



The weekly newsletter of Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 16 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

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.

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	103731
Grove	101154
Mapledurham	102814
Rosehill	102734

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

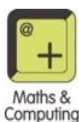
[2021/22](#)

Follow us



Level 2 Fitness Instructor Certificates

We are very proud of our year 12 students who have completed and passed the Active IQ level 2 certificate in Gym Instructing with Boffit.



Women in STEM

Registration is now open for 'Women in STEM' 2022. This is a residential on Sunday 17 July – Tuesday 19 July 2022. The aim is for students to build up their confidence and recognise their personal skills, helping them with any future education and career choices. Attendees will also take part in social activities so they can meet other students interested in STEM. It is open to students in years 9 and 10 and we would encourage parents and carers to speak to their young person's teacher if they are interested. Full information is here: [Women in STEM](#)

Success at School

From top revision techniques for exams, to how parents can help their teenagers prepare for summer work, here are our top 5 careers advice articles parents and students this term.

1. How to support your child through their GCSEs

Is your child sitting their GCSEs this summer? Wondering what you can do to provide GCSE revision support as a parent or carer? Here are some of our top tips

2. Top revision techniques for exams

Sometimes the hardest thing about studying for exams is knowing how to revise. This post will explore some of the best revision techniques to help you get revising.

3. How parents can help their teenagers prepare for summer work

Encouraging your teenager to work over the summer isn't just about helping them make money, it's also a great way to help them gain useful skills for the future. Here's how you can help.

4. What options do I have after taking my GCSE exams?

When you reach 16, you're suddenly faced with some decisions to make. Up until GCSEs, your path has pretty much been mapped out for you. But after all those years of school, you now have some choices.

5. How to make a revision plan

Spending a few hours planning out when you're going to revise really takes the pressure off and lets you concentrate on the work itself. We've come up with a simple, portable and original alternative to the traditional revision timetable template.

InvestIn

Does your child aspire to become a top lawyer or investment banker in a global hub like London or New York? We are offering students aged 12-18 world-class experience in law and finance-related careers this summer. They will conduct immersive work experience activities alongside corporate lawyers, M&A bankers, UN staff, hedge fund managers, criminal barristers and more; in world-famous London locations, including the Supreme Court, the Houses of Parliament and skyscraper City headquarters. More information available here: [Ages 15-18](#) [Ages 12-14](#)

National Online Safety

We are delighted to have received National Online Safety Certified School Accreditation this week. If you have not yet registered as a Highdown Parent/Carer at <https://nationalonlinesafety.com>, why not join the growing number of parents and carers today who have accessed the wide range of guides, courses and webinars!? This resource will help everyone keep up to date and ahead of the ever-growing range of potential risks and harms young people face online.



ParentWise

Dear parents, ParentWise is a new website designed to support parents and carers of children and teenagers. It is a recent Government Home Office initiative prepared in collaboration with a number of charities and organisations. It offers a wide range of support and advice on diverse topics such as drugs & alcohol, bullying and online safety. It is well worth a look and might be useful now or in the future.

[Click here to access the ParentWise website.](#)

Elevate Education

Upcoming Elevate webinars for parents - How to Help Your Child's Essay Writing

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 24th May (6-7pm) - How to Help Your Child's Essay Writing

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

The biggest challenges in essay writing and how to overcome them

How to break down and analyse a question to understand what the examiner is looking for

The musts and must-nots of essay structure.

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.

[Please click here to register.](#)

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

Study & Revision Help

We are delighted to announce that on our school website, there is a new study skills and revision strategies page for students and parents alike. We hope these pages help explain the most recent scientific methods of learning that we use in school, as well as providing other useful information such as how to best organise your time as a student and great ways to take notes in class.

The students' page is [here](#); and for parents there is a 'how to help your child revise' page [here](#).

These pages are new and will be added to in time, so please watch this space! In the meantime, we hope you find these pages useful when helping your child study at home.

Highdown School PTA

HIGHDOWN 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday 18th June 2022 12-3pm

The PTA are supporting the school in this event by providing cream teas and prosecco in the walled garden, as well as arranging stalls. Please come along and support local small businesses and raise a glass to 50 years of Highdown!

If you would like a stall, the cost is £15 to the PTA only (no profit share). We will require a copy of your insurance certificate/s and ask that you bring your own gazebo and weights. Please email highdown_pta@outlook.com for more information.

We are looking for raffle prizes for the event, and would appreciate any donations you can spare.

We would also appreciate assistance on the day with setting up, assisting with the cream tea and breaking down and packing away.

Please email highdown_pta@outlook.com if you are able to assist with a raffle or can offer your help on the day.

