



The weekly newsletter of

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 17 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.

Student Punctuality

Punctuality has a direct correlation with student success: the more punctual students are generally results in better attainment. Sometimes students will be late because of factors out of their control. If students bring a note or parents contact the school office, students will not be sanctioned. However, if a student is late to mentor period, without an explanation, they will receive an A-1 Late and if they miss mentor period, they will receive an A-2 Truancy. Thank you for your support.

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	57590
Grove	56529
Mapledurham	58103
Rosehill	57831

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2021/22](#)

17 January - House Week

Follow us



Newsletters are now being sent out via Classcharts



SSE Work Experience

An amazing virtual work experience opportunity with SSE a leading energy and utility provider, this is a fantastic chance for young people aged 15+ who are interested in learning more about work experience placements. The session will take place on 8 February 2022, from 4 to 5.30 pm. It is aimed at students interested to learn more about apprenticeships with SSE and how we can support their early career. They will learn more about our purpose, safety and sustainability and be able to explain why they are important to an organisation like ours. Students will complete interactive exercises that challenge and explore their own skills and attributes and feel more confident in their suitability for an apprenticeship with SSE and for a rewarding career with us. They will also gain a deeper sense of their aspirations and how they perceive themselves in relation to the working world. The deadline for applications is 18 January 2022. Please [click here](#) to apply.

Study Higher

Young carers on tour!

Our programme of fully funded trips for young carers to visit higher education institutions continues after the first successful event of this academic year to Oxford Brookes University in November 2021. This was attended by 13 young people. The next event will take place at The University of Reading on Saturday 19th February 2022. This is free and open to young carers aged 13-18. Young Carers will be introduced to university student ambassadors, go on a campus tour and take part in fun and informative activities! All refreshments, lunch and transport will be provided and organised by Study Higher. Please do share this opportunity with your young carers - the deadline for them to register is 28th January 2022. More information, including how students can register to attend can be found on our website here.

Future Pathways

Future Pathways is our programme targeting care experienced students. It is currently aimed at students in years 10 and 11 and includes 3 face-to-face events and 3 virtual workshops. The events include visiting local FECs, an employer visit and a university visit. The virtual workshops focus on college vs sixth form, employability skills and university life. The programme is currently underway in Swindon with the first face-to-face event and webinar completed. We are looking forward to launching the programme in 2022 for care experienced students in Reading. If you are interested in finding out more please email: info@studyhigher.ac.uk. Information about higher education support for care leavers can be found on our website here.

Service Children

We are pleased to launch a new series of fully funded on-campus events for young people from Armed Forces families. Transport and lunch will be provided for students and staff. The dates, year groups and venues are: 10th Feb-year 10 at Royal Agricultural University; 8th March-year 11 at Reading University; 18th March-year 12 at Buckinghamshire New University and 22nd June- year 9 at Oxford University (Balliol College). If you are interested in finding out more about this project and/or booking in students please email: info@studyhigher.ac.uk Information about HE support for service pupils can be found on our website here.

Careers Corner Continued

Firstly, may we remind your students of our **upcoming Open Events**. This is an excellent opportunity to meet students and teachers, see facilities and decide on next steps.

We would also welcome students who would like a second look to help them in their decision making. For Year 10s, it's a great chance to get ahead of the curve and start thinking about the future. Further open events will be available in the Summer. Please see below for links to book on to Open Events.

Reading – Weds 2 February, 4pm to 7pm - <https://bit.ly/RCOpenevent>

Bracknell and Wokingham – Weds 9 February, 4pm to 7pm - <https://bit.ly/BCOpenevent>

Application Workshops/1-1s: We are currently supporting a number of schools with Application Workshops where we can offer 1-1 advice and assist with completion. We can also assist with subject changes etc.

GCSE Options Flyer: We realise it's that time of year when your younger students start thinking about and choosing their GCSE Options. We have produced a flyer to help with their decision making. Please feel free to forward to your students and their parents:

View and download the GCSE Options flyer [here](#)

T Levels: We wanted to share the following presentation on T Levels at our Colleges. Please [click here](#) to watch the YouTube video and feel free to copy the link to your students.

