



# Highdown Link

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

## China Trip

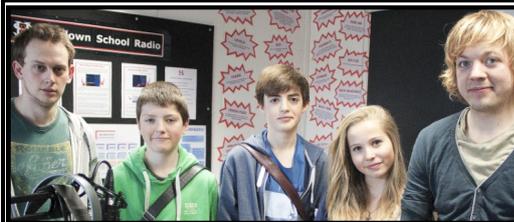
On Monday 25 March 2013, students from Year 9 and Year 10 went to China for a week led by Mr Wu, Miss Yang and Ms McNally. They stayed at Beijing Huawen Xueyuan 北京华文学院 which is a boarding school for learning Chinese language and culture. The groups were split into pairs to share rooms, each with a TV and en-suite bathroom. Whilst in Beijing they went to many amazing places such as Beijing Zoo where they saw the pandas, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, the National Museum of China, the Great Wall (Juyong Guan section), the Summer Palace and many other fantastic places. To take them to all these places they



had a bus driver called Master Shifu (whose real name is Song Li). Back at the college they had Kung Fu lessons, tea tasting sessions and Chinese painting lessons. Every day they had a full Chinese buffet to keep them going. The highlight of the trip was an exchange day with Beijing Yihai 怡海八中No. 8 school where the students participated in a football match, whole school break time exercise (eye opening for them as one thousand students were doing synchronised movement altogether) and they joined in an English lesson. The students ate and chatted with Chinese students in the canteen during lunch. At the end people were exchanging emails for further correspondence. The students had a wonderful time and would love to go again.

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## Young Shakespeare Company



Year 9 students recently had the opportunity to view a performance of Romeo and Juliet by the Young Shakespeare Company. They are a group of people who travel the country performing the different works of Shakespeare to schools. Their aim is to show Shakespeare in a fun, entertaining way, which appeals to a whole new audience. To make this confusing play a lot simpler, they chose key scenes and acted them out in different ways. This makes the play more accessible to an audience unclear with the Shakespearian language and customs that are key to the play. A lot of audience participation also really helped to grab everyone's attention. They were always asking for different ways to perform each scene and no matter how crazy the suggestion, they acted it out. By giving the audience total control, it really helped make the performance unique and enjoyable for all. They used a lot of comedy and wit, as well as brilliant acting, to keep the audience interested throughout, whilst still giving them the main parts of the well known play.



## Geography Trip

In March 2013, the Geography department visited the River Tillingbourne and Juniper Hall in Surrey for the annual residential trip. The trip was part of the Year 10's GCSE course, where they collected data and began to write up their Controlled Assessment. The focus of this field work was to investigate downstream changes, such as flow velocity and river depth. They were also looking at the characteristics along the River Tillingbourne. In addition, students were considering the impact humans are having on the characteristics of a river. The students experienced a range of data collection techniques including measuring the depth, width and velocity at three different sites. They worked in small groups to collect their primary data; they also experienced lessons with staff from the Centre who are experts in this field. They worked late into the evening drawing cross-sectional profiles of the river and presenting their data using GIS. Well done to all the students, their behaviour and work ethic were fantastic and we look forward to another year of excellent controlled assessment results.



## Quiz Night



The newly formed PTA - HPL (Highdown Parents' Link) held its first event on Friday 26 April 2013. The Quiz Night was attended by nearly one hundred and fifty parents, teachers and Sixth Form students, filling the School Hall, all trying their chance at winning the cash prize. The Quiz was fantastically delivered by Mr Franks who kept the crowds entertained. Thanks to the quiz author Siobhan Egan, the scoring team Lisa and Colin Stewart, the bar set-up team Niamh, Steve, Debbie, Sue, Anne-Marie and Lisa, and finally to Mr Bensley for

his enthusiasm, support and help. With much chopping and changing the Quiz was won by 'Half Way There'. The participants were brought to their feet during the interval for a tense game of stand-up bingo. Many thanks to all who attended and helped make the evening such a success. We look forward to seeing you at our future events:- The Highdown Dash on Sunday 16 June 2013, Schools Out Disco and Band Night at The Moderation on Thursday 18 July 2013 and another Quiz Night in the Autumn term.

## Student Tutoring Scheme

Highdown has strong links with Reading University, one of which is the Student Tutoring Scheme. We are delighted that undergraduates have been helping out once a week in Science, Art, English and Geography lessons and are supporting the next generation in their learning in this way. Sam and Chloe, pictured, may well be the next generation of teachers as well.



## County Cup Final

On Tuesday 30 April 2013, the Girls Under 13's Football Team played in the Berkshire School's County Cup Final at Newbury Football Club against St Bartholomew's Under 13's. Two minutes into the match Jodie Hayden put Highdown in front, after a great run and finish. She followed this three minutes later with a second. St Bart's then pulled a goal back in the fifteenth minute and also hit the cross bar before Jodie Hayden scored her third. Olivia Burrell then scored right on half time to make it 4-1 to Highdown. After half time St Bart's put Highdown under pressure but Highdown's Goalkeeper, Molly Leary and the defence were strong and managed to keep the score at 4-1. On the sixtieth minute Leila Aljabar scored Highdown's fifth goal with an excellent finish and from then on Highdown seemed to take charge of the game again. The final score was 5-1 to Highdown who are now Berkshire Schools County Champions. The squad:- Molly Leary, Katie Sherwood, Olivia Burrell, Jodie Hayden, Alice Cooke, Zoe Whitfield, Caitlin Price, Emily Kitchingham, Amina Humphreys, Hannah Butcher, Leila Aljabar, Chante Byno-Gittens, Jasmine McCallum and Evie Carr.