Spring Gospel Concert

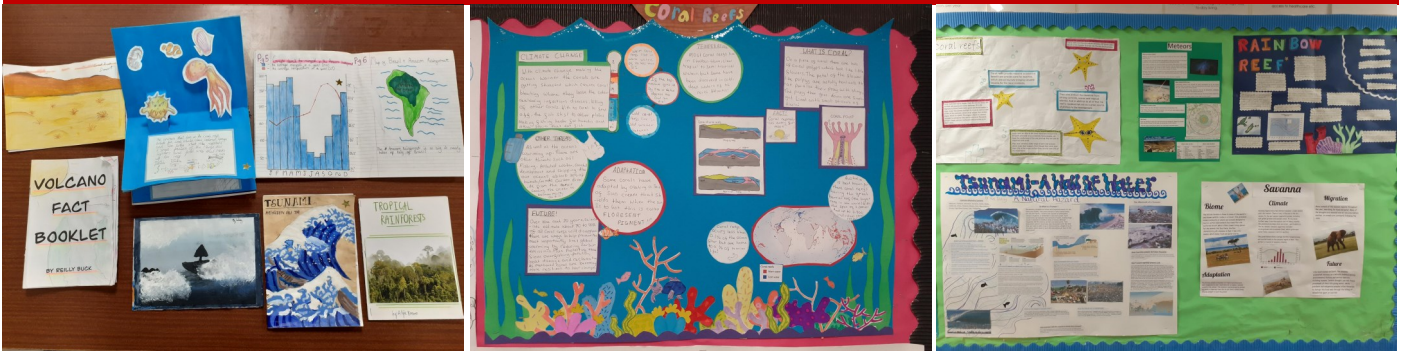


Spring Gospel Concert - In Aid of our Ukraine Emergency Appeal .

Saturday 14th May | 6.30pm – 8.30pm | Reading Minster Church, Reading RG1 2HX

[Tickets + Event Info.](#)

Year 7



Over the Easter holidays some of the Year 7 classes, taught by Mr Walters, were tasked with creating their own independent project on a topic of their choice, as long as it had to do with Natural Disasters or Tropical Environments. It is very clear that the students worked hard in researching a topic that interested them and then creating a deliverable. We received posters, booklets, a model volcano and a hand-made pop-up book covering a wide range of topics, from coral reefs, to asteroid impacts and tsunamis. The geography department has been gob-smacked by the overall quality of the projects submitted. The Year 7 students are a credit to the school.

Year 8

Parents should have received a letter regarding D&T/Computing rotation choices for September, with a link to a Microsoft Form. Students will need to be logged into their Office365 account to complete the form, which needs to be submitted by Monday 13th June. Any questions please email Miss Lobo hcl@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Year 11

A reminder for our Year 11 students that there are hundreds of 'Pods' available to support them with their revision - <https://www.gcsepod.com>. These are bitesize videos of about 3-4 minutes each which cover specific aspects of the examination specifications we follow. If your son/daughter can't get logged in, please contact Mr Grantham on magrantham@highdown.reading.sch.uk.



Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy

How many words can
you make from our
word of the week?
Impartiality

Numeracy



Can you make 609?
Who can get the closest to 609?

D&T - Food

A big thank you to the PTA for their donation to enable us to replace our old herb planter outside the food room. We now have two new planters, which students are already making use of in their food lesson. We hope to add some vegetables soon.



Before



After

KS3 Drama Productions

Open to:
Year 7,
8 & 9



**KS3 Drama production
General Interest meeting**



**Monday 16 May
3.05-3.25
DR2**



Fundraiser Football Tournaments

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM FOR THE FUNDRAISER FOOTBALL SUMMER TOURNAMENTS

See Mr Gordon in PE!



YOUNGmINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

FUNDRAISER FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS

£2 per player - 5-7 a side - 3.30 - 5pm

Register your teams interest with Mr Gordon

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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, future students, the local community, 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
- Activities for all age groups!



www.highdown.reading.sch.uk



@highdownschool



@HighdownSchool



@emmergreen

Literacy Answers

Literacy

Art
Limp
Partial
Impart
Liar
Etc.

Numeracy

$10 + 4 = 14$
 $14 \times 6 = 84$
 $84 + 3 = 87$
 $5 + 2 = 7$
 $87 \times 7 = 609$

Stars of the Week

Year 7

7C Euan Miller
7D Jordon Jobin
7E Lola Wilde
7F Alfie Brown
7G Brooke Dimmock
7H Mason Parke
7J Rafael Andrade
7K Febe Towers
7L Darcey Jones

Year 8

8C Isaac Ford
8D Harry Miller
8E David Sarkodie
8F Therene Kejang
8G Tom Smith
8H Imogen Rosewell
8J Tom Neal
8K Rachel Wise
8L Jack Winder

Year 9

9C Jack Baker-Smith
9D Owen Lau
9E Isla Reynolds
9F Ollie England
9G Alamin Khan
9H Oscar Mann
9J Ellie Watterson
9K Erin Roberts
9L Ben Gander
9M Ollie Hayden

Year 10

10C Charley Launchbury
10D Ollie Ward
10E Lauren Hembra
10F Mwango Mubanga
10G Katie Guy
10H Megan Parker
10J Kesar France-Miller
10K Dipa Ahmed
10L Clement Regi

Year 11

11C Leon Forsyth-Hayden
11D Ben Emmett
11E Kate Coulson
11F EVERYONE!
11G Violet Wood
11H Skyla Bedwell-Edwards
11J Elman
11K Bella Mills
11L Lily Mae Sykes

HAPPY WEEKEND