



# Highdown Link

Term 6 2013/2014  
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Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre Newsletter – keeping parents and the community informed

## French Trip



In June 2014, the Languages department was lucky enough to take a group of Year 8 and 9 students to France for six days. They visited a Canadian War Memorial and had the opportunity to explore the differences between the Allied and the German trenches, before carrying on their journey into Paris. They ate at the Louvre before climbing the Eiffel Tower and taking a boat trip down the Seine. They visited a goat farm to discover the know-how of a traditional French countryside industry and were able to make their own bread before going to a quaint village bakery to learn about why French people will travel up to 65kms every day to avoid supermarket mass-produced bread. They visited a traditional French market before going to a chocolate factory where they learnt about the history of chocolate from around the world and got treated to a sample of the exquisite offerings. They visited a snail farm and cooked snails for themselves and were pleasantly surprised with how tasty they are. All students practiced their classroom French and developed a deeper understanding of the French culture.

## Science and Technology Challenge



On 2 July 2014, Dr Khan took a group of Year 8 students to a very prestigious meeting at Reading College, entitled 'Berkshire Science and Technology Challenge' involving twelve other schools. The students were chosen in order to challenge and express themselves, work as a team and have fun. The challenges involved:- Building the Fastest Electric Car, Construction of the Strongest Bridge, Constructing a Robot for a Specific Function and E-fit Solving Crime Challenge. The overall winning school would represent Berkshire in the National Challenges in Cambridge later this year. It is with great pride that Mr Khan could announce that Highdown students tackled their assignments with conviction and dedication. They were the winners in the E-Fit Challenge. As this was their first attempt they did very well and hope future participation in this event will bring even greater success. Thanks to Dr Capaldi, Curriculum Leader Science, the school management for encouraging this activity and to all the students for their excellent behaviour and brilliant participation on the day.

## Charity Cake Sale

A group of students recently held a charity cake sale for Cancer Research UK. It was organised by Surabhi Luthra who was helped by Connie Stevens, Kate Whyatt, Madeleine Stevens, Ellie Mifflin, Emily Brooks, Ayana Campbell and some other students in Year 8. They successfully raised £52.00 and were also given an additional £20.90 from Mr Bensley who had been selling plants for charity and wanted them to give the money to CRUK. Thanks to everyone who made a donation. Also a special thanks to Miss Hurst, Miss Solomons and Miss Star who supervised the event.

French Trip	1
Science and Technology Challenge	1
Charity Cake Sale	1
Sports Page	2
Ski Trip	3
Year 10 Work Experience	3
Summer Showcase 2014	4
Music Key Stage 3 Concert	4
Noticeboard	4

## PE Awards

Most Improved Girls Football in Year 7:- Paige Ryan-Swanston. Year 8:- Emily Kitchingham. Year 9:- Caitlin Price. Year 10:- Keira Sandhu. Most Improved Boys Football in Year 7:- Joel Wright and Archie Smith. Year 8:- Jason Lam and Callum Rodger. Year 9:- Jay Clarke. Year 10:- Tom Willis. Year 11:- James Griffiths and Milan Barna. Top Goal Scorer in School Year 8:- Khalid Simmo. Most Improved Trampolinist:- Katie Rodda 8F. Most Improved Beginner Swimmer:- Joe Lee 7G. Most Improved Netball Player:- Year 7 'A':- Leonie Widdowson. Year 7 'B':- Ella Harrison. Year 8 'A':- Chante Bynoe-Gittens. Year 8 'B':- Niamh Ridge. Year 9:- Olivia Burrell. Year 10:- Marta Radosevic. Table Tennis Champions - Junior School Year 7/8:- Tom Perkins. Table Tennis Champions - Senior School Year 9 - 11:- George Strong. Most Improved Badminton Player - Josh Baker 7E. Badminton Tournament Winners - Year 7/8:- Archie Barker. Year 9 - 11:- Euan Barker.

## Go Karting



Fifty students were taken go karting last term as a reward for their reliance and regular attendance at school practices and matches. Well done if you were one of the lucky ones.



## YELL Athletics League - Year 9 and 10

The boys team performed superbly this term against eighteen other Berkshire schools. The top twelve went into the final after two previous matches and they found themselves in sixth place. However, in the final they upped their game with lots of personal bests and came second in the competition, beaten only by The Forest School. Team Players were:- Owen Parr, Tyrese King, Josh Norman, Sam Rodda, Callum Macleod, Nick Park, Alex McCallum, Pele Hagger, Mo Tahir and David Mollett.

## PE Records

The following Highdown students broke athletics records this year which is awesome. Jasmine McCallum - Long Jump 5.10 (previously 4.51). Chante Bynoe-Gittens - 80m 11.2 (previously 11.6). Izzy Church - Javelin 19.48 (previously 17.27 – held by her sister). Kyra Hannibal - Shot 9.20 (previously 7.30). Phoebe Gannon - 600m 1.55.3 (previously 1.58.0). Sam Rodda - 800m 2.11.9 (previously 2.13.2).

## Sports Day Results and Records

Year 7 winners:- 7D (194 pts), runners up 7H (188 pts). Year 8 winners:- 8H (175 pts), runners up 8C (164 pts). Year 9 winners:- 9C (177 pts), runners up 9J (151 pts). Year 10 winners:- 10C (148 pts), runners up 10E (147 pts). Overall winners C and E.