## British Jujitsu Championships



Year 10 student, Akira Hooper competed in the British Jujitsu Championships over Easter with his club, Park Lodge Jujitsu Club and won a bronze medal in Continuous Fighting. This is a very hard discipline. Akira was up against tough competition from competitors from all over the UK. His next competition is on Saturday 18 May 2013, which is the International Championships held in Southend on Sea. Well done and good luck.

## Triathlon

On Tuesday 19 and Friday 22 March 2013, Year 8 boys held a Triathlon race in their PE lesson. This involved cycling two laps of the Lower School field, followed by running two laps of the tennis court field, then swimming ten lengths of the swimming pool. The winner of Friday's race was Josh Wetten after a great swim, overtaking Dan Aked and Sam Z-Shahabi. However, Tuesday's race proved to be the faster race which provided the fastest four times of the week. The overall winner in a time of 12.58, just 19 seconds off the school record was Sam Rodda. Runner up was Sid Beasley, third was Peter Feys and fourth was Jacob Fitton. Eight boys did a biathlon, missing out the cycle ride and the clear winner of this race by over two minutes was Adam Adrian. Well done boys.

## Award Winners

Netball Player of the Year – Molly White (A) 7J, Erin Hoadley (B) 7J, Martha Bryant (A) 8K, Abigail Lewis (B) 8H, and Jodie Penny 11D. Most Improved Snowboarder – Isaac Taplin 10C. Most Improved Skier – Daniel Arthur 9H. Most Improved Boys' Footballer – Jamie Sarson 7K, Greg Jones 8F, Ronan Wright 9J, Junaid Bell 10H and Jordan Duffus 11K. Most Improved Girls' Netballer – Hannah Nicholson (A) 7E, Emily Brooks (B) 7D, Jodie Hayden (A) 8D, Madeleine Porter (B) 8F, Hollie Davies 9E, Ruby Cruse 9E, Marta Radosevic 9H and Lianne Slaughter 11B. Most Improved Badminton Player – Jeshurun Rai 11C. Senior Badminton Singles Champion – Lenny Rai 11K. Top Goal Scorer – Jodie Hayden 8D and Callum Carlisle 11K. Triathlon Winner – Sam Rodda 8C.

## Berkshire Schools Golf Championship

Congratulations to Barney Wytchard who won the Berkshire School Golf Championship – best net score award. He then teamed up with Chris Ray and they were runners up in the team event.

## Year 11 Football Final



After a tremendous season the Year 11 Football team left Highdown to play the final on Tuesday 7 May 2013. Highdown settled into the familiar formation of lone striker and two wide players. JMA scored from their first attack of the game but Highdown battled back. Patrick Gardner missed a close range header after brilliant work down the right from Nathan Blissett. After some fine work from Lewis Hayden, Highdown

equalised. At 1-1, Highdown looked likely to grab a goal, but JMA's outstanding finishing produced two quick goals, they were 3-1 up at half-time. With the introduction of Niles Joyce and Archie Denton, Highdown piled on the pressure. Chances kept coming Highdown's way and a great solo effort from Callum Carlisle pulled the game back to 3-2. JMA then scored with a lightning quick counter attack before Lewis Hayden ran past three players and shot into the top corner of the net. At 4-3, with only fifteen minutes remaining, Highdown pushed hard for an equaliser, desperately trying to take the game into extra time. Jamie Bunting, Joe Harvey, and Gregor Miller worked tirelessly, but did not have enough in the tank to stop lightning fast JMA attacks and JMA went on to score three goals in fifteen minutes to put the tie beyond Highdown's grasp. The game finished 7-3 to JMA. Man of the Match goes to Captain, Lewis Hayden and Man of the Season goes to Callum Carlisle.

## Cash Loader



From the start of Term 5 a cash loader was installed in The Gallery for staff and students. Place your finger on the reader to see the balance and top up using cash. The locked post box is still available for cheque payments. Please be advised the cut off period each day for cheque payments is 12.15 p.m. made payable to Cucina with the student's name written on the back. ParentMail2 is now live at Highdown. If you have a SMART phone you can download the ParentMail2 app. Break is 10.35 a.m. to 10.55 a.m. Lunch is 12.35 p.m. to 1.20 p.m. The Gallery closes at 4 p.m.



## Best Entertainment Award



Year 7 student, Ewan Harris played one of the lead roles William Beech in Goodnight Mr Tom at the Phoenix Theatre and then on national tour, which won the Best Entertainment and Family category at The Olivier Awards. Ewan has acting lessons with Robert Kelly in London and attends Stageworks Drama classes. Ewan is currently in rehearsals to play Dill in To Kill a Mockingbird with Robert Sean Leonard from House, at the Open Air Theatre which starts Thursday 16 May 2013.

## Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 13 March 2013, Highdown took a team of two Year 8 and two Year 9 students to compete in the regional heats of the UK Team Maths Challenge. After two rounds Highdown were in the lead not having dropped a single mark. Unfortunately, a disastrous third round knocked Highdown down the rankings. Kirsty Walker, the speediest runner in the final relay round, did not lose a second but even this was not enough to pull Highdown back into winning position. Highdown Highdown came ninth out of twenty four teams, which is Highdown's best result in recent years. Congratulations to Jasmine Bahra 8E, Kirsty Walker 8H, Lizzy Hawken 9J and Owen Aljabar 9C.

## 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.

### ABSENCE LINE

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 6

Starts: Monday 3 June 2013

Ends: Tuesday 23 July 2013

### LOST PROPERTY

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

### SPARE SCHOOL UNIFORM

If you have any outgrown uniform/PE kit in good condition that is no longer needed, please bring it to the School Office where it can be utilised.

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HighdownSchool



[www.highdown.reading.sch.uk](http://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk)