



The weekly newsletter of

## Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 10 October 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.



### 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 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.

### HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	19580
Grove	18987
Mapledurham	19100
Rosehill	18868

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2022/23](#)

Tue 11 Oct	KS3 Drama Production 7pm
Wed 12 Oct	KS3 Drama Production 7pm
Thurs 13 Oct	Rock Concert 7pm

### 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.

Follow us



## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding Update

Please find a link here to a 15 minute safety video concerning railway track safety from Network Rail in partnership with Learn Live.

We would encourage parents/carers to watch this short safety video with their child/children

- <https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/>.

A powerful message with real life stories delivered clearly and sensitively.

Enter the email [railsafety@learnliveuk.com](mailto:railsafety@learnliveuk.com) into the 'I am registered' field when you first watch the video.

## Extra Curricular Activities



# Highdown Quiz Club

Starting **Friday 14th October 2022** and then every Friday after-school – 3.10pm start in **M7**.

Practice different formats over the year including individual quizzing, team quizzing and buzzer quizzing.


Explore interesting topics and areas.




**Year 7s and Year 8s only.**

Bring your own device please.

Mr Hutchinson and Mr Fasham



**HUTCHINSON**



**Fasham**

## Extra Curricular Activities

### Extra-Curricular Clubs Sept 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before School</b>					KS4 Breakfast Club
<b>KS3 Break</b>					
<b>KS4 Break</b>					
<b>KS3 Lunch</b>	Ukulele 12.25-1.05pm MU1 / A Jeffries	KS3 Drama Club 12.25-1.05pm DR1 / O Holmes	Junior Choir 12.25-1.05pm MU1 / G Beale	Year 7/8 Geography Club H11 Environmental issues & sustainability. Please bring a drink and lunch.	
<b>KS4 Lunch</b>	Barbershop 1.25-2.05pm MU3 / H Santer		Funk and Soul 1.25-2.05pm MU3 / H Santer	Senior Choir 1.25-2.05pm MU1 / K Reid	
<b>Afterschool</b>	KS4 Art/Graphics/Photography 3.15-4.15pm Drop in	KS3 play rehearsals 3.15-4.30pm DR2 / S Lake & P Hawkins  Show Band 3.05-4.05pm MU1 / A Jeffries  Production Singers 3.05-4.05pm Mu2 / G Beale (Nov onwards)  KS4 Art/Graphics/Photography 3.15-4.15pm Drop in	Orchestra 3.05-3.50pm MU1 / K Reid  A Level Music Tech coursework sessions 3.05-5.05pm MU3 / H Santer  YR 9/10 Improvisation club 3.15-4.15pm DR2 / O Holmes  KS3 Writing Club E1 / E Beale  KS3 Art Club (from 12 October – details to follow from E Garner)  KS4 Art/Graphics/Photography 3.15-4.15pm (Drop in)	Senior Play rehearsals 3.15-4.30pm S Lake  KS3 Book Club E6 / H Eveleigh  YR7 History Club (from Oct half term)  GCSE Geography Club 3.10-4pm  KS4 Art/Graphics/Photography 3.15-4.15pm Drop in	YR 7/8 Quiz Club

### 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](mailto:salawman@highdown.reading.sch.uk) by December 12

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



**Deadline for the art competition is 12 December - entries to Miss Lawman via email with a photograph of art work attached.**

**Entries must have this information:**

**Student full name, Year group, name of School (Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre) and name of artwork and how it was done (e.g. painting, drawing, photograph, textiles, clay).**

**Thank you**

**Miss Lawman**

**Please note all English clubs will begin after half term.**



### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TERMS 1 + 2

LUNCH-TIME ACTIVITIES				TUESDAY	
MON	Girls Beginners swimming			HOCKEY	CROSS COUNTRY girls
WED	Year 10/11 Boys fitness suite			10/11/Sixth form girls	RUGBY year 7 boys
THURS	Year 9 Boys & Girls fitness suite				
WEDNESDAY				THURSDAY	
FOOTBALL girls	RUGBY Boys 10/11			RUGBY Boys 8/9	HOCKEY 7/8/9 girls

### Success Beyond School online seminars

We are delighted to announce the first events in our *Success Beyond School* series for this academic year. **These are live online seminars featuring career experts, designed to help parents amplify their children's career potential.** The events are for parents of students aged 12-18 and are free to attend.

