



Highdown Link

Term 1 2012/2013
Volume 12 Issue 1

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre Newsletter – keeping parents and the community informed

Year 7 Trip to Avebury



On Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 September 2012, Year 7 visited Avebury Stone Circle and Museum. They took notes from the information boards and answered questions such as, 'Describe what Neolithic people wore and how Avebury started?' It was very interesting. They also visited the Stone Circle which has been around for four thousand five hundred years and learnt some incredible facts including how the Devil's Chair got its name. Afterwards they visited the West Kent Long Barrow and Silbury Hill. Year 7 had a fun and interesting day at Avebury.

Kew Gardens

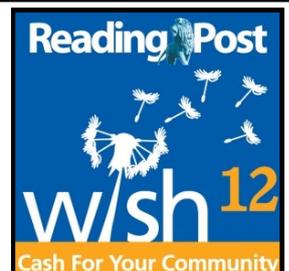
On Thursday 4 October 2012, the Art department took one hundred and five Year 10 Art and Photography students to The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in London. It was a perfect autumnal day for the trip. Students were taken round the extensive gardens and into the different houses. They were given different tasks to complete in each area involving photography, quick sketching skills and more in depth and detailed studies. The work completed will form an important part of their overall GCSE and will be used to develop ideas back in the classroom. There are some fantastic artists and photographers in Year 10 and the work so far is looking incredible.



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Reading Post WISH Campaign

From Wednesday 3 October through to Wednesday 5 December 2012, Highdown have registered to take part in the Reading Post newspaper WISH campaign. This entitles the school to receive a share of £15,000 which the Reading Post donates to the local community. Any donation received will go towards improving facilities for students at break times, such as picnic benches, table tennis tables and sheltered areas. We need to collect tokens from the Reading Post, which will be printed in Wednesday's edition up until Wednesday 5 December 2012. Please cut out the coupons and place them in the WISH box which will be located in the School Reception area. Thank you.



Under 14s Girls Final



On Wednesday 30 May 2012, the Under 14 Girls Football team played in the County Cup Final against Waingels College. The match was a very close affair with both teams having an even amount of the possession and chances to take the lead. It was 0-0 at half time and Waingels had one main threat up front. Therefore, Izzy Ely moved to defence to man-mark this player to prevent her from scoring. Then ten minutes into the second half, Frankie Watson's hard graft throughout the game paid off when she scored as a result from a good through ball from

midfield. Waingels started to apply more pressure and Holly Davies, Highdown's Goalkeeper, made some outstanding saves to prevent Waingels from equalising. It was a tense last ten minutes but Highdown defended well to win the game 1-0. Well done girls.

Outstanding Performance Award

One of the top awards presented at Highdown is one for the most outstanding performance of the year and this has been won by Jack Tynan in Year 11. This year he won a gold and silver medal at the British Tae Kwon Do Championships. Jack has represented England at the European Championships and got to the semi finals. During the summer holidays he attended the World Championships at U18 level, U57 kg and got into the last ten out of thirty seven competitors. Well done Jack.

PE Awards

Tennis 'A' Cup winner - Seb Tong 8H; Tennis 'A' Cup runner up - Joe Newman 9G; Tennis 'B' Cup winner - Jacob Fitton 8C; Tennis 'B' Cup runner up - Callum Chinn 8F. Highdown Golf Championships - Chris Ray 11E. Staff v Sixth Form - winners were the staff. Inter Tutor Softball winners - 7D. Inter Tutor Tennis winners - 7H, 8C/8E. Sports Day winners - 7F, 8E, 9D and 10D. Sports Day overall winner - E.



World Challenge Trip 2012

On Tuesday 17 July 2012, an intrepid band of eleven Year 12 and 13 students, along with Miss Patuck and Mr Moore set off from Reading for a month's long adventure to the amazing countries of Thailand and Laos. The trip started in Bangkok, then on to Kanchanaburi where they visited the first of many spectacular waterfalls and visited the River Kwai and Hellfire Pass. Then they headed north to Chiang Mai, where they went white water rafting, explored magical temples and stroked tigers. Then further north and from Chiang Rai went on an epic six day trek through the jungles of northern Thailand, staying with local hill tribes. Along the way they learnt how to make everything they needed out of Bamboo with machetes. The trek culminated in an elephant ride up to the highest village of their stay. Further north again, across the border into Laos, where they spent two days travelling by river inland to the colonial city of Luang Prabang. Here they spent some time working with local children at the cultural centre, teaching them among other things the joys of Frisbee. They experienced some extreme monsoon rains whilst there before heading down to Vientiane, the capital of Laos. Back south again, all the way by bus, boat and sleeper train to Ko Samet where they spent a well earned few days relaxing on the beach and in the sea. Hard work, organisation and fantastic personalities made for a truly memorable and action packed trip for the team.



