



The weekly newsletter of
Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 7 November 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 using the Class Charts app rather than by telephone, email or ParentMail. We hope parents will find this route much more straightforward and efficient. You can find out more here:

<https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1803&type=pdf>.

SEND

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

Join Us

We currently have a number of support staff positions available. Please follow the link [here](#) to the school website to find out more information.

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	34576
Grove	33029
Mapledurham	33690
Rosehill	33522

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2022/23](#)

Mon 7 Nov	Highdown Literary Festival Yrs 7-9
Tues 8 Nov	Sixth Form tours
Thurs 10 Nov	Yr 11 Music Recital 7pm
Fri 11 Nov	Yr 10 Model UN Climate conference
	Yrs 8-10 French Language Production
	PTA Quiz 7pm

Follow us



School Photographs

Please be advised the School Photographs have arrived.

Any students in Years 7, 9 and 11 who ordered school photographs can now collect them from the Finance Office.

Poppy Appeal

We have been selling poppies and other items for remembrance, with Year 11 students visiting mentors.



Students can continue to purchase poppies next week with Year 11 students visiting mentor periods at the following times:

Monday	Year 11
Tuesday	Years 12 and 13
Wednesday	Year 7
Thursday	Year 8
Friday	Years 9 and 10

Health and Safety

Guidance on Covid for the winter months

Please be advised the current guidance from the UK Government for children and young people is as follow:

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults. Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

For further information please visit our website at: <https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/medical>

Yr7 Learning Conference: Becoming Independent

All Year 7 students took part in one of our very first Learning Conferences on Friday this week. In this conference, they learnt about various soft skills they need to develop in becoming independent as they get older; these skills include how to be organized, the benefits of being adaptable and who to talk to if support is needed.

Year 7 also heard more personal anecdotes and tips from a Year 11 and a Year 12 student about how to be 'future ready', develop resilience and feel confident in school so they can achieve their potential. Please do have a chat with your child about the session and see what they think they still need to focus on in the journey to independence.

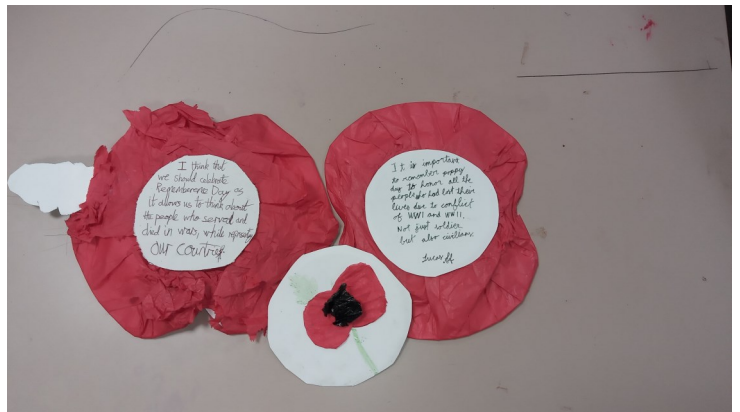
These topics will be revisited and discussed further in mentor sessions throughout the year.



Year 7 History Club

A group of year 7 students attended the history club this week and made poppies in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. The students also explained why it is important to honour this day and wrote their thoughts onto their poppies.

Here are some of the students with their poppies, together with some examples of why Remembrance Sunday is important.



I want to thank the students for taking part and joining me at history club. I am looking forward to seeing you again next Thursday.

Ms Harding

Year 8

Announcement

Year 8 have been using their laptops this week to check out Careerpilot. This is a fabulous website to introduce career considerations through exploration. Students can complete activities, adding to their profile, and research different sectors. This week we updated our skills profiles and are beginning to look at values and potential careers which align with these.

As Year 8 are using their devices during Mentor period and other lessons throughout the day, it is important for the devices to be ready to use. I would appreciate your support in reminding Year 8 to charge their laptops in the evening, so they have full batteries for the day ahead. If laptops are borrowed from the Network Office, students should collect these between 8:30 and 8:50am. Laptops are to be returned at the end of the school day to the Network Office only.

Thank you for your support in the Bring Your Own Device roll out.