#### 12th October: Making it in Medicine

Expert advice on how to get into medical school

#### 16th November: Future-Proofing Students

Preparing students for the jobs of the future

#### 30th November: Finding a Future in Finance

Gaining the skills for a career in Finance

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](mailto:careers@highdown.reading.sch.uk) or simply fill in this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/G1v11YcYrX>

# CAREERS







adviza  
BRIGHTER FUTURES

## Employer Webinar: Honda

Vehicle maintenance requires skilled workers who can repair highly sophisticated computer-controlled systems as well as older, less technical vehicles. If this interests you, find out how you could be a part of it!

Presented by Dan Hawkins, Service Manager  
at Honda in Aylesbury

**Tuesday 8th November 2022**

**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](mailto:careersguidance@adviza.org.uk)

0118 402 7050 | [www.adviza.org.uk](http://www.adviza.org.uk)



## Career Corner continued

### Are you interested in pursuing a career in Business and Finance?

On **Wednesday 12th October from 5:00pm - 6:00pm**, CIMA will be hosting an online insight event and will be bringing with them a number of senior finance professionals from global technology giants IBM, world-leading infrastructure and engineering firm Amey and Network Rail, who are the owner and manager of the vast majority of Britain's railway network.

All these organisations turn over billions on an annual basis, so the professionals you'll get to hear and learn from are responsible for the oversight of huge sums of money.

But what's most interesting about their work is then how they use their financial data to make strategic business decisions.

### So what is a Management Accountant?

Officially, management accountants help businesses all over the world manage their finances. But in reality, there's so much more to it than that. They are business leaders. Innovators. Decision makers. Forecasters. There's no one industry or role that they work in: you'll find management accountants in all kinds of companies, public and private, big and small.

Day to day, they interpret financial data, prepare reports and use business knowledge to help management make decisions. They'll always be looking to the future and figuring out ways to improve things for the company.

In short – they're pretty important.

If you'd like to register for this exclusive online event and hear from senior financial figures at world-leading companies, please click on the registration link below.

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Business-Event-CIMA>



### Residential Insight into University 2023 courses is now open!

Applications will remain open until 3 January 2023. Make sure your students do not miss out on this opportunity to experience STEM studies at university and the career opportunities that these subjects lead to. These summer schools are recommended on UCAS website as a tool to prepare students for higher education and make their UCAS application stand out.

[Residential Insight into University](#) courses are Industrial Cadets accredited summer schools which can help you decide which degree course might be right for you and also enhance your UCAS application. Courses run over 4 or 5 days where Yr12/S5-6 students get a taster of university life and an insight into a specific STEM subject. In summer 2023 these will include:

*Materials Science at University of Oxford*  
*Maths at Lancaster University*  
*Broad-based Engineering at University of Sheffield*  
*Materials Science at University of Cambridge*  
*Robotics & Autonomous Systems at University of Liverpool*  
*Mechanical Engineering at UCL*  
*Life Sciences at University of Warwick – details coming soon*  
*Aerospace Engineering at University of Liverpool – details coming soon*

It is just like studying at university! You will get the opportunity to experience university style lectures and work on activities and group projects with the support of academics and student mentors. Throughout the duration of the course, you will stay in halls of residence and will take part in social activities in the evenings.

For dates, cost, requirements, content of each course and the application form, please click [here](#).

Please note places on each course are limited so it is highly recommended that you apply ASAP to avoid disappointment. Make sure you think about what to write on your personal statement (approx. 200 - 250 words) to tell us why you would like to do the course, which subjects you are currently studying and your predicted grades.

Applications are open for a limited time and will close on the 3 January 2023.

Please make sure you check out our [FAQs page](#) if you have any questions or contact our student support team on [studentrecruitment@etrust.org.uk](mailto:studentrecruitment@etrust.org.uk)

To hear what students had to say about their residential summer course last summer, please click [here](#).



**Apply now for our 2023 Women in Engineering Insight Experience**

Are you thinking about your apprenticeship options, but not sure what route's right for you?

**Why engineering?**

It might not be something you've considered, but a BAE Systems engineering apprenticeship gives you the opportunity to build valuable skills, gain new experiences, and work while you continue to learn – a solid foundation to help launch your future career.