Higher Education: Did you know you can stay local and gain a university level qualification? We offer HNCs and HNDs, Foundation Degrees, PGCEs and top-ups for BA and BSc Degrees at your local college. There are a range of full and part-time programmes with competitive tuition fees, which combined with not having to move away from home, can make huge savings. Activate Learning has been recognised for its focus on employability and each of our programmes provide students with work-based learning opportunities. Learners experience personalised learning and smaller classes.

View our full programme [here](#)

At our Reading College we have the **South Central Institute of Technology** and cutting edge HNC and HND courses in Digital Technologies and Higher level Apprenticeships <https://southcentraliot.ac.uk/>

We also offer Higher Level programmes in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and a PGCE in Education [Click here for more information on Higher Education Programmes at Reading College](#)

At Bracknell and Wokingham we offer an FdEd in Children's Development and Learning [Click here for more information on Higher Education Programmes at Bracknell & Wokingham College](#)

If you have any questions or would like to speak to someone please drop us an email at HE@activatelearning.ac.uk

Careers Corner Continued

READING COLLEGE NEWS

Reading Rep Theatre opens their new theatre

Students studying our performing arts programmes at Reading College will benefit from our partnership with the new Reading Rep Theatre by taking part in the upcoming performances in its state of the art performance space, where they will be able to audition for the company and leading professional roles. Throughout the whole 2021-22 season, students will also be involved in work experience placements as stewards and other roles.

BRACKNELL AND WOKINGHAM COLLEGE NEWS

The Royal Navy visited some of our Engineering and Public Services students on 10 January. Two representatives did a presentation about what it is like to work in the Royal Navy and what opportunities would be available for them after college.

Later, students took part in a team building activity where they had to work in groups of four or five to build the tallest free-standing tower they could. They were given a time limit of 30 minutes, only the group leader could speak for the first 10-15 minutes, then everyone in all the teams were allowed to speak to each other.

Reading Library Service

Dear Families,

We wanted to write and invite you to Reading's library service.

Joining a library and borrowing books is one of **the biggest single things you can do** to help encourage and improve reading and literacy.

Libraries are free, welcoming and there will be one near you in Reading – there are seven in total.

Becoming a library member is free, adults and children can join easily and online.

We have thousands of free books for children and adults. We run free sessions for pre-school children to sing every week. We run a free reading challenge for children every summer. Our biggest customer group is parents and children, so we have thousands of children's books and add hundreds more every week.

Online we have lots of free e-books, downloadable audio and e-magazines. You can also learn languages, practice driving theory tests, practice citizenship tests and lots more.

For more information, ask at your local library, visit www.reading.gov.uk/libraries or contact info@readinglibraries.org.uk – Reading's libraries are there for you and we are sure we can help you – just come and see us.

Libraries are in Reading town centre, on the Oxford Road near Tesco, in Tilehurst, Caversham, Palmer Park, Southcote and Whitley.

Simon Smith

Library Services Manager

Culture | Directorate for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Reading Borough Council

Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BQ

07 894 600 498

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Year 9

Year 9 have made an excellent start back since the Christmas break. Students have been extremely engaged with the discussions around their GCSE option choices and it was a delight to see them take ownership of their aspirations, seeking advice and asking valuable questions.

We would like to thank all parents for their engagement with this process. We are delighted to have received such a positive response to appointments booked for this Year's parents evening with over 90% of parents and carers having booked appointments.

The next steps...

WC 17/01/2022 – Students will receive an Office 365 form to complete. Students will have until **28/01/2022** to complete and submit their form.

This week I had the opportunity to observe a Year 9 class complete their first practical in D&T, the atmosphere during the lesson was a real buzz. Students were excited and showed great independence in creating their sausage rolls; developing an understanding of how to make short crust pastry. It was lovely to see such an engaging group enjoy their D&T lesson.

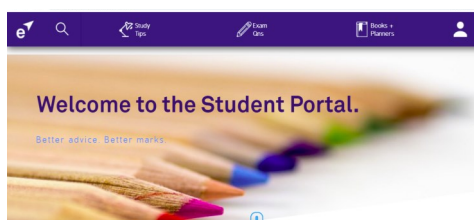


Elevate's Top Tips for Year 11

The company Elevate Education came into school this Wednesday to talk to all Year 11s about their study skills and provided a range of tips and strategies to help them improve their work. When asked, 100% of students said they'd recommend it to a friend and 98% said it was time well spent. We can't wait to put some of these improvement strategies into action!

