



Halloween Disco



On Thursday 25 October 2012, a group of Sixth Form students organised a Halloween fancy dress disco for Year 7 and Year 8. It was a fundraiser to help towards a new Sixth Form common room. The night was a huge success raising £681. Nothing, however, was more successful than the effort put in by the students for their costumes, with everyone, including Science teacher

Miss Braine, looking totally spooky. The Sixth Form would like to thank all the staff that made the evening possible and gave up their time in order to help out on the night. A special congratulations goes out to Lauren Harvey of 7H for winning the fancy dress competition, who made a very scary zombie!

Geography Field Trip

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On Monday 22 October 2012, thirty two AS students embarked on a Geography fieldtrip to Pembrokeshire, in order to investigate regeneration of rural areas and the pressures on a developing coastline. Every student was a credit to Highdown with James Nicholson and Laura Crew each winning top Geographer of the week.

All students demonstrated an excellent work ethic, collecting data and interviewing locals to build a fantastic understanding of the local area in preparation for their upcoming examination in January 2013. Day one and two were spent exploring rural areas to evaluate the effectiveness of rebranding schemes aimed at reinventing and improving the area. On



day three they undertook a spectacular coastal walk discovering the processes and management techniques at work along the Pembrokeshire coastline and finally, it would not be a Geography fieldtrip without measuring hundreds of pebbles in order to discover the direction of long shore drift.

Year 9 Rugby Final



On Monday 19 November 2012, Highdown's Year 9 Rugby team played Hugh Faringdon in the League Final, as Highdown had won the Reading West League and Hugh Faringdon had won the East League. It was twelve against fifteen players in Hugh Faringdon's favour due to four forgotten kits. Despite this Highdown took an early lead after a try from Mo Tahir which was quickly followed by three tries from Hugh Faringdon to give them a 15-5 lead after only ten minutes. It would have been easy to give up, but the whole team dug deep and scored two quick tries by Colm McAdden, which he converted to give Highdown a narrow 19-15 half time lead. In the second half we expected to tire being three players short, but instead we upped our game and scored four more tries against one of theirs to win the game 39-20. Colm completed his hat trick and the two joint men of the match scored the other three, Tom Willis and Matt Simmons. Well done boys.

Year 10 Rugby 7s Tournament

A fantastic squad performance led by top try scorer Alex Cheng secured victory over all comers at the Highdown's annual Rugby 7s tournament. With no 7s training, the squad played outstanding 7s Rugby. The ball was moved wide at every opportunity and created many scoring chances. They dominated every game due to unselfish play which caused numerous problems for the opposition. Credit is due to all after they were behind in the final game but stuck at it and came away with a superb victory. Try scorers:- Alex Cheng x 5, Jack Knight x 3, Connor Rumble x 1, Alistair Trussler x 1, Will Legg x 1. Conversions:- Jack Knight x 2, Max Bareham x 1 and Connor Rumble x 1. Highdown v Maiden Erlegh 17-0, Highdown v Theale Green 19-0, Highdown v Hugh Faringdon 17-0 and Highdown v Wargrave Piggott 10-7.



Year 11 Rugby Tournament

Highdown Year 11 took on four other schools in their own Rugby 7s tournament held at Highdown on Thursday 15 November 2012. As they did not do that well last year confidence was quite low, but after a 15-0 win over Bulmershe, thanks to tries from Jack Willis, Ed Gadd and Peter Chapman, confidence grew. They came back to earth in the next game losing 10-5 to Theale despite a good try by Alex Audland, but bounced back again with a 5-0 win over Maiden Erlegh, with a try from Ed after a great pass from Jack, which set up a final league game against the unbeaten Wargrave Piggott. Highdown played brilliantly and in a stormy game ended up victors 14-0 after two great team tries scored by Jardel James and converted by Ed. The tackling throughout the tournament was outstanding led by Jack Willis, closely followed by Jordan Duffus and the rest of the team, but the main difference from last year was that they played as a team and supported the man with the ball much better. The final result was incredibly close. Highdown drew at the top of the league with Piggott with three wins each. This then went to tries scored and we both had seven, so then it went to tries conceded and they had let in three tries and we had only conceded two so we won the tournament. The rest of the squad included Kirk Newton, Firman Fitrianto, Sam Durkan and Will Underwood.