**Still not sure?**

Then make sure you apply for our **Women in Engineering Insight Experience**. Taking place over four days early next year, you'll get a sneak-peak into what an engineering apprenticeship is all about, and get to visit our sites. And if you like what you see, you could be offered a full-time position on one of our engineering apprenticeships, starting in Autumn 2023.

**What our participants said:**

"The best thing about the experience was going on site, learning lots of new skills and meeting loads of people that knew a lot about apprenticeships and BAE Systems, it really helped to get a better understanding."

**Apply now!**

There are a limited number of slots, so scan the QR code to apply now.



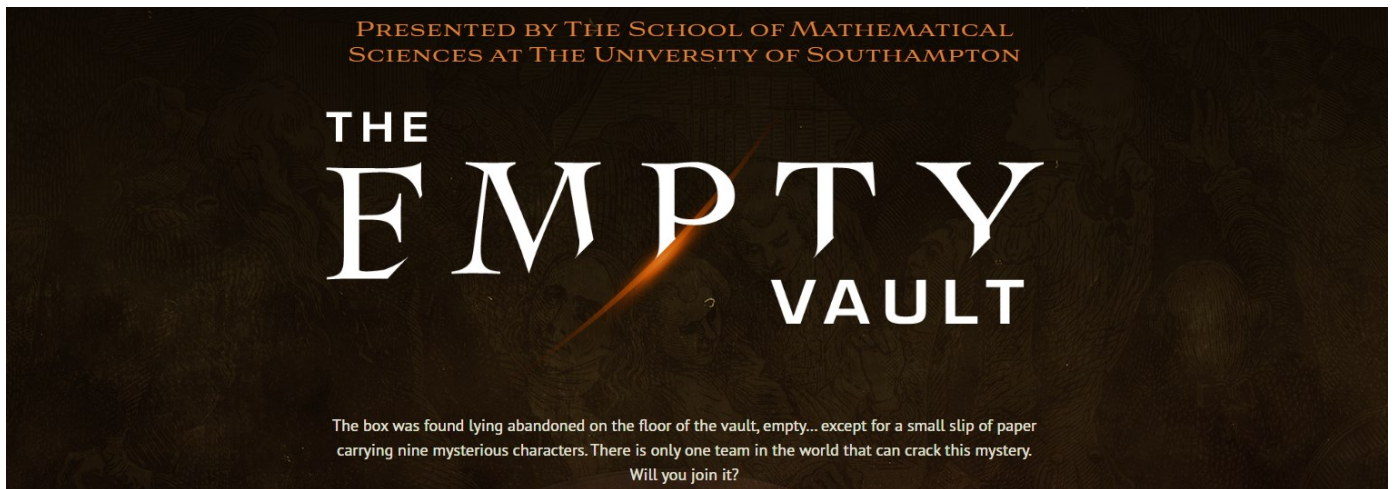
**About BAE Systems**

We're one of the UK's leading STEM employers, bringing together 35,300 professionals nationwide across engineering, aeronautics, technology, procurement, project management and many more. Like you, we're passionate about helping young people embrace STEM subjects and discover careers in engineering and technology.

Together we can inspire bright minds from all backgrounds to access opportunities in our industry. At BAE Systems we serve, supply and protect those who serve and protect us – and provide opportunities for our 2,000 apprentices in learning to find a place to build meaningful careers.

<https://www.baesystems.com/en/careers/careers-in-the-uk/apprenticeships/insight-experiences>





Well done to everyone who has already signed up to the National Cipher Challenge  
<https://www.cipherchallenge.org/>.

Students working on the challenge are welcome to join Mr Hutchinson in M7, 3.10-4pm on Wednesdays, for support, advice or just somewhere quiet to work on the codes.

Highdown Drama Presents.....

H I G H D O W N   D R A M A   P R E S E N T . . .

# The Boy Who Fell into a Book

A collection of colorful books in various sizes and orientations, appearing to fall or float around the title. The books are in shades of red, teal, and yellow. Some are open, showing pages, while others are closed. Small colored dots (red, teal, yellow) are scattered around the books, suggesting motion or a magical atmosphere.

by Alan Ayckbourn

**Tuesday 11 October 2022**  
**Wednesday 12 October 2022**

**DR2 - 7pm**

Limited Seating: Tickets on the door.  
£3 Students/Concession £4 Adult

This amateur production of 'The Boy who Fell into a Book' is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals LTD. On behalf of Samuel French LTD.  
[www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Year 7 and 8 Disco**

Friday 21 October

Tickets can be purchased here [www.pta-events.co.uk/highdown](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/highdown) . See poster on the next page for details.