Student Portal for Years 11 and 13

Please remember that all students have access to the student portal which is full of lots of revision resources, you can access this by [clicking here](#) and select 'student portal'. On this webpage, a pop up box will appear, asking for a password which is **rondo**. If the pop up box is slow to appear, your son/daughter can make an account by clicking on the figure in the top right hand corner. These additional resources are available all year but now is the perfect time to have a look!

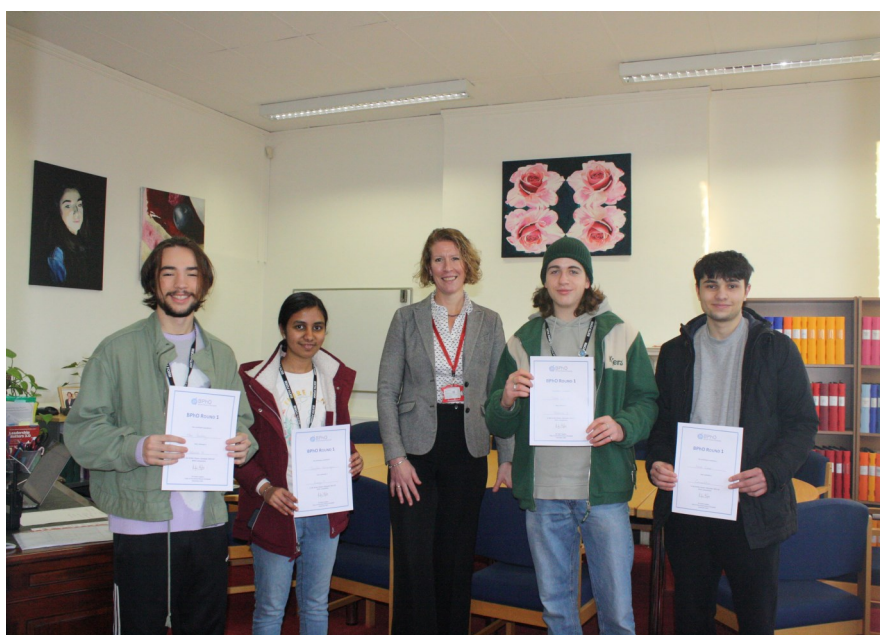


Parent Webinars

Stay updated with the latest Parent Webinars which all parents of Highdown School can access. The next session is on 18th January and is entitled 'Exam Room Skills', so it will be especially useful if your son/daughter is in Yr11 or Yr13.

If you would like to attend, [please follow this link](#) to register and select 'other' as the option for the school your son/daughter attends. We hope you find it useful.

Year 13



Five Year 13 students have just taken part in the British Physics Olympiad. It's the first time we've taken part, the students committed to coming to after school sessions to prepare for what is considered one of the toughest tests of A level. They have developed their problem-solving skills and whilst finding it very challenging, one student said, "it's hard, but it's good to put your brain to the test. Congratulations to all.

Calling All Former Students

If you're a former student of Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre, we want to hear from you!

Your experiences since leaving could help to motivate and inspire our current students to feel more confident in making decisions about their future. We'd love you to join our alumni network and stay connected with the school.

We've partnered with the national education charity Future First, who specialise in helping schools like ours to stay connected with their former students.

You can choose how and when you help – perhaps you can act as a career and education role model, provide work experience, become a mentor in person or online, or help with donations, fundraising or even apply to become a governor.

We are delighted to partner with Future First to create our first Alumni network and are grateful for a generous grant from the Thames Valley hub of the Careers and Enterprise Company of which Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre is a member.

It doesn't matter when you left us, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away, there are still ways you can help.

'To celebrate our 50th year as Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre we are delighted to partner Future First to create our very first Alumni Network and are eager to make contact with our original pupils from the early 1970s'. *Rachel Cave, Headteacher, January 2022.*

In order to sign up, just follow the link below!

