extremely positive half term for the students of 4C and we look forward to having them back after a well-deserved Christmas break!**

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**CLASS NEWS - 5C**

**Hello from 5C,**

Here are some of the things 5C have been doing this half term. We are very proud of the hard work and effort our students have put in over the last 7 weeks. We are all looking forward to our Xmas break and a rest ready for the New Year, when 5C will be working hard towards their GCSEs.

We hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a well-deserved break.

From Mr Waterhouse, Mr Gibbons, Miss Sanderson, Miss Amos and Miss Crook.

**HPAs (Holistic Pupil Activities)** - This half term in HPAs, we have covered a number of topics relating to life skills and Preparing For Adulthood. So far, we have looked at budgeting and money skills; payslips and deductions, the process of applying for a driving licence; mock theory tests, job interviews and questions, and respecting others.

The students took part in a mock election, with our staff as candidates representing the different political parties, and the students voted using a ballot box. We had a discussion about reducing the voting age and the students did an online survey based on political policies.



**Walsall College** - 5C have completed their first component at college and will be changing to a new course from January. We are very proud of the students and the work they have done towards completing their assessments in Performing Arts, Gardening, Life Skills and Care.



**DT** - 5C have been learning many new skills in DT – drilling, sawing, measuring, and hammering. All of these have helped them to make Xmas trees, which will be sold at the Christmas Fayre.

**Children in need** - The students took part in Children in Need, making Pusdey biscuits and wearing yellow.



## TERM DATES

### Spring Term Dates

- Monday 8th January - Staff Training Day
- Tuesday 9th January - School Opens for all pupils
- Friday 9th February- School Closes for Half Term
- Monday 19th February - School Reopens
- Friday 22nd March - End of Term

### Summer Term

- Monday 8th April- Staff Training Day
- Tuesday 9th April - School opens to all pupils
- Monday 6th May - School Closed - Bank Holiday
- Friday 24th May - School Closes for Half Term
- Monday 3rd June - School opens to all pupils
- Monday 24th June - School closed to all pupils
- Friday 19th July - End of Term School Closes at 1pm

### Home Learning

Check out all of these home learning opportunities for our pupils. Please contact your child's form tutor via Dojo for further information.

The logo for myON, featuring the word 'myON' in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.The logo for NUMBOTS, featuring the word 'NUMBOTS' in a colorful, blocky, uppercase font with a metallic texture.The logo for TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS, featuring the words 'TIMES TABLES' in blue and 'ROCK STARS' in pink, with a black starburst background.

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