Science Enrichment

The poster features a background image of various pinned butterfly specimens. A central white text box contains the following information:

Natural History Investigators
For Y9, 10 and 11 students
Saturdays from 7th January until 4th March 2023
2-4pm
Taster Session Saturday 7th January

Take part in a series of free hands-on workshops
Explore nature using museum specimens
Meet experts
Devise your own investigations based on your nature interests

To the right of the text box, the Museum of Natural History logo is displayed, featuring a stylized bird. Below the logo, the text reads:

Museum of
**Natural
History**
University of Oxford

At the bottom right, the poster asks: "Are you interested in becoming an investigator?" and provides contact information: "If so, please contact education@oum.ox.ac.uk by 19th December 2022 for more information."

Oxford University Museum of Natural History will be running another series of Natural History Investigator sessions in January 2023.

These eight free Saturday sessions are for students in Years 9, 10 or 11 who are interested in science and nature.

People taking part explore the museum's collection of animals, rock and fossils, meet experts from the museum and the wider University and devise their own research investigations.

If you would like to know more, please contact education@oum.ox.ac.uk by Monday 19 December.

The Literary Festival!

When? Monday 7th November 2022

Who? Visiting Authors:

[Matt Dickinson](#) and [Simon James Green](#)

(Click to find out more information about the authors)

Why? To celebrate the importance of reading.



Art Department

Reminder of the Art Competition to win an art supplies voucher!

Please see the poster for entry details. You will need to email Miss Lawman a clear photo of your artwork with your full name and year group by 12 December at the latest. I will then email entries for submission. Notification of any winning entries will not be until July 2023, but we would like to get our submissions in early! Get your art mojo going!

Miss Lawman - Art Teacher

Art Competition time!

Highdown Students: Time to Unleash your inner art mojo and creativity!

Dryad Art Supplies has come up with a competition for students where you can win a £200 art voucher to spend with them and the school can win a voucher to spend too.

Entries can be in any artistry- textiles, drawing, painting, mixed media, photography, sculpture and can be anything remember that lots of other schools will be part of this so spend time getting a piece together.

Submissions: send an email to me with a clear photograph of your work and Your full name, and age and School to salawman@highdown.reading.sch.uk by December 12

Any questions please email me and or come and find me in A1.

specialist CRAFTS
ART
DESIGN





A record number of Highdown students have completed their Bronze DofE award and have collectively volunteered over 1000 hours supporting projects which benefit the local community. This alone is merit worthy, but every single participant embarking on this aspirational award makes a commitment to become more physically active, develop new skills and make a positive contribution to society.

This year participants planned and completed a two-day overnight hiking expedition in the Chiltern hills, carrying everything they would need on their backs and navigating unfamiliar terrain as a team. Those who completed the expedition will all have stories to tell and examples of leadership, resilience and teamwork when they start to attend interviews in the near future. The DofE award is considered the most valuable, non-academic qualification by both Universities and Employers for good reason.

This year we have made changes to how the award is delivered, to help ensure we can offer a place to every Highdown student who wishes to participate. We will now be working with Path Hill Adventures to run training and assessment for our expeditions. This change brings many new opportunities such as allowing participants to begin their journey in year 9 and providing access higher levels of the award.

Students who were lucky enough to join us at Rhos-Y-Gwaliau already have some experience of Gold level DofE expeditions and we look forward to them taking on the challenges of the DofE award this year.

The details for enrolling on the award were distributed via ClassCharts earlier this week and we look forward to welcoming the new cohort of participants.

Fundraising News

On Thursday 3 November Rosehill House were delighted to hand over their cheque to Jazmin Parker from Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service.

Rosehill House raised a total of £1122.04 from their fundraising events for the charity.



Stars of week

7C Sienna Ellmer
7D Leah Fothergill
7E Luke Preece
7F Emily Mackie
7G Ollie McAndrew
7H Berk Furmaz
7J Jamie Lambourne
7K Tula Matthews
7L Freddie Sheppard

8C Annabelle Lam
8D Brooke Elton
8E Darcey Wignall
8F Alicia Higgs
8G Khyra Lenon
8H Callie Wenham
8J Samuel Musker
8K Nyasha Mutabeni
8L Samuel Boughton

9C Ryan Chung
9D Ben Attwood-Brown
9E Eshan Beg
9F Darby Buck
9G Dylan Williams
9H Arran Morris
9J Saleh Mohamed
9K Freya Carter
9L Juniper King

