



The weekly newsletter of

## Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 17 October 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 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	24039
Grove	23327
Mapledurham	23452
Rosehill	23604

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2022/23](#)

Tues 18 Oct	Yr12 Geography Local Place Study
Wed 19 Oct	Yr10 MEP visit to British Museum and China Town
Thurs 20 Oct	Yr12 Psychology Trip Yr7 Mentor Evening 3.30pm
Fri 21 Oct	Yr12 Art trip to Oxford PTA Yr7/8 Disco

### 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



## Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding

### 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>

## The Hive

### The Hive - Audio Books

As part of the Library service we are pleased to announce that as well as eBooks we have now subscribed to Audio books through the e. Platform system.



Audio books can be found by going to **The Hive (Library and Careers)** page on the school website and clicking on the links as you would for eBooks. <https://highdown.eplatform.co/>

If you have any questions about any of the library services please speak to Mrs Robinson in The Hive or send an email to [librarian@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:librarian@highdown.reading.sch.uk)

## **KS3 Book Club**

**Do you enjoy reading books?**

**Do you like talking about the books you are reading?**

**Are you in KS3?**

**Then come to the Hive at break or lunchtime to put your name on the list for the KS3 Book Club.**

### Podcast Series

“The Parent Perspective” is an exciting **podcast series for parents and carers**, helping them to support their children with careers advice and guidance. Series 2 is bigger and better than ever, led by our brilliant new host, Rachel Burden! Together with Not Going to Uni, we want to make sure that we are supporting parents to feel informed and confident in providing careers support and guidance to their child, so that they ultimately make the best decisions for them. Through the podcast Rachel and guests offer a fun and informative space for listeners to:

- Explore which careers are available today
- Showcase the experiences of interesting and diverse role models
- Provide real-time insights into how the world of work is changing

Each episode Rachel speaks to a diverse mix of parents, bringing their burning questions to expert speakers from the careers world. Together they uncover practical solutions and informative answers, to help you and your child make informed decisions on those all important next steps. Listen via your preferred platform or the website: [The Parent Perspective Podcast - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

### Medicine Conference

Aspiring medical students in years 10-12 are eligible to attend a FREE LIVE VIRTUAL **Get into Medicine Conference** on:

- Saturday 29th October 10am - 3pm
- Sunday 30th October 10am - 3pm

Students can register using this link: <https://airtable.com/shr66li3bqG3ZpkPM>

### Veterinary Medicine Conference

Aspiring Vets in years 10-12 are invited to attend a FREE LIVE VIRTUAL **Get into Veterinary Medicine Conference** on:

- Saturday 22nd October 10am - 3pm

Students can register using this link: <https://airtable.com/shrs1hEiPfdSSgnl2>

Once students have attended, they will be awarded a certificate from the Presidents at Medic or Vet Mentor to acknowledge that they are a student who has gone one step further than others. Please note that all students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian for safeguarding purposes.

The ‘Get into’ Conferences are comprehensive guides to the UCAS application process. Including:

- Application Timelines
- How to Tactically Choose Medical or Veterinary Schools
- CV Building
- Personal Statements
- Interview School
- Medical Leadership and Awards Programmes
- Accessing Work Experience
- UCAT and BMAT - Entrance Exams to Medical School
- Accessing Scholarships

We strongly encourage all students to make the most out of these free opportunities. Spaces are competitive and limited, so students should register as soon as they can using the link below. For this reason, we kindly request that students only book one conference.

### **Browne Jacobson Faire Law Work Experience**

On **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October** from **9:00am-4:30pm**, Browne Jacobson are hosting the biggest and best online student legal work experience of the year. From **6:00pm-7.00pm** they will be running a parent / guardian session, details of which can be found below.

**This is not just another online careers event! This could change your future.** Quite simply, if you are interested in a career in the legal profession and are looking to secure a training contract, work experience, a Solicitor apprenticeship, an in-house GC role or gain a pupillage, then attending this event will increase your chance of success. **FAIRE** is the biggest legal virtual insight event out there, so not to be missed.

There's no 'catch', no 'sell', it is simply an event designed to increase your chances of achieving the legal career of your dreams by giving you access to insights, knowledge, a network of contacts and careers advice that you won't get anywhere else.

This is not about you getting a foot in the door at one particular firm or chambers, it is far bigger and broader than that. You will hear from industry experts on all aspects of the law.

The event will see the legal professions' most successful, high profile and diverse role models (all of which have faced rejection and barriers) come together to share their intimate stories and advice.

#### **The line-up of confirmed speakers includes:**

- Chris Daw QC (who's clients include the rich & famous!)
- Sultana Tafadar QC, HSBC in-house legal team
- Laurie-Anne Power QC
- Justin Farrance (GROW Mentoring CEO and A&O Lawyer!)
- Holly Moore (ITV Legal Apprentice)
- Lubna Shuja (incoming President of The Law Society),
- Browne Jacobson and the wider UK legal profession.

