



World Book Day Celebrations



On Thursday 7 March 2013, Year 7 filed silently into the Hall to spend fifty minutes with the author, actor Andy Robb for World Book Day. The silence was soon broken by the students' laughter at Andy's responses to the host of questions he invited from his audience. He managed to turn all of his answers into amusing stories, which culminated in him acting out the most painful event of his life, which became the inspiration for his book "Geekhood: Close Encounters of the Girl Kind". This has recently been shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. Yes, the most painful event involved a girl, and this amusing and

interactive session ended with Andy giving the students an insight into the pain associated with young love, and what can go wrong when you tell someone you like them. Before the event, Andy gave a radio interview to Sixth Former, James Nicholson. If you would like to hear it look out for the link on the school website. A week of World Book Day activities started with a fast and furious lunchtime inter-tutor quiz for Year 7s. Students from 7J with a team name of *Bobs Lolage!* won the first five rounds by one point. The sixth round, based on the online newspaper *The Day*, was won by *The Huggable Ponies* from 7H. They had done their homework and got full marks. Books were given as prizes to both the winning teams. On the Tuesday, a minibus full of members of the student book group went to see the author Ally Kennen talk about how her life as a successful children's author came about. Her tale was an inspiration to budding writers in the audience and entertaining for the auditorium full of avid readers from across Berkshire. Her latest books *Bullet Boys* and *Midnight Pirates* are ones to look out for. A class from Year 8 were picked to join with schools across Berkshire in writing a chapter of an e-book on Wednesday. You can see the resulting stories at www.berkshire-els.gov.uk/.

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We Will Rock You



Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre presents 'We Will Rock You'. Over the past six months, students and staff have been working on the latest whole school production, a dynamic and energetic musical with a killer soundtrack, created by the rock legends that are Queen. The Drama department had over one hundred students audition plus call backs to get into 'We Will Rock You' over a course of three days. The production team had the incredibly difficult job of selecting from the vast talent pool Highdown has, but eventually they did and hope you will agree the right choice was made. The students have been great and it has been a pleasure working with them this year. Check out the next Highdown Link for a review of the show which took place over three nights on Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 March 2013.

Year 11 Boys Football - Highdown v Little Heath

On Thursday 7 February 2013, Highdown played Little Heath at home and quickly went 1-0 up after some great work by Nathan Blissett who crossed for Niles Joyce to finish. The game then became a midfield battle. Highdown went on to get their second goal through Ed Gadd after a well worked corner. Highdown's defence continued to marshal the game and nullify the Little Heath attack. Jamie Bunting and Ed were titans at the back as they stopped all major threats to Highdown's goal. In the centre Callum Carlisle, Lewis Hayden and Jamel Agard began to take control. Highdown got their third goal through Jamie, with a well finished free kick, which left Little Heath's goalkeeper with no chance. Highdown went in 3-0 up at half time. Highdown once again showed their class with a more comfortable second half. Patrick Gardner replaced Niles and Archie Denton replaced Nathan. Patrick took the score to 4-0. After a tactical switch Highdown went to three defenders at the back with Ed moving to midfield. Highdown were fully in control from that point onwards and added a fifth goal after a solo move by Ed was rewarded with his second goal of the game. Final score 5-0. Man of the Match goes to Ed Gadd.

Year 11 Boys Football - Denefield v Highdown

On Thursday 28 February 2013, Highdown went into the Denefield fixture full of confidence. After a 5-1 win over Langtree and a 5-0 thrashing of Little Heath the team expected good things to happen away at Denefield. After fifteen minutes of play, Highdown scored after a well worked goal from Captain, Lewis Hayden. Quality proved itself as Patrick Gardner quickly grabbed another goal followed by a goal from Archie. After a swap at half time to a more conventional 3-4-3, Highdown started to play better football with Callum tirelessly closing down in midfield. Niles quickly grabbed two goals with smart finishes. Highdown continued to dominate and after a shot from Jamel Agard there was controversy after a 'it was a foot over the line' goal was disallowed. Jamel took it in his stride and finished for Highdown's seventh when the ball fell to him on the six yard line. Nathan Blissett came on and went about quickly showing why he deserves a place in the starting line-up. In the end his tenacity helped Highdown get its eighth as his low cross was turned into the net by a Denefield defender for an own goal. The game ended 8-0 to Highdown. Man of the Match goes to hat trick hero Niles Joyce.

Year 11 Boys Football - Highdown v Theale Green

On Tuesday 12 March 2013, Highdown went out to play against Theale Green. Highdown were fully aware that a victory would send them into the league final. Theale started brightly and put Highdown defence under attack. Callum Carlisle was resolute in midfield, winning challenges and was threatening going forward. Highdown took the lead midway through the first half. The lead was not to last long as Theale's attack quickly snatched back a goal. Jordan Duffus was immense throughout the game, but sadly was unable to keep out a low shot from the Theale attack. In the second half, Highdown settled the better of the teams and Theale only threatened through counter attacks. Good work by wingers Lenny Rai and Lewis Hayden gave Highdown options as they pressed for the vital second goal. It came early on in the second half through a Jamie Bunting corner. Accuracy once again proved vital as Ed Gadd was able to head in for Highdown's second. At this point it became all Highdown and we quickly grabbed the third goal through another Jamie corner. Delivered with pace and accuracy, the Theale defence had no option but to knock it into their own goal. Highdown then came under Theale pressure as they looked to come back into the game. A clumsy Highdown tackle gave Theale the opportunity through a penalty. Highdown never should have worried as Jordan came to the rescue with a low diving save to his right. His heroics were matched moments later as Sam Durkan cleared a looping shot off the line. The game ended 3-1 to Highdown. A special mention must go to Joe Harvey who was immense throughout the game. Man of the Match has to be shared between Jordan Duffus, for spectacular goalkeeping and Callum Carlisle who had the best game of any student all year.