10C Lyna Ghomari
10D Isaac Davis
10E Sarah Hoxhaj
10F Ewan Hastings
10G Charlie Deasy
10H Megan Ray
10J Thivyan Sutharsan
10K Charlie Gomm
10L Hope Hussain
10M Nicole Maslin

11C Max Hooper
11D Ruth Daniel
11E Miriam White
11F Flick Cairns
11G Eryn Mortimore
11H Natalie Benham
11J Olivia Hussey
11K Madeleine Round
11L Emma Gibson



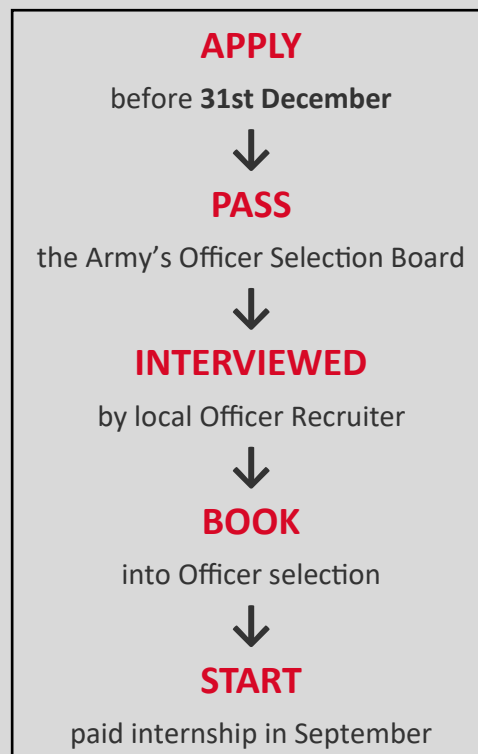
Are you seeking world class leadership training and unrivalled opportunity?

The **Army Officer Internship** offers the chance for students to experience the role for 6 to 18-months before, during or after university.

Gain unrivalled insight into the life of an Army Officer, with plenty of support from our team. Whilst this is not an active service role, students will still experience the range of training and opportunities available to a young Army Officer.

Find out more here: <https://apply.army.mod.uk/what-we-offer/regular-officer/internships>

- Apply by 31st December for internships starting the following September.
- Anyone with, or seeking a place at a university or college, or who has graduated within the last 2 years can apply.
- Army Officer Interns will be paid £18000/year (£1500/month) in this role.
- Once the internship has been complete you can elect to remain in the Army as a Reservist or regular Army Officer.





Sector Webinar: **Pharmaceutical**

There are still thousands of diseases for which we have no cure, so the work of the pharmaceutical industry will continue to be essential for the foreseeable future. Sign up for this webinar if you are interested in becoming part of that exciting endeavour.

Presented by Andrew Croydon | Skills & Education
Policy and Examinations Director
The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

Monday 16th January 2023

6 - 7pm

Please book via the Adviza Portal under '[Events](#)'
Cost: FREE | Suitable for all ages

For more information please email
careersguidance@adviza.org.uk
0118 402 7050 | www.adviza.org.uk



Bookings are free and can be made via the [Events](#) page on the Careers Portal.

This webinar is suitable for all year groups and students, parents/carers and staff are all welcome to join in. If you require any further details, please email: careersguidance@adviza.org.uk

The webinar will be recorded and become available on the [Past Webinars](#) page so it can be viewed again at a later date

Allied Healthcare Mentor's NHS Virtual Work Experience Programme

The next session for **Allied Healthcare Mentor's NHS Virtual Work Experience Programme** is this **Sunday 6 November**. This programme is for students in years 10 - 13 considering a career in healthcare. We encourage students to register as soon as possible for the next session this Sunday.

Students can register for Sunday's session using this link:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

Health Education England's discovery report on virtual work experience programmes concluded that these programmes are a valuable adjunct to in-person work experience, especially in our current climate where in-person experiences remain extremely limited.

This NHS Virtual Work Experience Programme is suitable for anyone considering:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Paramedicine
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Dietetics
- Radiography
- Prosthetics and Orthotics
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Pharmacy

Once they've registered, students will be emailed links to their virtual work experience portals.

All attendees are awarded a Work Experience Certificate for every session they complete. Those who complete the full 5-month programme will be awarded a Highly Commended Reference from the Presidents of Allied Healthcare Mentor.