Inter Tutor Results

Cross Country: 7F and 8C, Year 7 boys - Luke Potter and girls - Jasmine McCallum. Year 8 - Sam Rodda and Kirsty Walker. Rugby: 7G beat 7C 10-5, 8C beat 8J 25-0, 9F beat 9K. Basketball: 9J beat 9E. Boys Hockey A Tournament: 7C beat 7J 1-0, B Comp 7G beat 7F 1-0, overall winners 7J. A Comp 8H beat 8D 1-0, B Comp 8C beat 8K 1-0, overall winners 8C.

Beat the Street



During October, over two hundred students from Year 7 and 8 took part in an international competition to walk to school. Using the latest technology they had to record their mileage on Beat the Street boxes situated on their route to school. Reading schools came second to Vancouver schools. In addition, they managed to raise nearly £200 for the British Heart Foundation. Pictured are the top two walkers from each year group:- Leah Barnes-Baker and Lilla Lovaszi in Year 7 and Jonathan Foot and Yasmin Darg in Year 8 who decided to do Beat the Street as she lives a long way from school and thought she would have

a good chance of winning. In her words "It has made me want to walk more with my friends. It was a great experience and has made me more active". Congratulations to all those who took part.

Pensioners Party



On Wednesday 28 November 2012, Highdown organised the annual pre Christmas party for fifty pensioners from local residential homes:-Saint Luke's, The Oaks Residential Home, Albert Road Day Centre and Acacia Lodge Care Home. Everyone was made to feel welcome at the school, as they were greeted by the smiling faces of the staff and Sixth Form. Seasonal afternoon tea was served in The Gallery and they were treated to several games of bingo, hosted by Headteacher, Mr Tim Royle.

Roger Stevens Author Visit

On Tuesday 23 October 2012, Roger Stevens, well known poet, author and artist came to Highdown to read a selection of his poems. The day began with some writing workshops where groups of Year 7 students wrote about subjects that range from:- how would a dinosaur feel about his world, to special childhood possessions and what happened to them! Roger's poems appear in over one hundred anthologies. The afternoon session covered a range of topics; how school children could help save libraries and how writing can help everyone make progress. Some read their poems out loud and everyone laughed a lot! Roger has written many collections of poetry including: 'The Secret Life of Pants' and 'Why Otters Don't Wear Socks'.



Preparation for Work Experience

Year 10 students will be experiencing the world of work week beginning Monday 1 July 2013. All will have the opportunity to find their own placements through family and friends. If this is not possible the CBEPB, who do all the health and safety checks and job descriptions for us on their own placements, then allocate them one from their database based on the application forms they have filled in. Any offers or queries regarding Work Experience please contact Mrs Tull on hjet@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Kids Lit Quiz



On Friday 30 November 2012, ten students took part in the Inter Nation Kids Lit Quiz at St Gregory the Great's School, Oxford. Katie Upton, Jamie Sarson, Harry Kemp, Alexander Leith-Snow and Emily Brooks from Year 7. Bonita Blair, Jasmine Bahra, Bryony Garnett and Jessica Garnett from Year 8. Over twenty schools took part and both teams competed admirably against strong, mainly independent school opposition. The students fully intend to go back next year and win the competition. Everyone involved had a fantastic time.



Highdown Link

FridayFest

On Friday 26 October 2012, eight Year 12 Theatre Studies students headed down to the University of Reading where they took part in a Drama Festival called 'FridayFest'. This was designed by Professor Andy Kempe to develop closer links with local Reading secondary schools and Universities. They were introduced to the excellent facilities at the University and then attended master classes in Improvisation or Absurd Theatre. After a two hour workshop the students performed an extract from the Greek tragedy Antigone, alongside six other secondary schools who also showcased their theatrical talents. The students:- Lemar Wallace-Clarke, Pinkas Commichau, Rachel Maynard-Stenning, Cheyne Howard, Sasha Maybanks, Sophie Kurz, Vanessa Cowpland and Caroline Groesschen were absolutely fantastic. Their performance was strong and stood out as one of the best. They also proved themselves to be great ambassadors for Highdown.

School Direct Training Process



School Direct initial teacher training places (non salaried) have been awarded to Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre in Chemistry, Mathematics and Computer Science. We are looking to recruit trainees in these specialisms. For more information go to the recruitment page on the Highdown website.

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

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

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

TERM 3

Starts: Monday 7 January 2013
Ends: Thursday 14 February 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
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