Girls Under 13s County Cup – Round 1 v Maiden Erlegh



On Thursday 7 February 2013, Highdown played Maiden Erlegh and went 1-0 down. The first half was very evenly matched. Katie Sherwood made some vital tackles to deny Maiden Erlegh extending their lead. In the second half Chante Bynoe-Gittens went on to equalise. Highdown took the lead when Caitlin Price scored. With ten minutes to go, Maiden Erlegh equalised. It was a close game throughout, with both teams looking dangerous on the attack, so it could have gone either way. Nevertheless, with five minutes to play, Jodie Hayden picked up the ball about 20 yards out from goal and shot in to the bottom right hand corner to score the winning goal. Final score Highdown 3-2 Maiden Erlegh.

Girls Under 14s County Cup – Round 1 v Waingels

Highdown went 1-0 down after only one and a half minutes, but Waingel's lead did not last long as Jodie Hayden quickly equalised with a fantastic strike. Highdown then went 2-1 up with a second from Jodie. After twenty minutes Waingels equalised and then shortly after scored a third. Despite going behind, Highdown continued to put pressure on Waingels, but just before half time Waingels scored a fourth to make it 4-2. Within three minutes of the re-start Highdown pulled the score back to 4-3 with yet another strike from Jodie. Highdown were starting to look really strong now and eight minutes into the second half Jodie scored her and Highdown's fourth making the score 4-4. This really lifted Highdown who then went 5-4 up with a goal from Caitlin Kemp. In the last fifteen minutes of the game Highdown conceded again making the score 5-5. A few minutes later Waingels scored again to make it 6-5. Despite going behind Highdown did not give up. With only eight minutes left Highdown equalised with another goal from Jodie. This made for a tense last few minutes and with only three minutes of normal time left, Jodie scored her sixth and Highdown's seventh to take the lead. This was an absolutely brilliant game, in which both teams fought to the final whistle. However, it finished with a fantastic Highdown win 7-6!

School Uniform Online

Highdown are in the process of setting up an online shop to purchase school uniform. When purchased it will be paid for online and available for collection from the school, or delivered direct to your home address, depending on your preference. For parents who are unable to use this service a stock will be held in the Finance Office. Further details will follow shortly.

Highdown Dash



Following on from the phenomenal success of last year's first ever Highdown Dash, there will be a second non-profit making community event on Sunday 16 June 2013. Taking on board feedback from last year we are introducing a chip timing system for both races. The 2K and 6K will be held at different times allowing parents to run with their

children and there will be a manned bag, buggy and picnic drop area. Both races will follow the same routes as last year. The 2K fun run around the grounds of the School and the longer 6K dash following local roads, footpaths and bridleways. Check out our new website www.highdowndash.co.uk where you can view photographs from last year's event and be able to download this year's entry form which are now open.

The Giving Machine

Highdown is registered with The Giving Machine. This is a quick and easy way to help raise money for Highdown and it will not cost you a penny. All it involves is registering on the website, www.thegivingmachine.co.uk before you make online purchases. Go on to the website and set up your email and password log in details. All you have to do is remember to use it every time you shop online. It has access to over four hundred and twenty internet stores, including Amazon, e-Bay, John Lewis and M&S to name a few. The Giving Machine directs you to the retailer internet site. You can split rewards between a number of causes (so you can support more than one school or cause if they are registered for the scheme). Some retailers offer additional promotions and offers so you can save even more on your shopping. The school benefits through a one off payment or percentage of your spend. Usually you are told what this can be as you go through the site, it is quite surprising how much this can be. One of our parents used it for an Amazon purchase and it was 3.5%.



Quiz Night



Highdown Parents' Link Quiz Night will be held on Friday 26 April 2013 in the Highdown School Hall, 7.30 for 8 p.m. start. Guest MC, bar, prizes and stand up bingo. Tickets £3.00 on the night (£1 for Sixth Formers). Teams of up to six. Email Niamh.sherwood@btinternet.com to reserve your table.

Noticeboard

Mobile phones are NOT to be used during the school day, including break and lunchtime. If a student is found to be in breach of this rule, the phone will be confiscated and remain secure in the Headteacher's PA's office until the end of the school day, when it can then be collected. The sanction will be to serve an afterschool detention on the following Thursday. Parents will be notified.

[twitter.com@HighdownSchool](https://twitter.com/HighdownSchool)



We are on the internet!
www.highdown.reading.sch.uk

If your child is ill please contact the School Office on 0118 9015823 before 9.30 a.m.

DATA CHECK

**Do we hold the correct information on your student?
Please complete a data form and return it to Highdown.**

TERM 5

**Starts: Tuesday 16 April 2013
Ends: Friday 24 May 2013**

Please ensure your child does not bring aerosols into school as some students are affected by them.

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure that your student's belongings are named. Lost property handed to the School Office, if named, can be passed on to the correct student. Any unclaimed items will be displayed for students at regular intervals.

**School reception 0118 9015800
School fax 0118 9015801
office@highdown.reading.sch.uk**

SPARE SCHOOL UNIFORM

If you have any uniform/PE kit in reasonable condition that you no longer need, please bring it into the school so it can be passed on as second hand.

**FIZZY DRINKS ARE NOT ALLOWED
IN SCHOOL**