During the work experience day, students will follow 2 patients from their initial presentation to recovery. They will gain a unique insight into how patients interact with a variety of healthcare professionals and what it's like to work in an NHS multidisciplinary team.

Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with healthcare professionals throughout each day, allowing them to make informed decisions about their future careers.

[RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk](https://ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk) invites you and your students to a **FREE virtual careers event** on **Tuesday 22 November, from 5pm**. This information-packed virtual event is perfect for students in years 10-13, teachers and parents who want to learn more about options outside of university. By joining, students will hear from current apprentices about a life free of university debt and filled with incredible career prospects. They'll also interact with 15 of the UK's best employers, including **Sage**, **KPMG**, and **AstraZeneca**! Get your ticket here:

[RMA Virtual Event 2022 - RMA Virtual Event 2022 \(ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk\)](https://ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk)

Adviza Higher Education Webinar: Criminology, which will take place on Wednesday 23 November 2022, from 6pm - 7pm. Bookings can be made via the [Events](#) page on the Careers Portal now. This webinar is suitable for all year groups and students, parents/carers and staff, are welcome to join in. If you require any further details, please email: careersguidance@adviza.org.uk



Residential Insight into University

Summer Schools 2023

Insight into University residential courses (previously known as Headstart) are summer schools run over 4 or 5 days where students get a taster of university life and an insight into a specific STEM subject. Students will get the opportunity to experience university style lectures and work on activities and group projects with the support of academics and student mentors. Students will stay in halls of residence and will take part in social activities in the evenings.

These courses are for Year 12/55-6 students and are a great way to try out a STEM subject at university before applying. This allows students to make a better informed decision for their UCAS application, as well as meeting like-minded students from all over the UK.

These summer schools are run for small groups (on average 30 students) and so places are limited.

Applications open on the 3rd of October 2022 and will close on the 3rd of January 2023.

Courses running in summer 2023

Maths at Lancaster
Mechanical Engineering at UCL
Life Sciences at Warwick
Materials Science at Oxford
Robotics at Liverpool
Broad-based Engineering at Sheffield
Materials Science at Cambridge
Aerospace Engineering at Liverpool

Find out more and apply on our website [here](https://www.etrust.org.uk/residential-insight-into-university).

Statistics from 2022

99%

of participants said they would recommend the course to other students!

94%

of participants said they felt the experience on the course will help them make a better informed decision for their UCAS application.

What our students say

"The course was extremely informative as well as enjoyable, I loved meeting so many new people who were just as interested in the same subjects as me as well as being able to learn so much within such a short space of time."

"I thoroughly enjoyed this course - the people were lovely, the food was great and the proper hands-on STEM subject experience was invaluable to my understanding of life as a student."

"It was AWESOME AND FANTASTIC!!! I loved having loads of practical activities and getting to see the Engineering Labs. I also liked getting the opportunity to feel like I was actually a university student at UCL, as well as making incredible friends."



Follow us on social media



Visit our website

www.etrust.org.uk/residential-insight-into-university



Are you ready to take your career to new heights? From Pilots to Cabin Crew, Project Management or Business, to Engineering and Digital careers. British Airways, one of the U.K's most iconic brands, has the right career waiting just for you!

On Monday 14th November from 5:00pm - 6:00pm Young Professionals will be hosting an exclusive event with British Airways to showcase the huge range of career opportunities that are available to you after school!

British Airways are the UK's largest international scheduled airline, flying to nearly 600 destinations around the world!

It's an exciting time to be at British Airways. They are growing their global route network, investing in their fleet, and transforming the experience they offer their customers. From Customer Service to Aircraft Engineering, you needn't know everything about the world, or even be well-travelled! Provided you are curious and open to new experiences, you can make a real impact from day one.

Their Apprenticeship opportunities appeal to the adventurous and those who want to start earning right away, whilst getting a head start in their careers. Whether you aspire to work in their global head office, be face to face with customers at Heathrow Airport, or behind the scenes in their engineering and operations teams, there is an opportunity for you.

Discover where a career with British Airways could take you. Click the link below to register yourself for our upcoming online event. This event will be held virtually via Zoom, so you can tune in from anywhere in the country!

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BA-Insight-Evening>

Highdown
School and
Sixth Form
Centre

Careers
Fair 2022

Thursday
17th
November
6- 8 p.m.

