



# Highdown Link

Term 6 2012/2013  
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Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre Newsletter – keeping parents and the community informed

## Maths Success for Year 9



Congratulations to Chris Cowpland, Owen Aljabar and Marta Radosevic for their recent participation in further rounds run by the UK Maths Challenge. Owen was invited to do the Cayley Olympiad. An event open to the top five hundred students from Year 9 in the whole of the UK. Owen sat a ninety minute written exam and received a certificate of merit. Marta Radosevic and Chris Cowpland were invited to do a Kangaroo round indicating they were in the top five thousand five hundred for Year 9. They sat a sixty minute multiple choice exam and received certificates for participation.

## Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge is aimed at the top third of students in Year 11 or below in England and Wales. The Challenge involves answering twenty five multiple choice questions in one hour and is sat under normal exam conditions. Highdown received five Gold, twenty one Silver and twenty nine Bronze. Best in Year 11 - Alex Hamilton, Year 10 - Catherine Boddy and Year 9 - Owen Aljabar who also received best in the school. In addition, Year 10 students - Catherine Boddy, Alisha Hardie, Alison Rice Murphy and Lucy O'Farrelly, attended a Further Maths Competition at Sandhurst School where they won the first round. They were still in the lead after the second, but finished after round five in seventh place out of nineteen local Berkshire schools.

## Miracle Morning Project

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In April 2013, Highdown's Level 2 Art and Design students were asked to help in the 'Miracle Morning' rejuvenation of the Reception outdoor area at Caversham Primary School. The outdoor play area had been extended, which left large brown fences that lacked vibrancy and excitement for the Reception children. The students were asked to design a series of murals that were stimulating, eye-catching and that the Reception children could enjoy for years to come. The students had a consultation with Miss Jones, Reception Teacher and discussed themes and colours that would be suitable. The Caversham Primary students had an abundance of ideas and narrowed it down to a space, village and dinosaur theme. A great start has been made on this on-going project and we are all looking forward to seeing the final outcome.

## Chess Player

Year 7 student, Jamie Sarson competed in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge Mega Final in May 2013, held at the Licensed Victuallers School in Ascot, where he won the under 12 boys section for Berkshire, winning 6/6 matches. Jamie now goes on to play in the Gigafinal in July 2013 at Rivermead Leisure Centre. Jamie is one of the remaining two thousand out of the sixty thousand players who entered into this national event. Good luck Jamie.



## Athletics Championships



Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent Reading at the Berkshire Schools Athletics Championships. Year 7:- Jasmine McCallum - Long Jump, Dolson Rochester - Shot, Jadem Sealy - 150 metres. Year 8:- Sullivan Allaway - Long Jump, David Mollett - Javelin, Kirsty Walker - 800 metres. Year 9:- Nick Park - Hurdles, Alex McCallum - High Jump, Pele Hagger - Triple Jump, Mo Tahir - Shot, Jerry Edwards - Discus. Year 10:- Nathan Isaac - Discus, Sam Simone - 1500 metres, Jack Knight - Hurdles, Lauren Church - 300 metres. Year 11:- Jardel James - 200 metres. On Saturday 8 June 2013, Pele Hagger came a brilliant second in the Junior Boys Triple Jump with a distance of 11.43 m in the Berkshire Schools Athletics Championship, after winning the Reading Town Championships the week before. Well done to all the competitors. Students selected to represent Berkshire in the Southern Regions Combined Athletics Event competed in Crawley, Sussex. Junior Boys - Alex McCallum and Nick Park and Intermediate Girls - Lauren Church.

## Corby Trip



As part of the Level 2 BTEC course, Scott Southern and Ronald Twum organised a trip to Adrenaline Alley indoor skate park in June for Highdown's BMX and Scooter riders. It was a great day out, where they had to coach each other new skills/tricks and show determination in working at them despite a few crashes. Scott has put together a two minute clip on YouTube - [Highdownschoolcorbytrip](#), culminating in a back somersault by Derrick Nartey.

## Sporting Success

Highdown do not always know about success that happens outside of school. We would love it if you would let Highdown's PE department know about your child's success so that we can celebrate with them.

## Athletics Achievement

Congratulations to Year 10 student, Lauren Church, who has excelled at sports events in and out of school. She won Gold at the Berkshire Schools Championships in June, in the 3000 metres, with a personal best of 11.14 minutes. Lauren has been training four to five times a week and her results show that all her hard work and effort has paid off. A few events include:- tenth in the Berkshire County Cross Country, January 2013. Fifth in the Berkshire Schools Cross Country Championships. She was selected for the English Schools Cross Country in March 2013, where she came one hundred and ninety ninth out of four hundred and fifty. February 2013, thirteenth out of seventy, in the Hampshire League Cross Country Race in Salisbury. Last season, Lauren was voted the most improved middle distance runner in the Reading Athletics Club. This season, she was voted the best under 15 middle distance performer.

## Dance Report



On Tuesday 2 July 2013, ten Year 7 students:- Niamh Ridge, Jasmine McCallum, Kate Whyatt, Amina Humphreys, Phoebe Gannon, Madeleine Stevens, Chante Bynoe-Gittens, Bridie Herbert, Emily Brooks and Erin Hoadley, along with four Dance Leaders from Years 9 and 10:- Aishwarya Shah, Olivia Foster-Browne, Lucy Waller and Freja Watson, took part in an Arts Performance in the Berkshire School Games Opening Ceremony at Wellington College. The Dance Leaders choreographed a dance themed around the Olympic Legacy, which involved various styles of dance and celebrations of different cultures from around the world. Highdown were chosen to be the finale performance due to the originality of the choreography put together by the Dance Leaders. The girls put in a lot of preparation and rehearsal time in the month leading up to the Ceremony and the hard work paid off when they produced a very high standard of performance on the day.