Sign up now – you do not want to miss this one. This really will increase your confidence, knowledge, network, and application chances. You will receive a Certificate of Completion that you can add to your CV and talk about in your UCAS applications / future job interviews. This opportunity is open to all students in Y9 / S2, Y10 / S3, Y11 / S4 / 4th Year, Y12 / S5 / 5th Year, Y13 / S6 / 6th Year, Y14 & university students.

**The sign up link is:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Browne-Jacobson-Law-Work-Experience>

### **Parent / Guardian Session**

Following on from the student day event, we are going to be running a shorter parent / guardian event that will discuss the kinds of careers within the legal industry, legal apprenticeships and where to find them and a Q&A to wrap things up. This parent session is going to be run using the same Zoom link and by signing up using the link above you will receive further information on this as well.

### 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







# Reading

## JOBS FAIR



FRIDAY 28TH  
OCTOBER 2022



READING TOWN  
HALL



10AM - 1PM

### OVER 34 EXHIBITORS ON THE DAY!

NO REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED

HUNDREDS OF  
JOBS AVAILABLE

VARIOUS SECTORS AND INDUSTRIES  
RECRUITING ON THE DAY

  TheJobFairs

 The Job Fairs

 the.job.fairs

FREE TO ATTEND



THEJOBFAIRS.CO.UK

## Extra Curricular Activities

### Extra-Curricular Clubs Sept 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School					KS4 Breakfast Club
KS3 Break					
KS4 Break					
KS3 Lunch	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.	
KS4 Lunch	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	
Afterschool	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  Debate Club 3.10-4.30pm The Barn/C Gilbert 11E Yrs 7-10	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	Yr7/8 Quiz Club 3.10pm M7 M Hutchinson / B Fasham From 14 October

Please note all English clubs will begin after half term.



## The Debate club

Year 7 - 10

Run by Callum Gilbert, 11E

We will be discussing fun ideas and real word problems working through controversial topics in an organised way . Learning to talk through our opinions within a variety of topics is an important skill in life and a good place to develop these patters is within our school's debating community , last year this club was very successful in not only the debating side of things but also in interpersonal development so why not be part of our community this year .

Tuesday after school in  
The Barn from

**15.10 --> 16.30**



## YEAR 7 HISTORY CLUB



Do you have a keen interest in History?

If so, please join me in H17 every Thursday from

3.10pm - 4pm (first meeting 3.11.22)

Some of the activities on offer.....

*Celebrate and acknowledge key historical events*

*(our first club meeting will be in preparation for Remembrance Day on  
11<sup>th</sup> November)*

*Build a medieval castle*

*Research significant people from around the globe*

*Invent and produce a history board game*

*Film a 'Horrible Histories' clip from one of your favourite time periods*

*I'm looking forward to seeing you on the 3<sup>rd</sup>!*

*Please bring your laptops with you (you're welcome to  
bring a snack and drink too!)*





## Year 11

### Sixth Form Subject Fair

To find out more about the subjects offered in our Sixth Form, please visit us at our Sixth Form Subject Fair that will take place on **Tuesday 1 November 2022, between 17.30pm and 19.45pm.**

The fair will be a chance to ask questions about the courses we offer with our Sixth Form teaching staff.

As it is a popular event, please book on one of the three available sessions here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/highdown-sixth-form-subject-fair-2022-tickets-424140093437>

## English Department

### This Black History Month the English Department are considering how we can make our curriculum even more diverse...

#### We have already...

- Used poems from a diverse range of voices for the Pride and Celebration unit in year 7.
- Introduced Elizabeth Acevedo's 'With the Fire on High' and Mildred Taylor's 'Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry'.

#### We are planning to...

- Teach a new unit looking at different novels from across the Commonwealth.
- Investigate new diverse options for GCSE texts.
- Offer a range of texts at A Level to explore different perspectives.

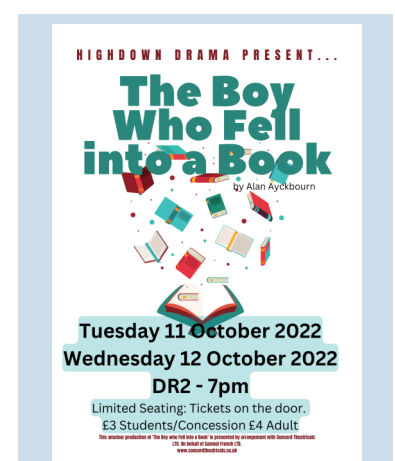


What else would you like to see?  
Tell us your thoughts using the QR code!



## Drama Department

From all the cast and crew involved in our junior production of 'The Boy Who Fell into a Book' we would like to say a big thank you to all who came to see our show this week! We appreciate your support!