<https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk/highdown-school-and-sixth-form-centre>

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy

Try to work out the following rebus puzzles!



Numeracy

The Puzzle:

A grandfather, two fathers and two sons went to the movie theatre together and everyone bought one movie ticket each. How many tickets did they buy in total?

Answers on Page 10

MENU Week 1: 10th 24th Jan / 7th 21st Feb

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SOUP hot hot hot £1.00	Cream of Tomato with a crusty roll (M,G)	Leek & Potato with a crusty roll (Mk,G)	Vegetable Broth with a crusty roll (G)	Cream of Broccoli with a crusty roll (Mk,G)	Minestrone with a crusty roll (G)
MAIN fresh flavours £2.40	Quarter Pound Cheeseburger in a bun with relish served with fresh wedges & cajun sweetcorn (G,Su,Mk)	Creamy Chicken Korma served with pilau rice, onion bhaji & naan bread (Mk,G,Ce)	Italian Spaghetti Bolognese served with garlic bread, parmesan & a green salad (G,Mk,E,Ce)	Cumberland Sausages served with creamy mash, peas and onion gravy (G,Su,Mk)	Battered Pollack (G,F) Fishfingers (G,F) Battered sausage (G,Su,Mk) Served with chips, peas or mushy peas
VEGGIE meat free feasts £2.40	Vegetable burger in a bun served with fresh wedges & cajun sweetcorn (G,Ce)	Spinach & chickpea rogan josh served with pilau rice, onion bhaji & naan bread (G,Ce)	Macaroni cheese served with garlic bread & a green salad (Mk,G)	Veggie Sausages served with creamy mash, peas & Onion Gravy (Ce,G,Mk)	Homemade cheese & Onion Pastie served with chips, peas or mushy peas (G,Mk)
GLOBAL a world of flavour £1.95	Fresh pasta (G) with Fresh Tomato & basil sauce or Carbonara sauce (Mk,G)	Fresh pasta (G) with Fresh Tomato & basil sauce or Bolognese sauce (Ce)	Fresh pasta (G) with Fresh Tomato & basil sauce or Carbonara sauce (Mk,G)	Fresh pasta (G) with Fresh Tomato & basil sauce or Bolognese sauce (Ce)	Macaroni cheese pot with crispy onions (G,Mk)
PUDDING sweet treat £1.05	Jam & coconut sponge with custard (G,Mk,E)	Chocolate sponge with chocolate sauce (G,Mk,E)	Creamy rice pudding with jam (Mk)	Sticky toffee pudding with caramel custard (G,Mk,E)	Forest fruit crumble with custard (G,Mk)

ALLERGENS

Ce = Celery
 Cr = Crustacean
 E = Eggs
 F = Fish
 G = Cereals containing Gluten
 L = Lupin
 Mk = Milk
 Mo = Molluscs
 Mu = Mustard
 N = Nuts
 P = Peanuts
 Se = Sesame Seeds
 So = Soya
 Su = Sulphur Dioxide

LOOK OUT FOR LIMITED EDITION RECIPES FROM OUR MONTHLY BOOSTING INGREDIENT!

grain & **brain**
 fuelling foods & boosting foods



MEAL DEAL SAVERS!

MAIN MEAL & A HOT DESSERT FOR ONLY £2.95

SAVE 50P

Special Days!

