



The weekly newsletter of

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 3 January 2022 Week A

Latest News

Please download our mobile website app to ensure you receive all the latest news. Click this [link](#) for further information.



Recording Lateral Flow Test Results

We have made it easier for you to record your child's lateral flow test results with school. This can now be done on Class Charts (parents only). From the dashboard select the student you wish to record a test for and then on the top banner scroll across to COVID test. Please can you record all future results via Class Charts.

Problems with Class Charts

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact magrantham@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Absence Reporting

Please notify us if your son/daughter is unable to attend either online or onsite lessons due to illness or other reason. Please report all absences, preferably via [ParentMail](#) or by telephoning the absence line.

COVID PCR test

If you take your child for a PCR test, please inform the school.

SEND

Please follow this [link to the school website](#) to find out about any SEND information.

Recruitment

We currently have lots of positions available. Please [follow this link](#) to the school website to find out more information. We have 3 new positions available -

- Careers & Library Services Assistant
- Inclusion Support Lead
- Sixth Form Welfare Lead

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	53161
Grove	51954
Mapledurham	52731
Rosehill	53115

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2021/22](#)

Tuesday 4th January - Start of term

Follow us



Newsletters are now being sent out via Classcharts



Teamsport Indoor Karting

Fast Forward Vocational training is an alternative training provision, we currently work with a range of schools and pupil referral units in order to deliver vocational training within engineering and mechanics across the UK. Recently we have teamed up with Teamsport indoor karting to offer a motor vehicle studies qualification. As this is the first time we are running the provision in Stoke we will only be offering the course to eight students for the 2021/22 academic year.

Teamsport Indoor Karting is the biggest karting company in the UK with 34 tracks around the country. Teamsport are constantly on the lookout for the next generation of motor sport engineers and enthusiasts and have therefore asked us to help them develop the local talent.

We are currently setting up the new training provision in the indoor karting track at Teamsport Go Karting Reading, Cradock Rd, Reading RG2 0EE and hope to begin delivering the motor vehicle course in January. The course will run from January 2022 one/two sessions per week from 9:30am - 2:30pm. The course is aimed at students 13 - 16 years old who have an interest in mechanics and motor sport. Students will study the Level 1 - Motor Vehicle Studies qualification which is regulated by the Skills & Education Group and is a nationally recognised qualification.

What makes our provision different from others is our incredible facilities and our low cost approach to alternative training, students will have use of the Teamsport facilities including track time each session; should the students meet the lesson, work and behaviour standards. Students will benefit from working in a live mechanics workshop problem solving and troubleshooting live mechanical issues based around the tracks karts. I would strongly recommend you visit the site and take a look at the facilities which are truly second to none. Please contact Callum Thompson on callumthompson@racewaytraining.co.uk.

STEM

For Yr9 and Yr10/ S3 and S4 students

Routes into STEM (Virtual) course offers an opportunity to explore college, university and apprenticeship routes, tour a variety of institutions virtually, work on exciting projects and have access to live career sessions and mentor panels with STEM employers. If your students are enjoying their Tech, Design, Maths or Science subjects and would like to know what exciting future these subjects could lead to, then this course will help them discovering where their interests could take them. To read more please visit our website

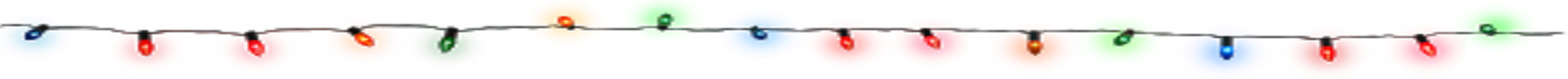

For Yr11 and Yr12/ S5 and S6 students

Insight into University (Virtual) course is like no other! Whether students are interested in life sciences, chemistry, tech, engineering, physics, computer science, sustainability, aerospace, built environment or maths, it covers it all. With the mix of live sessions, hands-on practical STEM activities and projects set by leading UK universities and global STEM companies, students will have a unique opportunity to access all the amazing content in one place, pick-and-choose subjects that interests them and do as many as they wish at their own pace over the summer 2022.

For Yr12/ S5 and S6 students interested in specific STEM subjects

We are excited to announce that in partnership with some of the leading UK universities EDT has arranged to run Residential Insight into University summer schools in 2022. These summer schools will run over 4 or 5 days where students will get a taster of university life and an insight into a specific STEM subject - Materials Science, Chemical Engineering, Robotics, Maths, Mechanical Engineering and Broad-based Engineering.