## Stars of week

7C Oscar Harvey  
7D Ava Folley  
7E Ranith Liyanage  
7F Eddy Gianni  
7G Ava Smith  
7H Emily Todman  
7J Kaja Colyer  
7K Joe Aspin  
7L Lucas Bull

8C Michael Petch  
8D Jordan Jobin  
8E Dmytro Novytskyi  
8F Sophia May  
8G Ellie Chan  
8H Rafi Aslam  
8J Zach Cross  
8K Lucy Sampson  
8L Josh Church

9C Alice Critchfield  
9D Luke Donnelly  
9E Iman Simmonds-Mullings  
9F Maddie Chandler  
9G Mia-Rose Somenthal  
9H Arran Morris  
9J Louie Baldwin  
9K Jensen Ellmer  
9L Holly Curtayne

10C Maisie Kirk  
10D Fraser Acteson  
10E Lizzie Pohler  
10F Ollie England  
10G Callum Davidson  
10H Fleur Smith  
10J Katie Ma  
10K Dylan Sandrey  
10L Eloise Hackett  
10M Robbie Genery-Baker

11C Savannah Bacon  
11D Freddie Chapman  
11E Cassia Carter  
11F Noah Mitchell  
11G Max Hartin  
11H Eleanore Chan  
11J Ava Burton  
11K Lara Burton  
11L Florence Knight

## 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) .

### The Big PTA November Quiz

Friday 11 November

Tickets for this event will be available from 17 October via the above link. We hear rumours that the teachers are teaming up and are out to win!



## 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)

### Literacy Task

**Can you uncover what each group of three has in common?**

**1. Doughnut  
notebook  
golf course**

**2. turtle  
peanut  
oyster**

**3. Brown  
polar  
Kodiak**

**4. cough  
tear  
rain**

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

### Numeracy Challenge

Gabriel wrote the numbers 1-9 in a 3x3 grid.

He then multiplied together all the numbers in each row and wrote the resulting product next to that row.

He also multiplied the numbers in each column together, and wrote the product under that column.

He then rubbed out the numbers 1-9.

			24
			40
			378
60	21	288	

**Can you work out where Gabriel placed the numbers 1-9?**

Did you have more information than you needed?





## Me2 Club's Exciting New Project for Teenagers with Additional Needs

Teenagers and their families have told us that they would like Me2 Club to run a group for teenagers to meet together, have fun and develop confidence and independence skills.



We are planning to hold monthly sessions teenagers with additional needs. Teenagers will have an opportunity to plan activities that they would like to do with the support of Me2 Club's experienced staff.

**Our first session will be on:**

**Wednesday, 19th October 6 – 7:30 pm**

**at Addington School**

**We will have a takeaway together and plan our first activity!**

The sessions will be open to all Reading and Wokingham teenagers with additional needs aged 13 - 19.

If your young person isn't ready to help plan activities, we will support them to be involved as much as they can and to enjoy the activities

**To book your place, email  
[ramona@me2club.org.uk](mailto:ramona@me2club.org.uk)**





# Free Art Workshops

Tuesday 25th October 2022

10am - 12pm and 12:30 - 2:30pm

330 Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DH

A fun packed day of Art Workshops for EVERYONE

No experience necessary, just come along and explore drawing in a fun and playful way.

Create colourful drawings, vibrant still-life's and collaborate on our 20-metre-long Community drawing.



Book your place

[www.newdirectionsreading.ac.uk/the-big-draw-festival-2022\\_23/](http://www.newdirectionsreading.ac.uk/the-big-draw-festival-2022_23/)  
OR via the QR code.



**This is a FREE event for all the family, but booking is essential. Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult.**

[www.newdirectionsreading.ac.uk](http://www.newdirectionsreading.ac.uk) - Tel.: 0345 842 0012



**Vikie Primmer**  
BADMINTON & FITNESS COACH

[www.vikieprimmer.com](http://www.vikieprimmer.com)

Please support my business by following:

- [Vikieprimmercoaching](#)
- [Vikieprimmerbadmintoncoaching](#)
- [Vikieprimmer](#)

### New Junior Badminton Academy, launched on 6 September 2022

Berkshire County Badminton Associations Head Coach Vikie Primmer has started her own Academy. With new sessions for Beginner/Intermediate level players.

#### Rivermead Leisure Centre

When: Every Tuesday 5-6:30pm

Who: Beginners/Intermediate players aged 10-16

#### Cotswold Leisure Centre

When: Every Mon 5-7pm

Who: Beginners/Intermediate players aged 10-16

First session starts 31<sup>st</sup> October

Players will develop new skills, improve fitness and make friends in a safe and fun environment. Vikie Primmer is a UKCC Level 3 Badminton Coach and has been coaching all levels of players for 10 years.

Answer to literacy challenge:

1. They all have holes
2. They all have shells
3. They are all kinds of bears
4. They are all kinds of drops

Answer to numeracy challenge:

2 3 4  
5 1 8  
6 7 9

**HAPPY WEEKEND**