### **The Big PTA November Quiz**

Friday 11 November

Tickets for this event will be available after the disco.



## **Join us**

We are in need of more parents on the PTA.

If you are able to join us or offer time to assist at events, please email us at [Highdown\\_PTA@outlook.com](mailto:Highdown_PTA@outlook.com)

### Online Maths Club

Mathematician and Author, Dr Simon Singh MBE, has developed the Parallel Universe at <https://parallel.org.uk/>.

The Parallel Universe:

- is completely free
- offers a weekly maths problem sheet, known as a Parallelogram
- offers live online maths circles, where students can learn from some of the best maths educators in the world
- offers programmes tailored to each age group, from 9 to 18 years old; and awards certificates and diplomas to students who complete Parallelograms and attend Maths Circles

There is no obligation to get involved, but we think this is a great opportunity for keen maths students to stretch themselves and explore mathematical concepts beyond the classroom. This is also ideal for students who want to go on to study science or engineering.

Students can sign up at <https://parallel.org.uk/> entering the school/teacher code **RJUI-5UCP** when prompted. Using this teacher code means that we will be able to track students' participation and progress here in school in order to award our own certificates, prizes and house points. We have a department full of maths teachers who love puzzles and problem solving so if you get stuck on something or are particularly proud of a solution then please do share it with us.

We have a number of students who have already registered from last year and have already completed a number of puzzles in September.

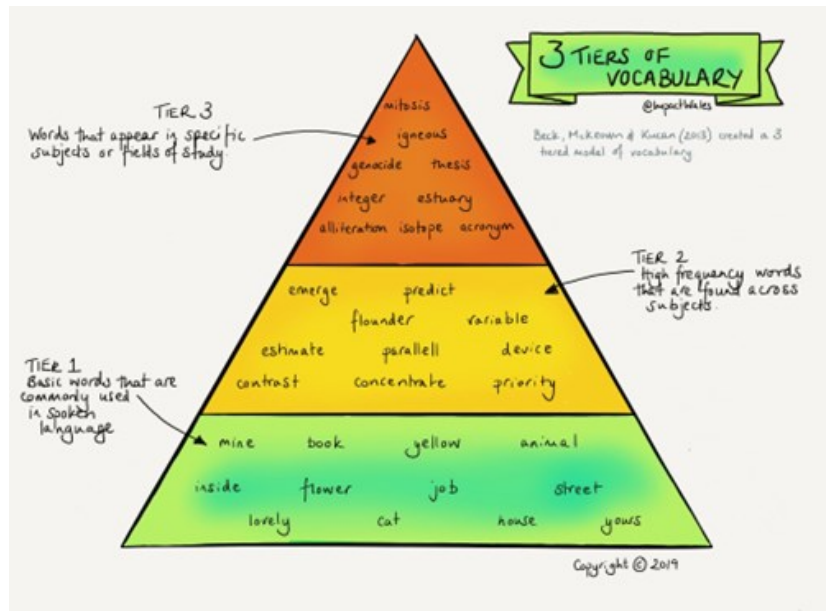
Happy puzzling!



## Yr10 Learning Conference: A New Adventure

All Year 10 took part in one of our very first Learning Conferences on Thursday this week. They learnt about how best to prepare themselves for the challenges of the GCSE course and that if they attend 95% (or more) of lessons, they have a far greater chance of attaining higher GCSE grades.

Year 10 also learnt about various different methods of taking notes and how they will help with revision next year. If you have a child in Year 10 why don't you ask them about the benefits of Cornell notes? Or the importance of using dual coding in their work? Or even see if they can tell you the difference between tier 2 and 3 vocabulary and explain why they are both important when they take exams?

[illegible]

## Year 13

Many thanks to those of you who attended our Pathways Presentation webinar last Thursday, and thank you to those of you who got in touch to say how useful you found it.

