



Highdown Link

Term 1 2013/2014
Volume 13 Issue 1

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

Legoland Business Trip



On the morning of Tuesday 16 July 2013, Year 10 Business Studies students gathered outside the School Hall with anticipation of the day ahead. Sun cream applied and lunches collected, they boarded the coaches to Legoland, Windsor. The aim of this trip was to develop our higher order thinking skills in a real world environment; discussing marketing, location and customer needs. Beth delivered an informative talk to the students; preparing them for both their controlled assessment

and the teaching in Year 11. Although the weather was scorching hot, the students behaved impeccably throughout the day and there was even time to design a ride as well as riding some of them. Thanks to Mr Slark, Mr Morley, Mrs Arnold, Mr Cordery, Mr Riley and Ms McNally who accompanied the students.

Sixth Form Careers Conference

On Wednesday 17 July 2013, Highdown's first Sixth Form Careers Conference took place in school. The event was aimed at students being able to attend a variety of different careers sessions with an opportunity to speak to professionals working in the industries that they are looking to go into. Students spoke to professionals from Waitrose, Blandy and Blandy Solicitors, WIPRO, Fujitsu, Maidenhead Arts Centre, TVRN, Brand 786, Culture Mix, The Environment Agency and Covéa. Highdown's Headteacher, Ms Cave took a session on the options available when pursuing a career in teaching. The students found the information given in the workshops and seminars valuable in their understanding of the skills required for their potential future careers. Should you be interested in getting involved in a seminar or establishing links with the school please contact Miss Sarah Stevens, Curriculum Leader Business Studies on hsst@highdown.reading.sch.uk



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LZ7 Band



On Thursday 19 of September 2013, Highdown students were treated to a visit from the successful pop band LZ7. As part of our student's Religious Education, the band came in to take assemblies for Year 7 and 8 to introduce their modern style of worship and music. LZ7 are practicing

Christians and use their music to express their Christian life and beliefs, so it was a great opportunity to allow students to engage with the band and experience what modern Christians say and do in their lives. The highlight of the visit was a free lunchtime concert open to all students. The band played some of their hits from a new album and tour called "Aftershow". Check them out on YouTube and watch out for them on tour, coming to Reading in February 2014. You can also find a great interview by Highdown Radio of band member "Linz" on the school website.

U13 National Tennis Championships

Last term, Highdown entered a team into the National Tennis Championships competition for the first time. The team was a mix of Year 7 and Year 8 boys. The tournament is largely populated by private schools and sports colleges. In the earlier rounds Highdown played against Thorngrove School, St Bartholomew's and Charters School. Wins in all of these matches left Highdown with a home fixture in the final against the Dolphin School, who had won the competition for the last two years. Each fixture is scored out of twelve points, with each individual match earning a maximum of two points for the team. After several fantastic games, Highdown U13's eventually won an incredible 12 - 0 and became this year's Berkshire U13 champions, also earning themselves a place in The National Competition next season. Well done to Seb Tong, Ani Hazarika, Oliver Elsen, Jamie Bedlow and Giaan Juttla who competed in this tournament, what a fantastic achievement. Highdown have since played the next round, representing Berkshire in The National Cup and defeated St Birinus School in Didcot 10 - 2 to move into the last eight of South West England (last 32 nationally).

PE Department Awards

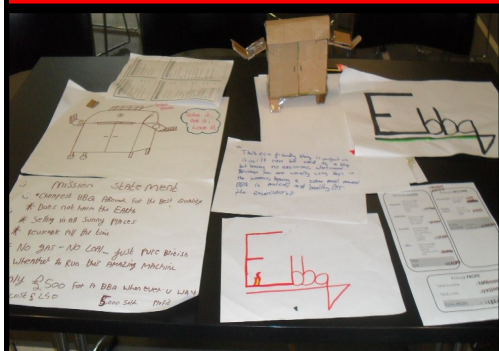
Most Improved Athlete:- Girls – Jasmine McCallum 8F and Chante Bynoe-Gittens 8C. Olivia Burrell 9D. Ruby Cruse 10E. Emily Ford 11H. Boys – Dolson Rochester 8J, Sam Rodda 9C, Pele Hagger 10C, Said Bangura 11L. Most Improved Cricketer:- Daragh Burton 8J and Mehul Joshi 9E. Most Improved Rounder's A:- Abby Asbury 8F, Katie Sherwood 9K, Anjali Nandi 10K. Most Improved Rounder's B:- Kate McLeod 8E, Klaudia Gronowska 10F and Alizae Ali 10F. Most Improved Beginner Swimmer :- Beth Gowlett Russell 8H. Most Runs Scored (any year):- Jacob Fitton 9C. Tennis A Cup:- Seb Tong 9H. Tennis B Cup:- Giaan Juttla 8K. Highdown Golf Championships:- Ross Brown 9D. Inter Tutor Tennis Doubles 7F/8C tutors last term. Inter Tutor Softball 7J/8C tutors last term. Outstanding Performance Award:- Tilly Nash (Third in British Tumbling Championships). Sports Day Winners:- 7F, 8C, 9E and 10D. Outstanding Performance Award :- Girls— Hannah Butcher 8F, Jodie Hayden 9D, Abi Lewis 9H and Katie Sherwood 9K, Lauren Hunter 10E and Ruby Cruse 10E. Boys— Shouri Muralidharan 8G, Tyrese King 9C and Greg Jones 9F, Pele Hagger 10C and Jack Knight 11B.

