



The weekly newsletter of
Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 09 January 2023 Week B

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	65549
Grove	63048
Mapledurham	64176
Rosehill	62795

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term dates can be found here:

[2022/23](#)

Term 3

<i>Wed 11 Jan</i>	<i>Yr9/10 British Museum Trip</i>
<i>Thurs 12 Jan</i>	<i>Yr12/13 Music Practical</i>
	<i>Yr9 Learning Review Evening</i>
<i>Fri 13 Jan</i>	<i>Yr11 Art Trip to Oxford</i>

Thursday 19th January 2023
3.15-4.15 DR1
All Welcome!
 Bring dance / PE kit to change
Workshop Audition Years 7-13
 Further Info ask Mrs Hawkins
pahawkins@highdown-reading.sch.uk

Dance Company 2023 Auditions



Follow us



Information

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>.

Problems with Class Charts

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact vihamer@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Latest News

Please download our mobile website app to ensure you receive all the latest news. Click this [link](#) for further information.



Presentation Evening

Thank you to all who came to celebrate our successful exam groups, Duke of Edinburgh awards and prize winners at the Presentation Evening which took place at the end of last term. A wonderful Highdown event for everyone!



Job Vacancies

Join Us

We currently have the following vacancies. Please follow the link [here](#) to the school website to find out more information.



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

EAL COORDINATOR

Term time only plus 2 staff training days
Actual Salary: £12,857pa. 21 hours per week

We are looking to appoint an experienced EAL Coordinator to provide support for students with EAL needs, at all key stages. You will help students to develop English language skills and learning strategies. TEFL qualification would be an advantage but is not essential.

We require enthusiastic and committed candidates, who have experience working with children, to join our hardworking and successful team. You will need a high level of interpersonal skills, be well motivated and enthusiastic about working alongside young people. You will also have an excellent standard of literacy and numeracy.

Closing date: Applications considered on receipt

For details and an application form visit our website: www.highdown.reading.sch.uk. Please return your completed application form to Miss Nicci Burns, Headteacher's PA, by email on hnb@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Highdown School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. We are also trained in safer recruitment and the successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and a 'Prohibition from Teaching' check.

Online searches will be completed prior to shortlisting.



Cleaner Required

We need cleaners for our school, could this be a fit for you? We are looking for local, reliable people who can support our housekeeping team in creating a safe and welcoming environment to promote learning for our students! Ideally, you would be able to work before and/or after school hours 2 or more days a week, however, we can be flexible for the right candidates. £10.53 per hour. Training will be provided. For more information on how to apply, please visit our website at:

<https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/vacancies>

If you require a hard copy of the application form, please contact the school office.

0118 901 5800

office@highdown.reading.sch.uk

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (hitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

SEXTING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent – but some are far more salacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age; it is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'Boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'Boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



<https://hipalapp/about/privacy.html>

NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



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This is just one of the guides provided for parents/carers at <https://nationalonlinesafety.com> which is free to register with as a member of the Highdown community.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



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Introducing SENECA

A number of our subjects regularly use **SENECA**, the UK's fastest growing online homework and revision platform, to set assignments for students to complete at home. By the end of November, our students had clocked up an impressive 700+ hours of learning on this platform.

If a subject doesn't currently use **SENECA**, students can still make use of the platform independently, and if available, can search for their subject and exam board to start their online studies.

All homework is still detailed on Class Charts, but if you wish to keep track of your child's progress on **SENECA**, you can sign up using the QR code below. You may also receive sign-up requests from SENECA, sent on behalf of the teachers using the platform.

- To sign up simply scan the QR code with your phone camera or go to senecalearning.com/signup
- Once you have signed up connect your account to your child's





SENECA

Adaptive Learning Platform

Your child's school uses Seneca for homework and revision. Amazing! But what does that mean for you?

Scientific methodology to boost learning

Seneca's assignments are based on neuroscience, written by experts and academically proven to **double students' outcomes**. Not only are they fun and effective, but they are intelligent too! Our algorithm analyses each pupil's answer and **adjusts their learning path in real-time**, optimizing their studies.

Exclusive tools for parents

Parental engagement has a significant **positive effect** on learning outcomes. Supporting your child with their studies begins with knowing how they're doing. With Seneca, you can easily monitor your child's learning and **identify their weaknesses and strengths** in each subject.

Join us!

6 million students, **300 thousand** teachers and **40 thousand** parents are already on Seneca! How about you?

Visit senecalearning.com/parents to join for free!

 learnmore@seneca.io [@senecalearn](https://twitter.com/senecalearn) senecalearning.com

The Current Lottery Offer is a Whole Year of Hello Fresh!



It is the New Year, and we are all making resolutions. Whether you want to save some money on your weekly shop, eat fresh and healthy, or just get the family together around the dinner table, on 25 February we have got the perfect prize to help you keep those New Year's resolutions going all year long: **a whole YEAR of HelloFresh!** These fantastic boxes deliver fresh high-quality ingredients direct to your door – with everything you need to create delicious dinners from scratch. Don't miss out - get your tickets today!

