



The weekly newsletter of

## Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 2 May 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.



### Problems with Class Charts

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact [vihamer@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:vihamer@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.

### SEND

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

### Examinations

Please [click here](#) to see the examination information on our website.

### Vampire Devices

UK households could save an average of £147 per year by switching off so-called vampire devices, British Gas research suggests. [Click here to read the article](#)

### Sustrans Working with Reading Borough Council

Sustrans are a charity that make it easier for people to walk and cycle. [Click here](#) to complete their survey on active Travel in the local area.

### HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	96342
Grove	94936
Mapledurham	96941
Rosehill	95834

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2021/22](#)

Bank Holiday - Monday 2 May

Follow us



THE YEAR  
1971 - 1972



## HIGHDOWN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



SATURDAY 18TH  
JUNE 2022  
12:30PM - 4PM



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL  
SURLEY ROW, EMMER  
GREEN, READING  
RG4 8LR

Highdown School opened its doors to the Caversham community in September 1971

This is a celebration of Highdown's 50th Anniversary and the invitation is open to all former students, current students, staff and their families and friends.

This is a taste of what we have in store for you:

- A selection of food options
- Entertainment such as dance, gymnastics and music performances
- Raffle
- A variety of stalls
- Activity for all age groups!



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



@highdownschool



@HighdownSchool



@emmergreen

### Insight to Jaguar Land Rover

For those of you interested in high-end motor vehicles you're going to be interested in our next insight event!

On Monday 16th May from 5:00pm - 6:00pm we're hosting our first ever virtual event with luxury British car manufacturer Jaguar Land Rover.

Having been automotive industry pioneers for more than six decades, today Jaguar Land Rover is the UK's largest investor in automotive research, development and engineering. They use world class processes to create innovative British craftsmanship and engineering excellence in over 170 markets worldwide.

With exciting new products, cutting-edge facilities and continued growth into new markets, it's an exciting time to be at Jaguar Land Rover.

We'll be hearing all about how the company has become what it is today and their visions for the future with revolutionary new sustainable technologies particularly in the electric car space.

With a wide variety of school-leaver opportunities in a number of engineering fields, data analytics, supply chain & logistics and finance, could a career at Jaguar Land Rover be for you?

Join us to hear about the fascinating world of the ever evolving motor industry and learn from some of the world's leading engineering minds in the industry.

Click the following link to register yourself for the online event:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JLR-Event>

We look forward to welcoming you on the day.



### TraumaLive

TraumaLive is our brand new full day online course looking at the thrilling world of trauma care. The course will give students an insight into the life of a trauma doctor. The course consists of interactive talks by trauma surgeons, solving real life patient cases, virtual operations and an anatomy practical. Students will receive a 3d miniature anatomy model through the post which we will build together. The course is suitable for students aged 13+ and certificates of attendance will be sent out following the session. The course is on Saturday 4th June from 10am until 5pm.

We have been working really hard over the last few months to make this course happen so I would be really grateful if you can forward this course to any keen students that may benefit.

More information about the day and how to enrol can be found using the link below, please note places are offered on first come, first serve basis:

<https://www.doctorslive.co.uk/traumalive>

Despite trying our best to make our courses as affordable as possible we understand that for some students the fees will be prohibitive. This is why we offer an unlimited number of bursaries for students as part of our widening access scheme – any students interested in this option can email us at [info@doctorslive.co.uk](mailto:info@doctorslive.co.uk) for information on how to apply.

### Upcoming Elevate webinars for parents - How to Help Your Child's Memory

We're excited to announce that next week Elevate will be hosting its next Parent Webinar. Feedback to the series so far has been fantastic, so don't miss out the next instalment in the series. Elevate works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series you will learn how to better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school.

#### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (6-7pm)** ***How to Help Your Child's Memory***



Here's what we will be showing you in this session:

- How you can set up your child's study space to maximise attention;
- The best techniques for improving memory;
- The 7 most common mistakes which actually reduce memory retention.

I've also taken more than one strategy or tip from each webinar, applied them and found them a win - plotting fun first and doing tasks (practice that song once on the guitar, study that section) rather than time (20mins of guitar or 1 hour studying) are two of my favourites!

The webinar is run **live online from 6 – 7pm** where the presenter will share Elevate's key research and skills, and will conduct a live Q&A so you can ask them questions directly.

