

Meet the Mentor

Objectives of this presentation;

1. To share key information to help parents support their children
2. To ensure that everyone has the same understanding and expectations
3. To get to know your mentor
4. To start the three-way partnership between mentor, mentee and parents



Forms

Please can you ensure you have sent the following forms to the school office;

- Admission form
- Free School meals form (if you are eligible)



Role of the mentor

- Much of the everyday monitoring starts with the mentor
- Mentor sees students every day and is their first port of call
- Register is taken with the mentor every morning
- Mentors will be responsible for checking the following;
 - Ready to Learn – attitude and organisation
 - Attendance
 - Punctuality
 - Uniform
 - General welfare

Year 7 Mentor Evening will be held in the first term on 19th October



Subjects

- Five 60 minute lessons a day.
- The year group will have three bands, **X, Y and Z**, each of these will be made up of three tutor groups. **English and Maths** groups will be made up of students from the same band.
- Initially students will not be in sets. Sets for **Modern Foreign Languages** will be created after Christmas.
- **English and Maths** will be taught in mentor groups, with Maths moving into sets later in the year, the Maths department will write with further details later in the year
- **Science, History, Geography, Music, Art and Drama** will all be taught in mentor groups.
- **Modern Foreign Languages, Games, Ethics and ICT** are taught in blocks. Bands in this block will be decided by students' language choices at Christmas. Initially, students will be taught as mentor groups which will then move to bands that better facilitate their chosen language.
- **D&T subjects (Food Technology, Textiles, Resistant Materials and Computing)** are taught on a carousel throughout the year.
- There are many extra-curricular opportunities available both sporting and academic.



Times of the Day

- The first bell goes at **08.35** and all students are expected to be in their mentor classroom for **08.40**.
- **Period one** is from **09.05** to **10.05**.
- **Breaktime** is from **10.05** to **10.25**
- **Period two** is from **10.25** to **11.25**.
- **Period three** is from **11.25** to **12.25**.
- **Lunchtime** is from **12.25** to **13.10**
- **Period four** is from **13.10** to **14.10**.
- **Period five** is from **14.10** to **15.10**.

- Sports equipment can be loaned from the school office.
- Each year group has their own field for break and lunch





House and Consequence Points

- Highdown uses a system of House (H) and Consequence (C) points.
- All H and C points are entered onto ClassCharts which can be downloaded as an app onto parent and student phones. This will allow parents to receive instant messages when their child receives H and C points!
- When students receive a certain amount of House points, they will be awarded with certificates, letters home and vouchers.
- The mentor group with the most House points will receive a cup at the end of term.
- Mrs Bonnet will also be running a termly tutor competition which will also use House points to help decide who wins.
- Consequence points lead to detentions. The school runs a centralised detention system where students serve the detention the same day as the Consequence points were recorded.
- Parents are notified 'live' through the ClassCharts parents app. If there is an issue on a particular day, please contact Mrs Bonnet



ClassCharts



ClassCharts

- All **homework** will be set on ClassCharts.
- Parents and students will receive a login in September.
- Using ClassCharts to set homework reinforces and extends learning in school and helps parents monitor, and engage with, their child's learning.
- Classcharts also helps to promote independent learning in student.
- ClassCharts is also uses if you wish to report an **absence**



ClassCharts



Special educational needs and disability (SEND)

- SEND at Highdown is integrated throughout the whole school.
- The SEND department aims to support students with their own individual needs to allow them to take full part in school life.
- Highdown has a Curriculum Enhancement area where we support students with a wide range of skills to help them be able to take part in the full curriculum.
- Highdown also has a Star Centre which will support students with their emotional needs. This is also a safe space where students can go when they are feeling low or upset about something.



Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

- PSHCE (*Character, Culture and Citizenship*) is taught in a specific lesson once a week.
- The Year 7 programme includes topics on;
 1. Transition and safety
 2. Developing skills and aspirations
 3. Diversity
 4. Health and puberty
 5. Building relationships
 6. Financial decision making
- There will also be constant reference to PSHCE throughout the curriculum.



House System

- There will be 4 Houses for the entire Highdown Community; Caversham, Grove, Rosehill, and Mapledurham.
- Each House has a member of staff as a coordinator but the houses are run by the House Captains from Year 12 and the Junior Captains from Year 10.
- House points will be counted in the weekly competitions.
- There will be various House Competitions and Whole School events linked to the House system.
- Siblings will be placed in the same house where possible



PIXL Edge

- PiXL Edge is a programme that has been designed to give our students the 'edge' by helping them to develop the skills needed for further education, the workplace and for life in general.
- PiXL Edge helps students to develop the LORIC Skills:
Leadership, **O**rganisation, **R**esilience, **I**nitiative, **C**ommunication
- Students develop these skills through completing a number of challenges and reflecting on how their LORIC skills have improved over time. There are three Edge qualifications; Apprentice (Years 7-8), Graduate (Years 9-10) and Master (Years 11-13).
- **Careers Pilot** is also introduced and used in Yr7 to help students consider future aspirations as part of our careers programme
- Y7 students have the opportunity to work on this once a week in mentor time.



Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted in school. If they are brought in, they must remain turned off and in their bag throughout the duration of the day, including break and lunch.

Students will have access to ICT as they will be using BYoD.

Please note that all mobile phones brought into school are students' responsibility. Highdown does not accept any liability for loss or damage whilst in or on route to/from the academy.

Failure to follow this simple policy will result in their confiscation and an after school consequence.



Uniform

Details about uniform is on our school website but there are two adaptations you need to be aware of:

Shoes must be **plain black polishable and non-branded**, trainer shoes and Nike Airs are not acceptable, boots and converse are also not permitted. Some footwear marketed as 'school shoes' are actually trainers – please contact the school if in doubt.

Skirts need to be **knee length and pleated**.



⊘ Unsuitable Footwear ⊘



The final decision on the appropriateness of uniform rests with the Senior Leadership Team



Suitable Footwear



The final decision on the appropriateness of uniform rests with the Senior Leadership Team

Suitable Skirts



Admin

- Highdown has a First Aider on site at all times. The medical room will have all records of medical conditions - especially EpiPen, diabetes and any other conditions where medication needs to be stored in school.
- The First Aider is able to administer pain relief (paracetamol) with parent permission - this was given via one of the admission forms. If you wish to change this permission, please put it in writing to the registrar.
- Contact numbers must be accurate. Please inform us of any changes
- Letters home will be emailed through Parentmail.
- The Gallery uses a cashless system which uses biometric data from students' fingerprints and an online payment system to allow students to top up their account. This allows parents to check what students are eating.
- If students choose to ride to school their bicycles have to be roadworthy and safety equipment must be worn.
- There is a secure area for leaving bikes on site.



Start of Term

- To give our new students a smooth start at Highdown School, it is our usual practice that only Year 7 students and some Sixth Form students attend school on the first day.

This day is **Monday 4th September**

- **Tuesday 5th September** will be the first full day of normal lessons.
- Students will need to bring a pack lunch for up to the first two weeks, until we can get the biometrics for the canteen system



Key Contacts

Head of Achievement, Mrs Bonnett: sabonnet@highdown.reading.sch.uk

SENCo, Mrs Arnold: hjf@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Tutor :