We are delighted to announce the return of our annual Careers Fair for students in Years 9-13 and their families. This is a key event in our careers development programme and we are extremely grateful to all the employers and organisations for all their support.

A wide range of organisations will be available to talk to students about their careers, qualifications and pathways.

There will be something for everyone including advice and guidance on progressing to university, further education, apprenticeships and traineeships. There will also be presentations on volunteering and gap years.

If you or your organisation would like to book a stand at this event, please contact the team at: careers@highdown.reading.sch.uk or simply fill in this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/G1v11YcYrX>

CAREERS



A big thank you to the PTA parents and teachers who came along to help with the Year 7 and 8 Disco, it was a real success! Thank you to all the students who attended, it would not go ahead without your support!



The Big PTA November Quiz

There are 2 days left until ticket sales close for the quiz.

Last time we were unable to sell tickets on the door as we had sold out, **so secure your place now!**

To book your tickets click here:

www.pta-events.co.uk/highdown/

The PTA have a new initiative - we have entered **Your School Lottery**, please support our fundraising efforts by clicking the link:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/highdown-school-and-sixth-form-centre>

and buying a ticket! Fabulous prizes to be won at only £1 per ticket!

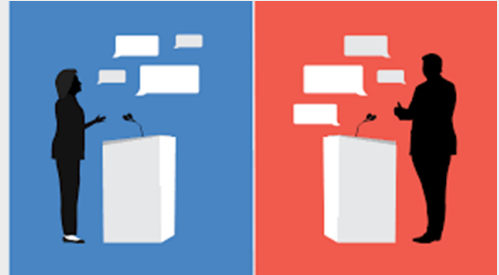
Literacy Task

Have a debate on any of the below:

“Should we ban homework: does homework promote learning?”

“Is it natural human instinct to be greedy?”

“Does modern social media make people less socially active?”



<https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html>

Word of the Week: Gratuitous

ADJECTIVE

done without good reason; uncalled for.

Numeracy Challenge

Numeracy:

In my drawer I have 10 blue socks and 10 red socks.

It is dark when I wake up and my bedroom light is broken.

How many socks do I need to grab from the drawer to make sure I definitely have a pair of matching socks?

Bonus: What if I have 10 blue, 10 red, 10 green?

Bonus 2: What if I have x different colours and y of each colour?



Information, advice and services for Reading's children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

What is the Local Offer?

The Local Offer is a service and website (readingsendlocaloffer.org) that provides lots of information and support for children and young people, aged 0-25, with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

It enables children and young people, their families and carers to access the support which best matches their own needs.

It's also a useful resource for professionals and service providers.

What information is available?

- Details of early years childcare and education settings, schools and colleges
- Local health services and provision for social care
- Local special needs support
- Guidance and services to assist in preparing children and young people for adulthood, including pathways to employment
- Carers advice and support
- Special needs activities and Short Breaks
- Transport options
- A calendar of activities, events and local groups
- Plus, lots of advice and guidance on a whole range of topics.



Contact



0118 937 3777 (option 2)



localoffer@reading.gov.uk



www.readingsendlocaloffer.org



@ReadingLocalOffer

Stay safe on Bonfire Night

Never touch fireworks



Stand well back from the bonfire



Never go near a firework after it has been lit



Only one sparkler at a time



Wear gloves when holding a sparkler



Keep pets indoors



Community events *continued*

Caversham and District Residents' Association

Following the closure of Emmer Green Residents' Association, **Caversham and District Residents Association (CADRA)** have stepped in to keep an eye on local matters.

The next CADRA open meeting will be taking place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9 November 2022, in the Highdown School Hall

To mark the achievements of the Emmer Green Residents' Association from 1984 to 2022, CADRA have looked for projects they can support in Emmer Green using funds from EGRA after it closed.

CADRA's first project for the Emmer Green area was to dedicate some funds towards a limited reprint of the book—*Emmer Green Past & Present*.

Copies of the book are on sale at Four Bears bookshop in Caversham and will also be available to purchase at the meeting.

As well as having Margaret Ormonde, the author of the book present, there will also be a Senior trading standards officer talking about the new threats emerging from scams.

All staff and parents of Highdown School are welcome.



Answer to numeracy challenge:

You need to take out 3 socks to make sure you have a pair.

Bonus answer: You need to take out 4 socks.

Bonus 2 answer: You need to take out $x+1$ socks

HAPPY WEEKEND