[Register for free here](https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register)

If you would like to attend, please follow either link to register. <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

### **A-Level Recital Evening**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April it was a pleasure to host the A level Recital Evening. This is an event, which has been missed during the last couple of years due to COVID restrictions, so it was lovely to be able to celebrate the achievements of our A-level students once again.

There was a variety of performances ranging from Movement I of Vivaldi's violin concerto in A minor, performed beautifully by Tamsin Smith to Prokofiev's 'Tarantella' which Jakub Ptasznik performed with aplomb. Annika Ryan mesmerised the audience with her performance of Aria from Sonata in G minor by Boismortier on the cello.



It was a pleasure to have hosted two of our Year 11 students that are hoping to study A-level Music next year, Raven Highley and Lexi Coffie. I was proud of them both, as they performed so brilliantly at what could have been a daunting experience for them, we are really looking forward to teaching them.

It was lovely to watch Joel Harbour perform two pieces, a Metallica song and a Muse song; he did so with ease and confidence. We wish our two Year 13 students the best of luck in their future studies, both are hoping to read Music at university next year. We are immensely proud of them both and all they have achieved; despite the difficult few years they have had to experience thanks to the pandemic.

Mrs Reid



## Year 9

### Dr Love's Top Study Skills to maximise your learning

Complete these activities along with your notes and textbook/online resources as you go through your course to help your revision. Remember, the more activities you can complete from **memory**, the better prepared for your assessment or exam you will be as you are retrieving the information making the knowledge long lasting. .

Tick the circle once you have completed each task. Aim for a Full House!

PRIORITISE	CREATE	REDUCE	CHANGE
<p><b>RED, AMBER, GREEN</b> review each section of your notes. Create a revision plan with how much time you are going to spend revising each section and what revision activities you plan to do.</p>	<p>Create a 'tough, tougher or toughest' exam question using your knowledge organiser. Create a <b>mark scheme</b> or <b>success criteria</b> for the question before answering it or swapping yours with a friend.</p>	<p>Reduce your notes into a <b>summary</b> of the entire topic of no more than <b>100 words</b>. After you have done, reduce any information you have not included into another summary of <b>100 words</b>.</p>	<p>Change the information on your notes into a mind map, revision tree or revision flash cards. <b>Any cue cards or revision notes must be of a high standard in order to be useful.</b></p>
<p>CREATE</p> <p>Create a <b>quick fire quiz</b> of questions of increasing difficulty based on your notes. Make sure you have the questions and answers prepared then test either a friend or yourself from memory.</p>	<p>RECALL</p> <p>Read the information on your notes for 3 minutes, then turn it over. Write everything you can remember in <b>BLACK</b>. Write everything you forgot in <b>RED</b>.</p>	<p>CONNECT</p> <p>Think of a word that is connected to your chosen topic or notes for each letter A-Z. <b>OPTIONS:</b> time limit, miss out Q,X,Z, define your chosen words, explain your choices.</p>	<p>CREATE</p> <p>Create a <b>rap, poem, or song</b> to help you remember the key information from your notes. Make a video of it on your phone and play it over a few times – will have amazing effects on your ability to recall.</p>
<p>CONNECT</p> <p>In pairs, one of you <b>SECRETLY</b> chooses a section of your notes or key word. Your partner has to guess your choice by asking questions.  ➤ <b>ONLY</b> give 'yes' or 'no' answers.  ➤ The winner asks the <b>FEWEST</b> questions.</p>	<p>CATEGORISE</p> <p>Divide a page into four with the titles <b>1, 2, 3</b> and <b>4</b>. For every sentence of your notes, categorise and write it into a section with <b>1</b> being <b>fully understood</b> and <b>4</b> being <b>no idea</b>. After revising some more complete this activity again to see if this changes with revision.</p>	<p>EXPAND</p> <p>Count the number of words in a section of your notes. Expand this summary to at least twice that number by providing a more detailed description or explanation of the content.</p>	<p>REDUCE</p> <p>Reduce today's lesson into the single most important word. Then create a mnemonic for that word, i.e. <b>REDUCE</b> - Radical, Education, Develops, Understanding, Cognition, and Engagement.</p>
<p>EXPAND</p> <p>Choose a section of your notes and think of <b>three questions</b> you still have linked to it. Use a <b>phone</b> or a <b>laptop</b> to <b>research</b> the answers and write a paragraph summarising your findings.</p>	<p>CREATE</p> <p>Write a <b>story or comic strip</b> to represent the key information from your notes. Stories hold a special position in our memory and should have a clear <b>beginning</b>, <b>middle</b>, and <b>end</b>.</p>	<p>CHANGE</p> <p>Choose a paragraph of text and either select or highlight the main keywords (avoid highlighting every other word in the paragraph). Find or draw <b>images</b> that represent the words that you have highlighted.</p>	<p>RECALL</p> <p>Draw an outline of a brain. From <b>MEMORY</b>, fill it with everything you have <b>LEARNT</b> or <b>REMEMBER</b> from your notes. <b>RED, AMBER, GREEN</b> review the knowledge within the brain.</p>
<p>RECALL</p> <p>Cover a section of the notes with a <b>Post-It Note</b> then try to recall and accurately write the information on the Post-It Note without looking underneath. Have a friend choose a section for you as an additional challenge.</p>	<p>CONNECT</p> <p>Reduce your notes into just a list of the headings of each section. Explain how each heading connects to the other. Form as many connections as you can.</p>	<p>APPLY</p> <p>Use the information on your notes to go back through your <b>exercise book</b> and make any <b>additions, corrections or improvements</b> to your class work in <b>GREEN PEN</b>.</p>	