LOOK OUT FOR SPECIAL MENUS

CHINESE NEW YEAR
TUESDAY 1st FEBRUARY

RED NOSE DAY
FRIDAY 18th MARCH

NATIONAL BBQ WEEK
3rd - 6th MAY

PLATINUM JUBILEE
STREET PARTY
FRIDAY 27th MAY

WIMBLEDON GREAT
BRITISH PICNIC
FRIDAY 24th JUNE

MENU Week 2: 17th 31st JAN / 14th 28th FEB

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SOUP hot hot hot £1.00	Curried lentil with a crusty roll (G)	Roast pepper & tomato with a crusty roll (G)	Cream of leek with a crusty roll (G,Mk)	French onion with a crusty roll (G)	Carrot & coriander with a crusty roll (G,Mk)
MAIN fresh flavours £2.40	Mexican Chilli served with rice, nachos, sour cream & salsa (Mk)	Sticky sweet & sour chicken served with noodles & Prawn crackers (Cr,E,G,So,Se)	Italian beef lasagne served with garlic bread & Sweetcorn (G,Mk,Ce)	Thai Chicken Curry served with Basmati rice & Asian slaw (Ce)	Breaded Haddock (G,F) Fishfinger (G,F) Chicken Drumstick Served with chips, peas & mushy peas
VEGGIE meat free feasts £2.40	Mexican vegetable chilli served with rice, nachos, sour cream & salsa (Mk)	Vegetable chow mien (G,E)	Roasted vegetable lasagne served with garlic bread & sweetcorn (G,Mk)	Butternut squash korma served with basmati rice & Naan Bread (G,Mk)	Spicy vegetable & Bean wrap served with chips & peas (G,Mk)
GLOBAL a world of flavour £1.95	Fresh pasta (G) with Fresh Tomato & basil sauce or Carbonara sauce (Mk,G)	Fresh pasta (G) with Fresh Tomato & basil sauce or Bolognese sauce (Ce)	Fresh pasta (G) with Fresh Tomato & basil sauce or Carbonara sauce (Mk,G)	Fresh pasta (G) with Fresh Tomato & basil sauce or Bolognese sauce (Ce)	Macaroni cheese pot with crispy onions (G,Mk)
PUDDING sweet treat £1.05	Warm chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce (G,Mk,E)	Vanilla sponge with custard (G,Mk,E)	Pineapple fritters with syrup (G,E)	Apple & cinnamon crumble with custard (G,Mk)	Creamy rice pudding with jam (Mk)

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WIMBLEDON GREAT
BRITISH PICNIC
FRIDAY 24th JUNE

HIGHDOWN SCHOOL PTA

Momo House
AUTHENTIC NEPALESE CUISINE



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

QUIZ NIGHT

Venue to be Confirmed
25th March
Doors open 7:30 Quiz starts 7:45

Teams of up to 8
Email highdown_pta@outlook.com
if you'd like help forming a team

Teams of up to 8
Email highdown_pta@outlook.com if you require help with a team

TICKET SALES: www.pta-events.co.uk/highdown




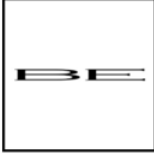
Parentkind
Member Association

If you would like to join the PTA in planning and running this event, please join us for our meeting on Tuesday 15th Feb at 18:30. Venue to be confirmed.

Literacy & Numeracy Answers

Literacy

REBUS ANSWER

1.  misunderstood	2.  walk in the park	3.  one in a million
4.  looking back	5.  you're under arrest	6.  stand by me
7.  walking on thin ice	8.  I see you understand	9.  belong

Numeracy

Answer

3 (the grandfather is also a father, and the father is also a son)

Stars of the Week

Year 7

7C Ben Hughes
7D Daisy Mitchell
7E Isabel Varming
7F Ashis Tamang
7G Khyra Lenon
7H Joshua Ellison
7J Ben Gibson
7K Leah Boulton-Smith
7L Jacob Pottage

Year 10

10C Max Hooper
10D Jack Etherington
10E Miriam White
10F Noah Mitchell
10G Dylan Ferreira
10H Ryan Law
10J Sennen Fuller
10K Madelyn Jones
10L Ruby Charnick

Year 8

8C Alice Critchfield
8D Ben Attwood-Brown
8E Lucy Green
8F Rupert Tollet
8G Henry Hunnisett
8H Magnus Gunning
8J Luka Edlind
8K Max Negro-Haplin
8L Milo Nanayakkara

Year 11

11C Ximena Baena Moreno
11D Carmelina Porter
11E Savannah Hinds
11F Jenna Hawkins
11G Mo Cook
11H Grace Corlett
11J Sophie Chandler
11K Louis Juon
11L Isabella Weller

Year 9

9C Yan Ho Chu
9D Fraser Acteson
9E Owen Chan
9F Rebecca Shepherd
9G Charlie Deasy
9H Hebe Ho
9J Zhun-On Ahmed
9K Ellie Hughes
9L Matthew Baker
9M Xander Bradbury