Please check back soon for course details and application form on our website or register your interest here to be the first to know when the applications will open.



Careers Corner Continued

Investing in Futures

A taste of success - Work Experience 2022

Applications - **NOW OPEN**

The HSBC Work Experience programme offers a five-day experience to students in the later years of full-time secondary education, sixth form or college. The programme has been set up with the idea to help young people from different social-economic backgrounds to gain an insight into a professional environment, as well as the banking industry.

In response to COVID and the resulting new way of working this programme will be a blended experience, with both a virtual and a physical experience (where available), giving you an insight into the future way of working. The programme will be run virtually for 4 days, where students can gain insight in to the different roles and functions across HSBC, as well as improving their personal and employability skills

Where physical placements are available, the student will spend the day with in a function getting hands on experience of what it is like working for HSBC. These physical placements will be available across different functions of the bank across the UK

The programme is going to run on the following weeks

Dates: Week commencing 20th June 2022

Week commencing 4th July 2022

Week commencing 1st August 2022

Students can list their location preferences when applying, but please note that we cannot make any guarantees on placing a student in their preferred location as this is subject to availability.

The closing date for applications is 20th February 2022, however we do offer these on a rolling basis and do reserve the right to close some adverts early if we fill all our spaces. Places are limited so we recommend students apply as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

[APPLY NOW](#)

For further information please contact the [Work Experience Team](#)

Accelerated Reader

Having just completed our first full term for Years 7 and 8 in Accelerated Reader, we are proud to say that 1553 reading quizzes have been taken and 37,605,421 words have been read! Year 7 and 8s favourite fiction was of course 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban' and their favourite non-fiction was 'Messi: From the Playground to the Pitch' – we clearly have a few football fans!



Well done to all for such great reading – do remember to keep encouraging reading during the holidays and we look forward to seeing students back in class soon!

"When we read, we can be inspired to want to build a better world and a brighter future. So keep reading and change the world."

CHRISTOPHER EDGE



Christmas Reading Challenge

Fiction	More Books!
Little Women Generations of readers young and old, male and female, have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel, Little Women. Here are talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, and spoiled Amy.	The Man Who Invented Christmas: How Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol Rescued His Career and Revived Our Holiday Spirits As uplifting as the tale of Scrooge itself, this is the story of how one writer and one book revived the signal holiday of the Western world.
The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe Narnia... the land beyond the wardrobe door, a secret place frozen in eternal winter, a magical country waiting to be set free.	Harry Potter Series Harry Potter shapes an entire generation. It has become a household name and nearly everyone knows about the boy wizard and his two best friends, Ron and Hermione.
How The Grinch Stole Christmas! Dr Seus <i>"The Grinch hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season! Now, please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason."</i> Dr. Seuss's small-hearted Grinch ranks right up there with Scrooge when it comes to the crankiest, scowling holiday grumps of all time.	Let It Snow: Three Holiday Romances Sparkling white snowdrifts, beautiful presents wrapped in ribbons, and multicolored lights glittering in the night through the falling snow. A Christmas Eve snowstorm transforms one small town into a romantic haven, the kind you see only in movies.
A Christmas Carol To bitter, miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, Christmas is just another day. But all that changes when the ghost of his long-dead business partner appears, warning Scrooge to change his ways before it's too late.	Shiver For years, Grace has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house. Meanwhile, Sam has lived two lives: In winter, the frozen woods, and the silent company of a fearless girl.

Poetry	Film
A Child's Christmas In Wales Originally emerging from a piece written for radio, the poem was recorded by Thomas in 1952. The story is an anecdotal retelling of a Christmas from the view of a young child and is a romanticised version of Christmases past, portraying a nostalgic and simpler time.	The Grinch The Grinch tells the story of a cynical grump who goes on a mission to steal Christmas, only to have his heart changed by a young girl's generous holiday spirit.
Christmas Trees by Robert Frost <i>"The city had withdrawn into itself And left at last the country to the country; When between whirls of snow not come to lie And whirls of foliage not yet laid, there drove A stranger to our yard"</i>	Nightmare before Christmas Halloweentown is a fantasy land overflowing with ghosts, vampires, and witches. Jack is the leader of this town
For Christmas Day: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing by Charles Wesley <i>"Hark! the herald Angels sing, Glory to the new-born King, Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconcil'd."</i>	Elf The film centers on Buddy, a human who was adopted and raised by Santa's elves. He is a misfit who grows to be three times the size of his elf family
Mistletoe by Walter De La Mare <i>"Sitting under the mistletoe (Pale-green, fairy mistletoe), One last candle burning low, All the sleepy dancers gone, Just one candle burning on."</i>	Arthur Christmas Set on Christmas night, the film tells a story about Arthur Claus, the clumsy but goodhearted son of Father Christmas, who discovers that Santa's high-tech ship has failed to deliver one girl's present.