The Tree of Light

On Saturday 20 July 2012, Mr Lindsay and Mrs Coleman took a group of Year 9 students to Stonor Park in Henley. This was the final day of the Tree of Light project and the students were doing a final rehearsal before an evening performance in front of thousands. Students had been rehearsing in school over the last few months, preparing for two performances, the first at the Madejski Stadium for the Olympic torch relay and the grand finale at Stonor Park. Students worked alongside choreographer John Darvell of Nocturn Dance and dance assistant Emma Bingham, one of Highdown's Sixth Form students. There were many other performers from different communities of all ages, from five hubs within the South East. The



finale was a culmination of a wider project exploring the science and art of trees in which Year 8 students also got involved in an art project. It was planned as a grand community celebration, highlighting the rich and fragile relationship between people and their environment. The Tree of Light brought together one thousand two hundred performers and a choir of four hundred and fifty around a gigantic industrial 'tree' of light, for this amazing large scale outdoor performance. The piece tells an epic tale from the long life of a mythical tree. It is a story of a forest born, inhabited and invaded. The forest thrives, is attacked, plundered, burned and reborn. It was a feast for the senses, full of drama, excitement and joy. The 'tree' was a huge concrete and glass structure. Lights shone from it powered by people pedalling bikes in greenhouse style blocks within the construction. As the sun set, families were finishing their picnics, listening to live music and enjoying being part of a massive community. All performers appeared from behind a hill, dressed in white boiler suits and the 'tree' slowly began breathing and coming to life. A huge thank you to Mr Lindsay and Mrs Coleman for organising an amazing opportunity and to Emma Bingham and to the following Year 9 students who took part:- Lauren Church, Alisha Hardie, Carmen Redfern, Isabelle Hayden, Saskia Cozma, Lucy Harris, Sam Orchard, Ayla Karateke, Lucy O'Farrelly, Laura-Leigh Gibson, Catherine Boddy, Anna Chapman and Tasha Arkell.

Games Maker

Highdown ICT teacher, Mrs Pamela Larbey, had the honour of being a Games Maker at the Eton Dorney site for rowing and canoe sprint, for the London Olympics. She was a volunteer member of the Press Operations Team and attended many training sessions, working alongside the world's media journalists and photographers. Her main job on the Tribune was to hand out results after each race. Sometimes there were over twenty races in a day and once the results were given they had to distribute them to the journalists on the Tribune. There was seating for two hundred journalists and it got really crowded. Once all the races were over, the area was tidied and then off to the Press Operations workroom. There were a further two hundred spaces for journalists. In this workroom there was a definite buzz, journalists all working to get their stories submitted to their Editors and there was a special excitement when Team GB did well. After the races and medal ceremonies there were press conferences. Each day was filled with excitement, routine, helping out and working with others. Over the two weeks they received several souvenir items including badges, wrist bands and a diary. On the last day of the Olympics all Games Makers received a souvenir Relay Baton symbolising team work. Eton Dorney was an amazing venue and all athletes and volunteers created an atmosphere that everyone found AMAZING. She spent two weeks at Eton Dorney working with journalists, having a front row seat of the finish line, a summer she will never soon forget.





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Book Group News and Reviews



A group of Year 7 and Year 8 students who committed to 'Shadow' the Carnegie Award, which is the most prestigious annual award for children's fiction, were rewarded with a trip to see the shortlisted, and soon to become winning, author Patrick Ness speaking at the Education

Library Service. One of the activities students were encouraged to do whilst shadowing the award was to write reviews for the shadowing pages of www.ckg.org.uk. In recognition for the number and standard of their submissions, the students were asked to produce book reviews for 'Books for Keeps', a magazine for everyone who works with children's books. You can see Bryony, Euan, Jessica and Puneet's work in the September edition www.booksforkeeps.co.uk. The 'shadowers' group continues to meet after school on Thursday's and anyone interested in reading is welcome to join us. The next event they are training for is the local heat of Kidslitz Quiz in November. The Year 8 team will be drawn from the book group and Mr Holland is organising the Year 7 team. The results will be in the next Link. The Book Group suggests the following spooky reads for dark autumn nights:- A Woman in Black by Susan Hill; Breathe, a ghost story by Cliff McNish and Mortlock by Jon Mayhew.

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

DATA CHECK

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

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

TERM 2

**Starts: Tuesday 6 November 2012
Ends: Friday 21 December 2012**

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
hmju@highdown.reading.sch.uk
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