

Summer School 2021



On Monday 26th July, we were delighted to welcome 135 nervous and excited new students to Highdown Summer School 2021. When the funding from the Department of Education was announced (£40,000), we were determined to give the opportunity of a week at school to as many of our new Year 7s as wanted it. Everyone was invited and encouraged to attend (Covid 19-permitting!). The funding was used for paying the range of staff needed to run the Summer School, training staff, acquiring resources needed for our activities, hiring facilities and provision of catering.

We made Lower School into our temporary home by converting the library into our central teacher's hub and using the surrounding classrooms and playing fields for most of our week of lessons and activities. The students were all introduced to their form mentor who would guide them throughout the week and help them get ready for the big leap to secondary school. Students were issued with a timetable and then had a guided tour of the site including a visit to the Gallery for a snack and a welcome from our lovely catering staff.

From there we leapt straight into lessons. Each morning, students had sessions of Maths and English with a focus on building skills and enjoyment through interactive activities and engaging texts. In addition, students had lessons in First Aid, Swimming and Water Confidence, a Big STEM activity and a multi-disciplinary Humanities session.

Each afternoon we focussed on personal development, building self-esteem and confidence through a range of activities: House Team Building, Orienteering Challenge, The Great Escape Room, Highdown's Got Talent Competition and on our final afternoon we held a Great Get Together organised by the students. We finished the week with an assembly from Miss Pearce (Head of Achievement) and a graduation celebration. Grove House were crowned winners having scored the most House Points across the week.

A massive thanks to all the staff who got involved in the Summer School and gave up their time so willingly: Mr Burnell, Miss Pearce, Miss Clark, Mr Trimby, Mr Hutchinson, Miss Robinson, Mr Davison, Miss Imperato, Miss Bauman, Miss Meyers, Miss McNeish, Miss Maybanks, Mrs Murphy, Mrs Turner, Mr Turner, Mr Chapman, Mr Gordon, Mr Lester and Miss Gundry. A big well done to Fatima S. and Dila A. who played an integral role the Summer School as part of their post-16 work experience.

We are delighted with the feedback from our students and parents with 94 % of students and 97 % of parents likely to recommend Highdown Summer School to a friend.

Some student comments were

Summer school was great!! All the teachers were so nice I'd love to do it again :)

It was great fun and was a brilliant opportunity to learn what the experience at secondary will be like.

I found Highdown very fun to be at and all the teachers are amazing at engaging with the students. They are all very good at what they teach.

Thank you I really enjoyed my time at summer school. I feel more comfortable starting my journey in September.



Team Buidling





First Aid: Restart a Heart



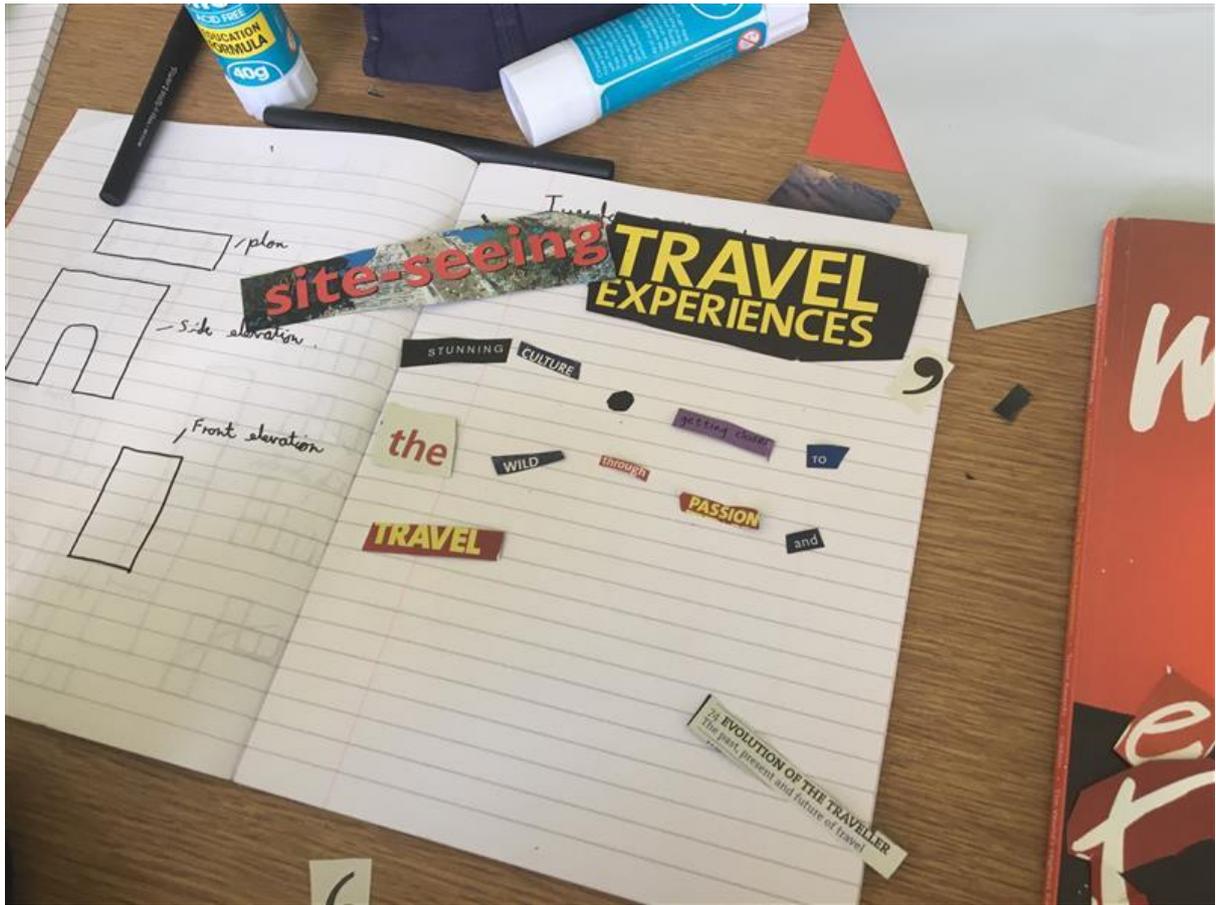
Highdown's Got Talent



Fun with Maths



Mapledurham Team Escaped the Room!



Literacy activity



STEM Wheelbarrow challenge with MTA STEM kits



Grove Griffins gain the most House Points across the week!