



# Highdown Link

Term 3 2013/2014  
Volume 13 Issue 3

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

## Reptile Club

Highdown's Science teachers, Doctor Love and Miss Braine have recently started a lunch time reptile club. It is held every Tuesday in V10. Students from all years are welcome to go along and join in with feeding, holding or just observing the different reptiles. All of the reptiles feed on dead mice, crickets, meal worms, wax worms and vegetables. Along with the staff, students can discuss their eating habits and make sure the animals welfare is at its highest level. All



students that come along really enjoy this opportunity. Bonnie and Clyde, the two orange corn snakes were rescued, as their previous keeper had dumped them in a bag by the side of the road. The reptiles and amphibians the students currently look after include an African bull frog, leopard gecko's, corn snakes, bearded dragons and a new arrival to the club is the axolotl, which was voted in by the club. The axolotl being described as the missing link in evolution between fish and amphibians. Students often take the reptiles home for the weekend or holidays. The animals are used in a variety of Science lessons, including working out speed and acceleration of the snakes, investigating adaptation and testing their waste for ammonia when fed on different types of food.

## Highdown School Radio

Reptile Club	1
Highdown School Radio	1
Twitter	1
Ice Skating Reward	2
PE Awards	2
Brookfield's Party	2
Burns Night Celebrations	2
Teens Teach Tots	3
Burns Night Celebrations	3
Business Studies	3
London to Brighton Cycle Challenge	4
Presentation Evening 2013	4
Noticeboard	4



Before Christmas the Highdown school Radio Team got into the festive spirit and entered into the schoolsradio.com competition. Students from Year 7 to Year 10 recorded their favourite Christmas cracker jokes. They had to think of the best theatrical way to tell them, showcasing their acting and musical skills. All the jokes were then creatively put together by Luke Prentice, a Year 12 student, to make the

finished podcast entry for the competition. Unfortunately they did not win but were highly commended for their entry. The students involved were: Zak Brown 7E, James Blackband 7C, Sol Wallis-Robinson 7E, Izzy D'Orta 7C, Jamie Peat 7E, Ella Davies 7C, Katy Taylor 7C, Ewelina Kapron 7C, James Burley 7E, Jamie Hall 7F, Ocean Gervasi 7E, Toby Lock 10B, Josh Smith 10F, Bradley Treeton 10B and Luke Prentice 12A.



## Twitter



For latest information via tweets and up to date information follow us on @HighdownSchool

## Ice Skating Reward

On Wednesday 18 December 2013, Highdown's PE Department took sixty students along to the John Nike Ice Rink in Bracknell as a reward for their commitment and reliability at extra-curricular practices and matches. Despite some spectacular falls everyone had a great time.



## PE Awards

Most Improved Hockey Player:- Year 7 - Nicki Ashworth, Year 8 - Jasmine McCallum, Year 9 - Izzy Steel, Year 10 - Anjali Nandi and Year 11 - Beth James. Inter Tutor Gala 7K/8F. Inter Tutor Netball 7K/8F. Most Improved Hockey Player of the Year:- Year 7 - Sophie Lin, Year 8 - Hannah Butcher, Year 9 - Lillie-Mae Gilling, Year 10 - Hannah Skeldon and Year 11 - Phoebe Wilkinson.

## Brookfield's Party

On Wednesday 17 December 2013, Highdown Sixth Form students hosted a Christmas Party for students from Brookfield's School in Tilehurst. The party is an annual tradition, lasting over twenty years, where the Highdown students organise and run the party themselves, from buying presents to making food and organising party games. The donations came from lots of local businesses, including Waitrose. The Brookfield's students arrived to the sounds of Christmas music and tables heaving with party food prepared by the students. The afternoon started with a game of pass the parcel with everyone receiving a gift. Other activities included colouring, dancing, decorating biscuits and singing along to Christmas songs. Food and drinks followed, with lots of smiles for the sweets and cakes. After lunch there was a big surprise as Father Christmas (Cole Beaulieu) took a break from his preparations to pay the students a surprise visit and hand out presents in his grotto. The whole party was a great success, everyone involved had a fantastic time. Both staff and students are already looking forward to next year's party.