## Ski Trip

On Friday 15 February 2013, a group of Highdown students excitedly said their goodbyes and headed off for the annual Ski Trip. They boarded the plane hyped up for the first few hours, but soon settled knowing they still had a further eleven hours



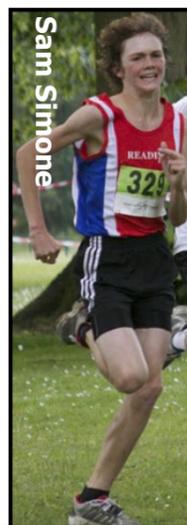
to go. When they arrived at San Francisco airport they had to endure the intimidating American customs before collecting their luggage and boarding the coach to transport them to their first hotel, The Grand Sierra Resort, Reno. What felt like a life time on the coach, they reached the hotel exhausted, room keys were issued and all had an early night knowing they had an action packed week ahead. Up early for a huge selection of breakfasts and kitted out they were off to the first of two ski resorts - Alpine Meadows. They sorted out boots and skis, or snowboards then hit the slopes, all at different ability levels ranging from beginners to advanced. Everyone will agree the first day was thrilling and amazing although many had spent part of it on their bums. The following day, the skiing and snowboarding just got better and better, everyone was improving and the instructors said they could see vast changes in technique and confidence on the runs. The second ski resort was called Homewood and was absolutely fantastic; they explored all different runs and parts of the mountain in their groups. After five quality days of skiing and boarding it was time to leave Reno to go back to San Francisco. Everyone had something to be proud off and everyone made great progress. In San Francisco they visited a shopping outlet, had a great trip to Alcatraz and finished off by cycling across the Golden Gate Bridge.

## Highdown Dash

On Sunday 16 June 2013, the second Highdown Dash took place. Over three hundred and thirty entrants took part in a 2K or 6K race. The 2K race was set up within the grounds of the school and open to all ages. The undulating and in



places hilly 6K course headed out through the bridleways, footpaths and roads which surround the school. Chip timing was used for the first time this year with a few hiccups, but winners of the 6K run were eventually announced - Seb Briggs with a course record of 22.39 minutes and the first female winner and under 16 age group winner was Highdown student Lauren Church in a time of 26.53 minutes. Sam Simone, also from Highdown, was the first under 16 male winner with a time of 23.42. The 2K race was won by Highdown Year 10, Zac Dellow in a time of 07.07 and female winner Naomi Harris in a time of 07.56. The youngest competitor was 2 years old and the oldest 76. There were three generations of one family running together which demonstrated the spirit of this community event. The World Challenge Team were kept busy marshalling the car park and running stalls. Local football teams and organisations also ran stalls and games, while a mega slide kept everyone entertained, whilst the BBQ and ice cream van fed the crowd. The school's GCSE Photography students, led by Rob Cordery captured the event and a competition is being held for the best photographs of the day. The images are available to view on [www.highdowndash.co.uk](http://www.highdowndash.co.uk)



## British Heart Foundation



Highdown staff members Pauline Walker and Eleanor Chettle were among twenty eight thousand cyclists in the British Heart Foundation (BHF) London to Brighton Cycle Ride on Sunday 16 June 2013. Both Pauline and Eleanor did the cycle last year and loved it so much decided to do the fifty four mile event all over again this year. More recently, Pauline's mother underwent an unscheduled triple bypass operation and is recovering well. So far they have raised £600 for BHF. If you would like to read more, see their photos or donate, check out their team page on <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/Eleanor-ChettleL2B13>. They are already planning next years cycle!

## Sixth Form Berlin Trip

### Photographed on the roof of the Reichstag



On Monday 17 June 2013, twenty six Year 12 students, together with Miss Simpkins, Mr Prior and Mrs Anderson, flew out to Berlin for a five day trip that would enhance the students understanding of the A2 History course. The first evening involved a walk to the East Side Gallery, where the students were able to view examples of graffiti art on the remaining

sections of the Berlin Wall. The rest of the trip was more focused on the topic of the Nazi State. Tuesday involved an enlightening walking tour of key locations of the Third Reich – the guide gave many useful insights into the complexity of Hitler’s government. Wednesday involved a visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp where students learnt about the horrific conditions. On Friday there was a visit to the Topography of Terror Exhibition, on the former site of the SS Headquarters. The trip also involved a visit to the Reichstag, a day trip to the picturesque town of Potsdam and visits to Angela Merkel’s favourite kebab shop! Even though the students just missed Barak Obama’s speech it was a historic trip. The weather was 34° on Thursday, the accommodation welcoming and Berlin was a fantastic city to explore.

## Uniform Online

Uniform sales are now online, directly from our supplier, Sportswear International. Information regarding ordering online uniform is available on our website. Black and white polo shirts, lockers, geometry sets and calculators are available to purchase from our School Shop on ParentMail2. Please contact the Finance Office should you require further assistance.

## Wimbledon

Highdown were lucky enough this year to get tickets for the Centre Court men’s final and Number 1 Court on Sunday 7 July 2013. The lucky seven students chosen to go were picked due to their commitment to school tennis this year. The weather was perfect and they saw history being made when Andy Murray won the title in a fantastic match. The atmosphere was amazing.



## Noticeboard

### 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 1

Starts: Monday 9 September 2013

Ends: Friday 25 October 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.

School Reception 0118 9015800 School Fax 0118 9015801

Email [office@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:office@highdown.reading.sch.uk)



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