Records for Year 7:- Izzy Church - High Jump 1.36 (held since 1987). Kyra Hannibal - Shot 8.41. Year 9:- Sam Rodda - 400m 55.26. Tyrese King - 100m 11.14. Year 10:- Alex McCallum - 400m 55.26. Nick Park - High Jump 1.72.

## Ski Trip 2014



On 14 February 2014, forty three students embarked on a week's ski trip to Zell am See, Austria to the Jugendgästehaus Kitzsteinhorn Resort, which was not just a hotel but also an indoor adventure playground. The first day on the slopes the students discussed their adventures and early contenders for the most stylish on the slopes award, eventual winner Martha Bryant. There was trampolining and indoor football for those with energy and a relaxing swing and a hammock for those without. The bad weather lifted and it was bright and clear for most of the week, unveiling some of the most incredible mountain views. The skiers challenged themselves daily and by the end of the week everyone had made so much progress people were asking if they were in training for the Winter Olympics. They skied everywhere; on piste, through trees, over jumps and even had a timed slalom race where Ellie Veitz reigned supreme. The advanced group also found a helter skelter for Paddy Croucher to try. Have you ever heard of a hotel that has an indoor beach volleyball court? Well theirs had two! They also went bowling, had a movie night, ventured out to see the Zell am See Ski Show and were blown away by the incredible tricks, turns and somersaults on display. The famous Highdown Ski Quiz complete with guess the teacher picture round was another highlight (winners Mr G's angels!) they even tried Curling, or at least staying upright on an ice rink with no skates. With the week's skiing complete and bags packed, all that remained was the journey home and as everyone was so tired they slept most of the way. It was a truly fantastic trip, made more successful by the positive, happy and enthusiastic attitude of all the students. Just before pulling into the school gates the teachers handed out the awards. Too many to mention, but a special mention must go to Joe Malha, Will Taplin, Marina Bates and Jonah Bird for most improved skiers. Tom Burrows won Legend of the Week and after a nomination each day Wally of the Week was awarded to George Buckley.

## Year 10 Work Experience



"Polite and hardworking." "Motivated and asked questions." "Very intuitive and creative." "Organised and professional." "Helpful, well-motivated and keen to be useful." "Would offer him/her a job..." "A great ambassador for Highdown." These are just some of the quotes from employers who hosted our Year 10 for work experience. The students were distributed from Emmer Green to Edinburgh in work placements that included tasks varying from preparing forty plates of lunch for Prudential staff to making changes to the Microsoft website. The students learnt about the hard side of working life

such as the daily commute and the longer hours. This was amply compensated by being part of a team and being able to develop their skills in communication, problem solving and numeracy. A few students have taken their first steps on their chosen career path but for many the lesson learnt was finding out in real terms how doing well in school will benefit them in the future. Many thanks to all the employers who made it possible and a big well done to the students who have received such an overwhelming thumbs up from the employers. The students did themselves and the school proud.

## Summer Showcase 2014

On 9 July 2014, the main hall was transformed into a vibrant performance venue. The audience, seated around tables rather than in the traditional rows, were waited upon by members of the World Challenge team with the refreshments for the evening, including a full mocktail bar. The Senior choir opened with a great rendition of



"California Dreamin'" by The Mamas and Papas. There were performances from right across the school with a range of music to suit all tastes; Classical from Schubert and Debussy to Karl Jenkins, Pop from The Mamas and Papas to Dry the River and film/musicals from Cats to Monsters Inc! There was a stunning harp solo and a Bollywood dance. The Barbershop were suitably dressed for their rendition of "Under the Boardwalk" by The Drifters. The audience were thrilled with the event. Proceeds from the refreshments are going towards the World Challenge group which leave on their travels at the end of this term and ticket sales towards next year's whole school musical production which will be staged from 24 to 26 March 2015. An evening of sparkling talent to round off the academic year.

## Music Key Stage 3 Concert



Another fantastic evening featuring the musical talent at Highdown was held on 2 July 2014 in the Barn. Students from Years 7 to 9 impressed the audience with a wide range of musical styles, instruments and vocal pieces. There were vocal performances from Camerata singing 'Safe and Sound' by Taylor Swift and 'Somewhere Only We Know' by Keane. Performances were

showcased with Edward Harris, Archie Duffield, Thomas Laker, Felix Masters, Lili Smith and William Hallworth-Cook playing the piano, Destiny Ismail, Jay Warwick, Katie Upton, Madison Sturgess, Lydia Mapley, Abby Asbury and Sophie Smith singing, Callum Flanagan playing the guitar, Pippa Moore on clarinet and Maisie Palmer on trombone. As well as some more well-known pieces, Lilla Lovaszi, Archie Duffield and Abby Asbury performed their own original composition work with a little help from their friends. An evening of sparkling talent really showcased the musical talent of our KS3 students.

### MOBILE PHONE RULES FOR STUDENTS

Mobile phones are NOT to be used during the school day, including break and lunchtime, unless it is at the teachers discretion for Teaching and Learning. 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 1

Starts: Monday 8 September 2014. Years 8 to 11  
start at 11 am

Ends: Friday 24 October 2014

### LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure that your child'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  
Email [office@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:office@highdown.reading.sch.uk)



HighdownSchool



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