## Burns Night Celebrations



On Friday 24 January 2014, Highdown's parents, teachers and friends celebrated Burns Night in style with all the trimmings. The Scottish poet, Robert Burns, would have been proud of the performance at Highdown. The haggis was piped in traditional style accompanied by Highdown's Science teacher, Doctor Love, who addressed and toasted the haggis in a dramatic and applaudable style. His delivery stirred emotion in all the Scots in the school's tartan covered Barn. Cucina served up an amazing dinner of haggis, neeps and tatties which were perfect and the pudding made all the dieters quiver! Following the dinner, the guests were treated to a Ceilidh band and it was clear that some of the teachers had professional dancing experience. The Gaelic folk band managed to entice all the guests to dance and this helped work off the excesses of the meal. Thanks to everyone for supporting this, it was a fun evening - Debbie Evans, Chair. The next Highdown Parents' Link event will be the quiz night on Friday 21 March 2014.

## Teens Teach Tots

Think you want to work with kids?  
Wondering how to get started?

Want to gain some new skills?  
And have fun!

# Teens Teach Tots



### ~ What? ~

- Provides you with the skills and experience of working with kids
- Qualified staff will mentor you
- You will get qualifications and boost your CV

### ~ Who? ~

Anyone aged 13-19

### ~ Where? ~

Amersham Road  
Community Centre

### ~ When? ~

Training days on

18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2-4pm: planning,  
delivering, evaluating a session

21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1:30-3:30: First Aid  
training

*You must attend both days!*

After attending the two training days your mentor will keep in contact with you term-time

During the school holidays you will be on a rota to help your mentor run a toddler drop-in session Tuesdays 9-11:30am

You will create an evidence folder to bring to interviews for college or apprenticeships

### ~ Spaces are limited ~

Please contact Katie Myerscough on 0118 9375612 or 07834941147 with any questions or to book a space



## Business Studies

Business Studies as a subject is not just about teaching students how to start up and run a successful business. At Highdown we value the importance of utilising the subject content to provide students with life experiences and skills that will be vital to them when they enter the workplace. On Tuesday 7 January 2014, fifteen Sixth Form students became all too aware of this as they were thrust into a mock-up interview situation. This was unlike any other situation they had experienced in school before. Focus Resourcing very kindly offered their services for the day and provided the students with a proper 'grilling'. Each student was individually interviewed and analysed on their CV writing skills, interview techniques and attire for the day of the interview. Many of the students rose to the challenge and impressed the staff as they anxiously waited outside the conference room for their interview time. The feedback received was valuable to the students as both part of their academic studies in their BTEC Level 2 course and their ambitions for the workplace. The

students have now make improvements to their CV's and made applications for jobs in the local area. Many thanks to Focus Resourcing for giving up their time to work with the students and congratulations to all who took part on the day. From the fifteen students interviewed, four students would have been hired. Could you rise to the challenge and get yourself hired? The Highdown Business Department is currently looking for further volunteers who would be interested in working with the students at Key Stage 4 and 5. If you run or work in a business that would be interested in becoming involved, please contact Mrs S Stevens at [hsst@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:hsst@highdown.reading.sch.uk)



## London to Brighton Cycle Challenge

On Sunday 15 June 2014, Highdown's PE teachers: Mr Fisher, Mr Morris, Mrs Sadler and Miss Knibbs will be attempting the London to Brighton bike ride to raise money for a very worthwhile charity, the British Heart Foundation, as there are a few students at Highdown with heart conditions. They will be very grateful for any donation given, however small. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving, they will never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they send your money directly to the charity. It is the most efficient way to donate, saving time and cutting costs for the charity. If you wish to help towards their target please go to the JustGiving page, search for a friend field, enter highdownlondontobrighton. Thank you.



## Presentation Evening 2013



The Humanities Award - Ameila Ryan, Modern Foreign Languages Award - Will Underwood, The English Award - Emily Gilbert, The Science Award - Grace Callen, The Mathematics Award - Jenny Boylin, The ICT and Computing Award - Kaelan Fouwels, The Physical Education Award - Jodie Penny, The Expressive Arts Award - Beth Leary, The Business Studies

Award - Ronald Shearman, The Academic Excellence at GCSE Level Award - Will Underwood, The Academic Excellence at A Level Award - Rob Brooks, The Leadership Award - Warren Bryant.

## Noticeboard

### MOBILE PHONE RULES FOR STUDENTS

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.

### SCHOOL CALENDAR AMENDMENT

Trip on Tuesday 4 March 2014 is for Year 11 and NOT for AS 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 4

Starts: Monday 24 February 2014  
Ends: Friday 4 April 2014

### 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 Highdown uniform 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](mailto:office@highdown.reading.sch.uk)