Highdown Girls Football League Success 2021

Highdown Girl's Football teams completed the Reading Schools Girls Football Leagues in 3 very successful finishing positions.

U16 girls 9 aside went through to the finals of their age group undefeated and came up against Bohunt School also undefeated in their side of the league but at the top of the competition with more goals scored.

An exciting and nail biting final ensued, leading to extra time and then a penalty shootout. Thanks to some brilliant goal keeping by Jess Dixon, who stepped into the position at the last minute and on her birthday due to illness of the regular keeper, Highdown scored all their 5 penalties against Bohunt's 3.

U16 champions team were – Lucy Abrahams, Anabel Bee, Ruby Cooper, Jess Dixon, Emma Gibson, Anabelle Gratrix (playing up 2 years), Georgie Gratrix, Rebecca Lennon, Evie Mendham and Aisha Saidykhan.

Huge congratulations!

U14 girls 9 aside also went through the league to the finals undefeated and also came up against a strong Bohunt School squad in the final. Highdown played a very focussed and determined match against a team who had some Reading academy and development players. The hard fought game led to a final score of a 2-1 loss, awarding 2nd place to the Highdown team who never gave up.

Well done to Erin Atherton, Kaitlyn Broadley, Anabelle Gratrix, Esme Hasell, Alice Jolley, Maisie Kirk, Gabi Dos Santos, Ellie Perkins, Ava Sherfield and Holly Traynor.


U12 Girls 6 aside – lastly to complete a successful season for Highdown girls Football teams, the U12 squad who only lost 1 match throughout 15 matches in the league, finished with an overall 2nd place in the ultimate Round Robin tournament, changing the normal finals format due to some teams having to pull out of the competition because of COVID infections.

The Highdown U12s consisting of Lottie Borgeaud, Aishah Brown, Amy Churchard, Brooke Elton, Erin King, Ruby Miller, Sonia Vetsko and Lola Wilde.

A huge WELL DONE for the successful first fixtures at Highdown School in year 7.

AMY CHURCHARD – A special mention to Amy for her brilliant performances at the Reading Schools Cross Country League, where she was awarded a gold medal for consistent 1st place position in the year 7 girls cross country races.

WELL DONE AMY!




Please save your boxes!

The D&T department would be grateful for donations of containers – both chocolate tubs and takeaway boxes

Donations can be dropped off to Miss Lobo in DT3, or reception

Thank you!





Highdown's 50th Year Anniversary



To celebrate our school's 50th anniversary, staff and students got together. Grove did the 5, Caversham the 0, Rosehill the T and Mapledurham the H. It was a successful event in which students were fantastic. We look forward to more events in the new year to celebrate our anniversary.

Christmas Concert December 2021

Highdown students and staff kicked off the festive period in fine style with the Christmas Concert making a welcome return this year. The audience braved the elements and were treated to a smorgasbord of yuletide delights. The traditional Christmas songs and carols were played with great aplomb along with debuts of instruments from around the world like the erhu (Chinese violin) and the kalimba (thumb piano). Parents left the concert full of praise for the fantastic performances they had witnessed and at the breadth and depth of talent here at Highdown. All performers and backstage crew should feel proud at producing an evening of such outstanding quality.

Schools Infection Survey

As many of you know, our school is taking part in the COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey 2 (SIS2), this is a national study that will help experts understand how many school pupils have developed antibodies against the virus, how this changes over the course of the year and how the pandemic has affected our pupils. If you would like to take part in the survey and missed round one of testing, then it's not too late, you can still enrol online by [following this link](#) or refer to the invite letter and information sheet recently sent for further information on the SIS2 study.

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy

What is the link between these words?