Year 9 assessment week is Tuesday 3rd to Tuesday 10th May. In class assessments will take place between Tuesday 3rd and Friday 6th. On Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th May, Year 9 will do their Science and Religious Studies assessments under formal exam conditions, so that they can see what it is like when you take an exam. There will be friendly staff around to help students if they are not sure about anything, and information will be sent home regarding expectations for exam conditions. Students will be getting their own timetable for these two examinations to their school email address, this will be sent out next week. We will also send a copy home via email so that you can talk to your young person about any concerns they might have. Please make sure your child knows which venue they will need to go to (this will be on their timetable)

The pastoral team are keen to support students to ensure they feel confident and prepared.

We have shared the resource during mentor time and students are encouraged to start exploring ways of revising and recalling information.

We ask that you support your child at home and discuss ways of revision with them.

## Year 11

### The Cowshed Prom Charity

Attending Prom or the Leavers Ball is an important and exciting event for 16 to 18-year olds. Outfits are often very expensive resulting in some students either not attending or their families potentially getting into debt. We provide a free Prom outfit lending service to any school age children whose families/carers are unable to purchase one for them. They will be able to come and borrow an outfit on a referral basis from their school/educational establishment, social worker, or other charities

<https://www.thecowshed.org/>



## Football Tournaments

We will be hosting Boys and Girls Football tournaments over the summer term for years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The date for each tournament will be confirmed based on the number of teams entered, all tournaments will be taking place after school 3.30-5pm on the Astro.

We are looking for 8 teams per year and will play either 5 or 7 a side (with subs) depending on numbers so please register your team with Mr Gordon ASAP.

There will be prizes for the winners and runners up so enter your teams now!!



## Stars of the Week

### Year 7

7C Malo Finet  
7D Casper Lomas  
7E Madison Elton  
7F Alex Igov  
7G Karisa Ip  
7H Rafi Aslam  
7J Felicity Pohler  
7K Abbie Teles  
7L Mariella Williams

### Year 8

8C Sydney Grant  
8D Ethan Peck  
8E Kate Munro  
8F Jude Lambourne  
8G Francis Osei Boahen  
8H Keane Emmett  
8J Tommy Veal  
8K Alice Clifford  
8L Eva Stratton

### Year 9

9C Tommy Elson  
9D Jemima Harmsworth  
9E Sophia Ng  
9F Adam Abbad  
9G Charlie Deasy  
9H Jacob Seymour Smith  
9J Alexander Reynaert  
9K Marlowe Rundle  
9L Ariseen Miah  
9M Zashyah Brown

### Year 10

10C Grace Marsh  
10D Ollie Ward  
10E Cassia Carter  
10F Sean Gallantry  
10G Alex Collie  
10H Shaleen Saghir  
10J Rowan Linthwaite-Fone  
10K Jessica Mullally  
10L Clement Regi

### Year 11

11C Elsie Kuiper  
11D Masoomah Ali  
11E Matthew Rule  
11F Mia Morgan  
11G Shante Bushnell  
11H Sophie Chandler  
11J Kylie Davies  
11K Finlay Buck  
11L Duarte Basto De Lima