As there was a lot of information during the four presentations, the presenters have kindly agreed to share their slides and these can now be found on this area of the school website

<https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+13+Pathways+Evening&pid=420>

Students can catch up on the recording of the webinar via their Microsoft Teams account.

## Modern Foreign Language

The MFL department are very proud of all students in the Mandarin Excellence Programme.

Following Hurdle tests at the end of the last academic year, the results achieved by students in the Mandarin Excellence Programme in years 7, 8 and 9 were higher than the national averages across all skills (reading, listening, writing and speaking).

Year 10 Mandarin Excellence Students took the HSK3 exam, and all passed at either Gold or Silver level. These results again were higher than the national average.

The students have worked incredibly hard, and their efforts were rewarded with these outstanding results!

## House Week Stars of the Week

### GROVE

- G1 Eddy Leach
- G2 Benedek Nagy
- G3 Hala Al-Waheidi
- G4 Prior O'Reilly
- G5 Alexandru Ariton
- G6 Alex Burley
- G7 Thea Perry
- G8 Zayaan Mehdi
- G9 Emily Neville
- G10 Jannath Khan
- G11 Jessica Nothnagel
- G12 Werner John
- G13 Bee Highley



### ROSEHILL

- R1 Chloe Gaskell
- R2 Sinan Girgin
- R3 Voke Orife
- R4 Ellie Naylor
- R5 Holly Traynor
- R6 Xavier Carter
- R7 Jamie Scott
- R8 Advit Jha
- R9 Rohan Janjuha
- R10 Madeleine Round
- R11 Conor Allen
- R12 Callum Pieper
- R13 Faris Bushnaq



### CAVERSHAM

- C1 Scarlett Mendham
- C2 Jayden Allen
- C4 Luke Donnelly
- C5 Imogen Coyne
- C6 Jane Vincent
- C7 Shaun Sunny
- C8 Tudor Stefan
- C9 Skye Grant
- C10 Leo Clark
- C11 Siri Chippada
- C12 George Busby
- C13 Kelsey Cran



### MAPLEDURHAM

- M1 Ellie Hayden
- M2 Maisie Smith
- M3 Ashlynn Kingshott
- M4 Ellie McNulty
- M5 Rushda Basha
- M6 Finley Crabb
- M7 Kesar France-Miller
- M8 James Barrett
- M9 Ashis Tamang
- M10 Lucy Tayler
- M11 Lucy Ray
- M12 David Sarkodie
- M13 Hannah Redrup-Kempen



## Student Leadership Team

Would you like to be a Student Leader and join the Student Leadership Team for 2022-2023?

Applications are now OPEN!

We are now welcoming applications for the following positions:

- House Chairs (Yr12) x4
- Deputy Chairs (Yr12) X4
- Junior House Chairs (Yr10) x4
- Junior Deputy Chairs (Yr10) x4
- KS3 Ambassadors (Yr7-9) x16

Information about each role and a form to make your application, can be found on **Class Charts Announcements**

Please read the **Job Description** of your chosen role carefully to ensure you can commit fully to the requirements.

Please only apply once, and for one role only. The selection panel will consider you for other roles during the selection process without the need to re-apply.

Closing date for applications: **Wednesday 12th October, 5pm.**





*Special United*  
*The voice of young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities*  
*and their siblings*

Come and join us  
on  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 from 5:30pm-7:30pm  
at  
The Avenue School, Conwy Close, Reading, RG30 4BZ

We will be joined by Allison Bradshaw who is the Project Manager at the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Allison is leading a new Keyworker Scheme for teenagers and young people with Autism and Learning Disabilities who are struggling to cope with their mental health and are at risk of being admitted into hospital. She will be talking to young people about the keyworker scheme and would like to hear their views on the kind of support they think keyworkers should offer.



We will also be joined by the Reading Local Offer Team who have information about services in the area for young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs/Disabilities) and their families.

*£10 Amazon vouchers for all young people who take part - plus a free KFC takeaway!*



Special United evenings are open to any Reading young people who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities aged 8-25 years old and their siblings.

To book email [lisaharry14@aol.com](mailto:lisaharry14@aol.com)

**RSVP No later than Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

We look forward to seeing you! 😊

[www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk](http://www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1166585

Email: [fran.morgan.rff@gmail.com](mailto:fran.morgan.rff@gmail.com)

Tel: 07516 185380



**HAPPY WEEKEND**