Benevolent

Cheerful

Generous

Magical

Go Further: What does each word mean?

Numeracy

The Puzzle:

It is 9 am now. Rita studies for 2 hours, takes a bath for 1 hour, and then has lunch for 1 hour. How many hours are left before 9 am tomorrow?

Answers on Page 8



Year 9

To the students and parents of Year 9, myself and the Pastoral team would like to congratulate the efforts Year 9 students have made since their return to school in September. Despite us facing challenging times, it has been delightful to see students back in the classrooms and interacting with one another. The students have made a fantastic effort to ensure they've grasped as many learning opportunities as possible and their maturity and eagerness to learn has not gone unnoticed.

This week you would have received your child's report. The report indicates the progress they are making, along with Mentor and Head/ Assistant Head of Achievement comments.

Please do read through this and have a discussion with your child on their current progress. To support your understanding on how we assess at Highdown, please see the below link to the Assessment area of the new school website: <https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/page/?title=Assessment+%26amp%3B+Reporting&pid=255>

It has been a pleasure to see students continue to strive for excellence and close gaps in their progress from periods of remote learning. I would like to remind you that after the Christmas holidays our focus as a pastoral team will be to ensure your child is well informed around GCSE option choices. Please do make a note of the upcoming Subject Parent evening which will take place virtually on, **Thursday 13th January 2022**.

The students this week have started to discuss the importance of setting goals, and grasp understanding on how to analyse their most recent report to help set these personal goals. They have completed several activities during mentor time this week to help them identify their own personal goals as we progress closer towards GCSE's and option choices. Further information is to follow on our return from Christmas. To support your child's progress, we would like every child to complete the online form for a Highdown Excellence Plan. This can be found on Class Charts. Please could we ask you discuss and support your child in the completion of this to ensure it is informative and beneficial as we move forward.

With an increase of COVID cases locally, students have all been provided with additional LFT testing kits. Please continue to test regularly, and on our return to school in January ensure your child has a face covering. I would also like to suggest providing them with a spare one in their bag, in situations where they may misplace their first.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your continued support over the past year. As a community and a year group we have overcome many challenges together, and together we will continue to strive for excellence.

We hope you have a joyous and restful break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

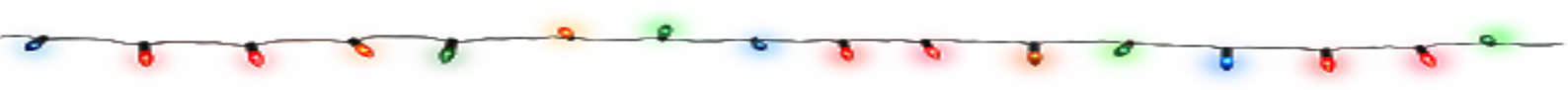
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Miss Probert and the Year 9 Pastoral Team

Year 10

Year 10 have made a positive start to their GCSEs. Students are engaged, resilient, eager to learn and have a desire to succeed. It is a pleasure to support and guide them to reach their full potential. I hope that students can have a lovely Christmas Break and can start the New Year refreshed and really to learn.

Stay safe and take care - Mr Burnell





Literacy & Numeracy Answers

Literacy

Answer:
Father Christmas!

Numeracy

Answer
20 Hours

Stars of the Week

Year 7

7C Michael Petch
7D Arthur Parkes
7E Balazs Nagy
7F Alicia Higgs
7G Alex Goodall
7H Robyn-Bassett Gray
7J Finlay McDaid
7K Luke Haigh
7L James Mee

Year 8

8C Ollie Perona
8D Ivo Phillips
8E Raphael Garcia
8F Darby Buck
8G Teagan Quelch
8H Evelyn Hunt
8J Saurav Joshi
8K Liliana Orywal-Skyes
8L Holly Curtayne

Year 9

9C Joshua Smith
9D Fraser Acteson
9E Alex Evans
9F Will Scott
9G Olivia Yearwood
9H Thomas Busby
9J Elouise Fraser
9K Flo Illman
9L Seren Marshman
9M James Kingham

Year 10

10C Sophie Sanashee
10D Ny-Anneka Lovelock
10E Luca Baroni

10F Angelika Szymczyk
10G Katie Guy
10H Freeman Chung

10J Mark Ngailo
10K Madelyn Jones
10L Elizabeth Lam



 *Merry* 
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR