



The weekly newsletter of

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 24 January 2022 Week B

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.

Face Masks

From Thursday 20 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff and students in year 7 and above. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.

From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff and students in year 7 and above.

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	60472
Grove	59107
Mapledurham	61023
Rosehill	60569

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

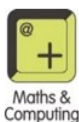
Term dates can be found here:

[2021/22](#)

Follow us



Newsletters are now being sent out via Classcharts





Win a weekend in Bath!

Are you a year 11, 12, 13 or Level 3 student with an interest in Early Years?

We're offering you the opportunity to win a weekend for two in the glorious city of Bath and to find out more about Norland's *degree with a difference* at our open day on 7 May 2022.

Competition closes: 31 January 2022

For more information and to enter, visit: norland.ac.uk/win-a-weekend-in-bath



Education Projects

To help your aspiring medics get back on track with their Medicine applications, **Education Projects** will be running a free **online webinar** covering the following:

- Medicine Application Timeline
- Medical Work Experience
- How to Get Work Experience
- Reflection
- Key Deadlines/Dates to note down
- Choosing a Medical School - Making Choices

Every attendant will also receive multiple frameworks, templates and other materials they can use on their journey to Medical school.

Webinar Name: Medicine Application: Getting Back On Track

Date: Wednesday, January 26

Time: 07:00 PM (London time)

Location: Online - Zoom

Admission: Free

Suitable for: Students in Year 10,11 and 12

Your students can book their free space [here](#).

Skills Gap

Skills Gap is a career accelerator that runs insightful workshops for young people aged 15-19 – because it's never too soon to think about building your skills for a competitive edge in your future studies and career. We're offering a range of intensive workshops in early 2022, all designed specifically for 15-19 year olds and delivered to small groups by experienced industry experts:

[AI in Engineering](#)

Saturday, 29 Jan 2022

Finding new and optimal ways of doing things is at the very core of engineering which makes it the perfect partner for AI and machine learning, from smart production lines to image processing technology that allows machines to see. Our online workshop is led by civil engineer and data scientist, Johan Hagstrom, who will introduce you to key AI algorithms and trends. You'll also get hands-on experience with Python, being guided through a computer vision algorithm that can detect cars on the road – a peek into the world of self-driving vehicles.

[Careers in Hacking](#)

Sunday, 30 Jan 2022

Top-flight businesses and governments the world over are recruiting for a new elite force: a band of ethical hackers charged with protecting our most sensitive information and the infrastructure that powers our everyday living. Our online workshop is taught by Daniel Wilkinson, a Security Consultant at NCC Group. He gives a beginner's guide to ethical hacking and the skills you'll need to succeed, with practical experience of hacking your way into a vulnerable online storefront.

Careers Corner Continued

[Coding for Game Design](#)

Saturday, 5 Feb 2022

With one third of the world's population already estimated to be gamers, the gaming industry offers one of the hottest career tickets today. Our online workshop gives you a unique insight into the latest trends from multiplayer games to game streaming. Led by Josh Hills, a programmer on some of the world's largest multi-player games, including Runescape and Horizon, you'll get first-hand experience of developing and enhancing a physics-based game prototype and discover the skills you'll need to succeed.

[AI in Medicine](#)

Sunday, 6 Feb 2022

Medicine is on the verge of an Artificial Intelligence revolution – from pioneering surgeries to algorithms that predict future health issues. Our workshop is delivered online by med-tech experts, and will introduce you to key AI trends in medicine, its influence on global healthcare, and the tech skills you need to get ahead. You'll also take part in an exciting hands-on diagnostic exercise using AI modelling tools.

[Tech in Finance](#)

Saturday, 12 Feb 2022

The world of finance is changing fast. From retail banks to investment funds, and private equity to insurance, technology is creating innovative opportunities – especially for those with the skills to harness its potential. Our online workshop, led by an experienced Data Scientist, will take you through the different roles within finance and how they're being influenced by tech. Plus you'll get first-hand experience of testing a typical trading strategy using advanced features in Excel and gain insight into the skills you need to get ahead.

[Robotics in Space](#)

Saturday, 19 Feb 2022

From exploring the surface of Mars to sizing-up metallic asteroids, the race is on to unlock the mysteries of the universe and answer our planet's biggest challenges. Taught online by robotics experts, this workshop gives a fascinating insight into today's space industry. Take part in a hands-on exercise to design an autonomous robotic lander to explore Europa and get career tips and advice to get ahead.

[AI for Scientists](#)

Saturday, 26 Feb 2022

Genome sequencing, protein-folding, quantum computers... AI is transforming every area of science. Our online workshop, taught by a science expert, introduces you to AI in different scientific fields and valuable tech skills for science professionals. You'll also get practical experience training a machine learning model to predict the trajectory of the Covid-19 pandemic – a great addition to your CV.

[Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies](#)

Saturday, 5 Mar 2022

Blockchain is revolutionary. It powers the cryptocurrencies that are changing the face of finance and offers safer ways to store sensitive data, but what's next? Our online workshop, delivered by a blockchain expert, provides a fascinating insight into the world of cryptocurrencies, how they are analysed and traded, and blockchain's ongoing potential. During the workshop you will get first-hand experience of making a Uniswap transaction of ERC20 tokens on Ethereum.

If you're looking for a competitive edge for your studies or career, our workshops are the perfect opportunity to arm yourself with valuable skills and knowledge. For further information and to register for any of the events, please visit www.skillsgap.tech.

Careers Corner Continued

IBM Insight Evening

On Wednesday 26th January from 5:00 - 6:00pm. IBM be hosting an Insight Evening.

With revenues exceeding \$50 billion and employing more than 300,000 employees operating in 171 countries, IBM is one of the most exciting global organisations to work for.

IBM offers a variety of tech solutions such as artificial intelligence, business automation, and blockchain solutions as well as consulting services helping all sorts of different industries from banking & finance, government, healthcare, and retail. They also produce and provide the Hawk-Eye and cyber security technology at the Wimbledon tennis tournament.

Come and hear about some of the exciting projects they are working on as well as their school leaver opportunities, summer insight days and gap year placements.

If you'd like to sign up for this event to find out more, [please click here.](#)

Linklaters Magic Circle Law Firm Insight Event

If you're interested in a career in law we have our first law focused event of 2022 to share with you and we're starting off with a bang.

We recently partnered up with Magic Circle Law firm Linklaters and to kick things off we're going to be hosting their first big insight event taking place on **Wednesday 26th January** from **5:00pm - 6:00pm**.

Linklaters is a leading global law firm headquartered in London, with revenues upwards of £1.5bn. With leading practices in Corporate, Finance, and Dispute Resolution, they combine legal expertise with a collaborative and innovative approach to help clients navigate constantly evolving markets and regulatory environments, pursuing opportunities and managing risk worldwide.

We will be given a general introduction to the company with the main focus of the event to discuss their Making Links competition. You will hear more about this during the session but briefly the competition gives you a chance to personally win £1,250, your school £3,000 as well as be a part of their Making Links Discovery programme which is an 18-month long work experience opportunity.

We'll be hearing from 3 of the past winners of this competition who will be coming along to tell us all about their experience with Linklaters and providing some insider tips on how to be best in with a chance of winning.

Taking part in this competition challenge will also of course give you something tremendous to put onto your CV.

Finally there will be a chance to ask any questions you may have to the panellists representing one of the country's most distinguished law organisations.

To sign up for the event [click here.](#)

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.*

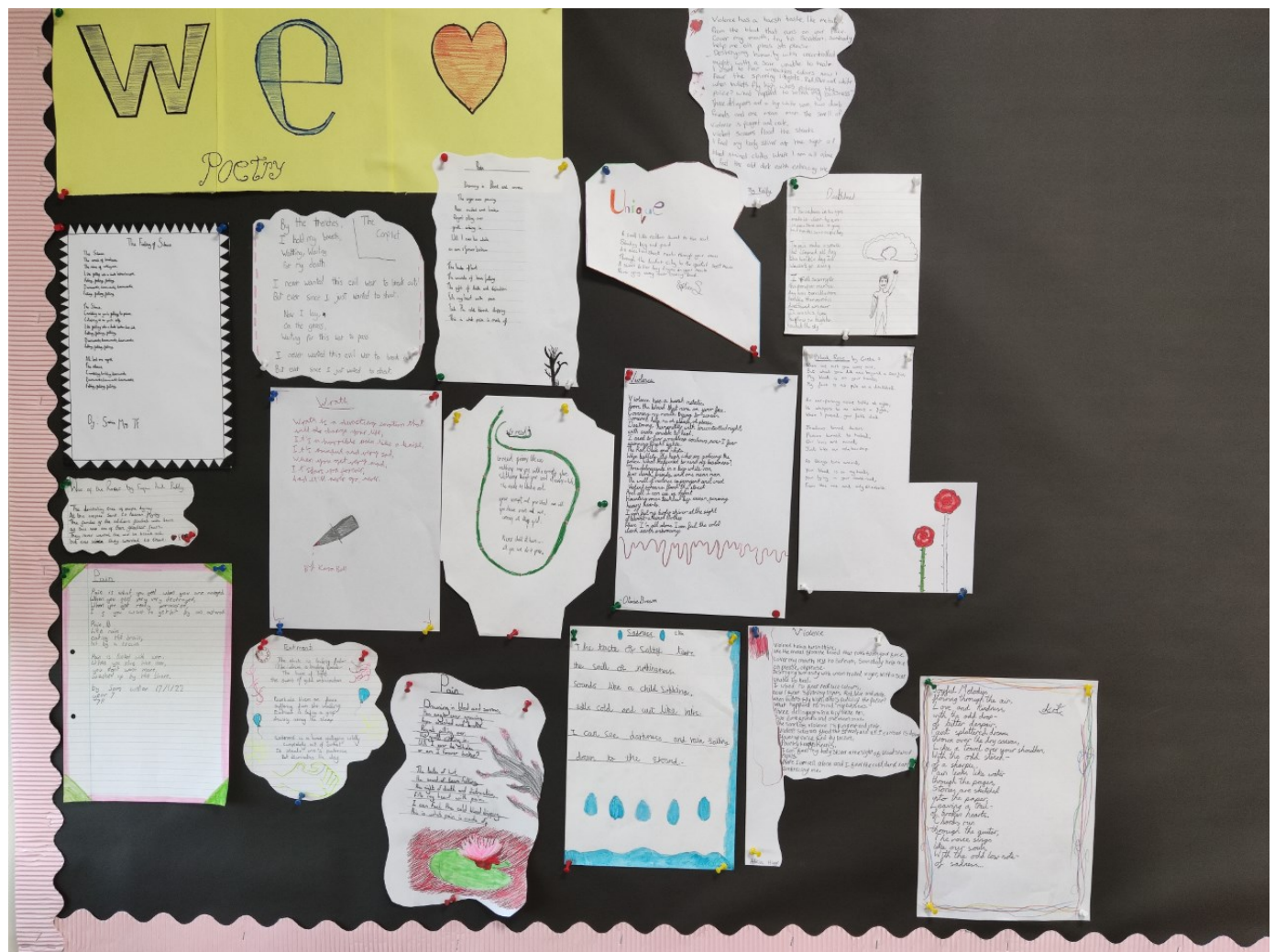
In order to sign up, just follow the link below!