Work Experience

Next year's Work Experience runs from Monday 30 June 2014 to Friday 4 July 2014. The Business Enterprise Day is the start of the preparation for the Year 10 Work Experience Week held annually in July. The aim is for the students to begin to understand the skills they will need to be successful employees, such as communication skills, self-motivation, teamwork, good timekeeping, how to dress and behave appropriately. All Year 10 students are offered a placement through the Central Berkshire Education Business Partnership, alternatively, students have the opportunity to find their own if they are able to. Highdown are keen to hear from any prospective employers that could give any of our students a placement during the first week in July? For any offers or queries regarding Work Experience please contact Jane Tull j.tull@highdown.reading.sch.uk.



Business Enterprise Day



On Tuesday 8 October 2013, the "Green Dragons" visited Highdown to work with the Year 10 students' employability and enterprise skills. In teams they invented or innovated a new green product, which they then went on to produce a prototype of and a marketing campaign for. The day was rounded up with presentations from the best teams and prizes for the overall winners. It was a lot to get through in the day, but the students showed they were up to the job by the creative products they produced and the team work that was evident to the visiting dragons.

Avebury

On Monday 30 September and Tuesday 1 October 2013, Year 7 visited Avebury Stone Circle and Museum. This is an annual trip for Year 7's. Students take notes from the information boards and answer questions, such as:- 'Describe what Neolithic people wore and how Avebury started?' They also visit the Stone Circle which has been around for four thousand



five hundred years and learn some incredible facts, including how the Devil's Chair got its name. This is an educational and fun day for the first term of Highdown's Year 7 students.

Science Fair

On Thursday 18 July 2013, Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre hosted its second ever Science Fair involving all of Year 8. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all, celebrating Inventions and Discoveries in Science. To mark this event they had a range of scientific companies and workshops come into the school including:- a Zoo, bringing in animals including snakes, lizards, frogs and chickens, F1 Racing Simulators, Molecular Modelling, Lego Robot Building and Johnson Matthey's smoking volcanoes. In addition, they had a fantastic guest speaker in the form of Dr James Logan (best know for his work on Embarrassing Bodies), who challenged a few daring students to come



and hold their arm in a box of mosquitoes. Dr Logan stayed and presented awards to some of the students to top off a day that was full of fun, which really brought out the students zest and enthusiasm for learning about Science. The day was not just about the things that came into school that day, as Year 8 managed to

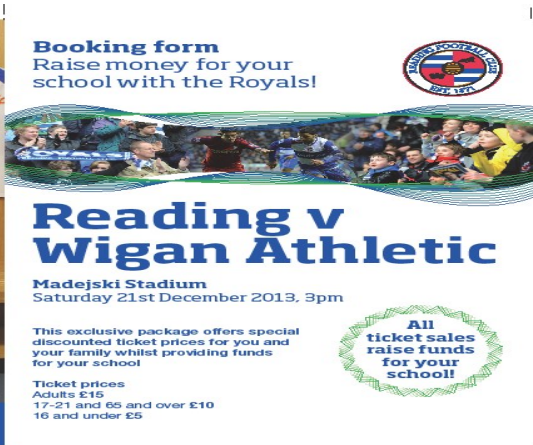
create their own projects and experiments, as they looked to discover new ideas and concepts of their own within Science. The overall winners for the best project were Katie Turner, Katie Morgan, Euan Sarson and Adil Tanveer for their project 'Cancer'. Every student had a chance to present their projects to their peers and industry experts. The Science Fair also managed to reach out into the local community, with two of our closest primary schools also creating and presenting lovely projects from Year 5 students. A big thank you must go out to all of the people that helped make the day as great as it was. It was much appreciated and we look forward holding the next Science Fair in 2014.

Examination Invigilator Vacancies

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre currently have vacancies on the team for part time invigilators. Applicants will need to be reliable and punctual, have a flexible approach to work and the ability to work to pre-determined instructions. For further details, please contact Mrs Gannon, Examinations Officer on 0118 9015800 or by email at hlga@highdown.reading.sch.uk.

Reading v Wigan Tickets

If you are interested in going along to the Reading v Wigan match at a discounted price and helping to raise money for Highdown please book your tickets via the school. Booking forms can be collected from the Finance Office. Completed forms and payments should be returned to the Finance Office by Tuesday 5 November 2013.



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. Parents of students who repeatedly use phones in school will be asked to collect the phone themselves to reinforce this. Phones are a barrier to learning for students.

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 2

Starts: Tuesday 5 November 2013

Ends: Friday 20 December 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.

School Reception 0118 9015800
Email office@highdown.reading.sch.uk



HighdownSchool



www.highdown.reading.sch.uk