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

Zebra and the Education Business Partnership



This week we were delighted to welcome Zebra and the Education Business Partnership to Highdown today to talk to our Year 10s. Intern, Isha, outlined the ingenious uses of digital technology applied to everyday life and the interplay with behavioural psychology in the development of new and innovative solutions in sectors as diverse as health and retail, energy and hospitality. Isha also described her own career journey so far and answered our questions about her role and the company as a whole. We look forward to visiting Zebra in March and finding out more!



Well done to all 7F students for their contributions to creating and presenting their fabulous work on poetry this week! After discussing how abstract ideas can be turned into something rather concrete (what does an idea look, sound, taste, smell, feel like), students took it upon themselves to prove that poetry does not have to be complicated full of grand ideas and big words, but it could be about expressing the most profound feelings and thoughts in concrete terms. Hooray to all future poets in our school!

Miss Simou

Year 7 Stars of the Week

- 7C Ueja Rukoro
- 7D Sophie Owen
- 7E Teylor Oliver
- 7F Isla Tiplady
- 7G Joseph Haylock

- 7H Ella Jones
- 7J Samuel Musker
- 7K Seth Bracewell
- 7L Joe Wilder-Linthwaite

Year 9

This week students have taken part in House week; the focus has been on STEAM. Students have worked together across year groups to create a marble run. Many students have enjoyed the experience and valued the importance of a team and working together to produce a successful outcome. The next house week will be **WC 14/3/2022**, with the focus being on Community.

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.

Uniform

On our return to school students have continued to wear their PE kits to school on the days they have PE as a lesson. Please can you ensure your child is in the correct uniform and that the normal full uniform is worn on the days they do not have PE.

GCSE options

Students have taken a fantastic proactive approach in initiating conversations around GCSE options and their future aspirations. Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that the deadline for the form is **Friday 28th January**. Once we have collated the forms, there will be a period where Mrs Flynn will be working on producing a timetable. Students will not hear about their options until later in the year.

PSHCE this term

During this term Students will be looking at the following topics in PSHCE during Mentor time:

- Different types of families
- Marriage, civil partnerships, and commitment
- Avoiding conflict at home
- Managing break-ups amicably
- Homelessness

Sustainable Marble Run

Sustainable marble run completed by Grove... what good fun!



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL PTA



QUIZ NIGHT



School Hall

Friday 25th March

Doors open 7:30 Quiz starts 7:45

£15 entrance including Momo House curry
(meat/veg curry, rice, naan)
www.facebook.com/momohousereading

£7 entrance only (no food)
Cash bar

Ticket sales close midnight 20th March
www.pta-events.co.uk/highdown

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



Parentkind
Member Association



**PROCISION GIRLS
READING**

GIRLS ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Every Monday until 4 April
(excluding half term 21 February)

5.30pm–6.30pm | U10–U12

6.30pm–7.30pm | U13–U16

The Wren School, 61–63 Bath Road,
Reading RG30 2BB



**TO REGISTER PLEASE EMAIL CHERYL:
CWILLIAMS@PROCISIONFA.CO.UK**

HAPPY WEEKEND