£25,000 is up for grabs EVERY SATURDAY, so keep on playing!

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

While winning prizes, you are also helping us raise over £1000 a year for the school!

Please keep playing, and if you have not signed up yet, you still can!

Our next Highdown Quiz is on 24 March, so save the date! It is going to be EPIC!

Stars of the Week

Year 7

7C	Sienna Ellmer and Yonatan Girdler
7D	Leah Fothergill and Vihaan Sable
7E	Marley Ifill and Ranith Liyanage
7F	Harry Friday and Eliza Adlem
7G	Hayden Barker and Ava Smith
7H	Jada Stockwell and Emlyn Sandrey
7J	Evie Sills and Beau Perry
7K	Eva Moore and Xav Carter
7L	Jagoda Brzezianska and Freddie Sheppard

Year 7 Students of Term 2

Eliska Mckenna and George Gealy

Year 8

8C	Emma Kelsall
8D	Casper Lomas
8E	Lola Wilde
8F	Ashis Tamang
8G	George Busby
8H	Nathan O'Neill
8J	Ella Werts
8K	Lainee Urquhart
8L	Violet Durkan

Year 9

9C	Tom Barrs
9E	Noah Hinchmore
9F	Jude Lambourne
9G	Eva McCarthy
9H	Roshni Taylor
9J	Ethan Bishop
9K	William Callander
9L	Aaron Partington

Year 10

10C	Advit Jha
10D	Asif Ali
10E	Alfie Makepeace
10F	Noah Greenfield
10G	Muayad Mohamed
10H	Oscar Mann
10K	Alexander Reynaert
10K	Charlie Gomm
10L	Ariseen Miah
10M	Ruby Bonnett

Year 7 Art Creative Careers Winners

The shortlist and winners of our Art Creative Careers Competition are now available to view on our website and can be found by clicking [here](#).

Students had the choice of designing a department rewards postcard to promote Creative Careers or a particular Creative Career.





A Message from The Henley College regarding Forthcoming Events

Information Evening, Thursday 12 January 2023, 17:30-20:00.

Visit the college campuses and find out more about the broad range of courses available to students in September 2023. These include our extensive A Level and vocational course offering, also the new T Level courses in Engineering, Health, Computing and Business. This is your chance to see The Henley College for yourself in all its splendour!

Benefits include:

- Exploring our charming campuses and impressive facilities
- Finding out about transport, bursaries, PPD tutors and student welfare
- Meeting your future teachers
- Learning about potential courses
- Making yourself familiar with the local area that is the stunning Henley-On-Thames

Booking is essential so register now! [>> Click Here](#)

College Tours

Various dates during Spring Term 2023.

We are offering morning tours of the College during our Spring Term. The Admissions Team will lead small groups of visitors around our two campuses and will answer your questions about applying and enrolling at the College.

Spaces are very limited and only two tickets per booking are allowed. Please register now! [>>Click here to book your tour](#)

View our **2023 Prospectus online** here: [>> Click here](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to The Henley College very soon!

Social Mobility Business Partnership 2023 Work Insight & Skills Week

Applications for the Social Mobility Business Partnership 2023 Work Insight & Skills Week are **now open**.

Students can apply directly here: <https://forms.office.com/e/Vi70fHTK2Z>

What our programmes involve

As a charity, we support students from low-income backgrounds to build their career aspirations through our Work Insight & Skills Week. We are hoping to reach 16-18-year-old students who would benefit from applying.

Our programmes are designed with the Gatsby Career Benchmarks in mind. Research from the Education and Employers Taskforce shows that a young person who has **four or more meaningful encounters with an employer** is **86% less likely to be unemployed** or not in education or training and can **earn up to 22% more during their careers**.

As such, our Work Insight & Skills Week supports students from low-income backgrounds helping them meet and interact with professionals at a range of high-profile firms. Students will take part in creative business-like tasks and learn about a day-in-the-life of a variety of business leaders. They may also receive a tour of the office and further networking opportunities. It is **completely free for students to attend**, with lunch provided each day and travel costs covered for our in-person programmes.

In addition to developing key skills and learning about the career routes available to them, students spend a day learning about the psychology of resilience, coping mechanisms and goal achievement models at a professional sports club.

Key Information:

Applications open:	3 January 2023
Applications close:	31 May 2023
Programme dates:	National Online Week 10 - 14 April (open to all)
	Summer Programmes 3 - 7 July (Belfast students only)
	24 - 28 July (Regional locations – see website)
	31 July - 4 August (London)

Our full eligibility criteria can be found here: <https://smbp.org.uk/students/>.

We have three online **Q&A webinars** taking place next week. If you or any of your students would like to attend, **please sign-up via Eventbrite [here](#)**.

Please get in touch if you would like any further information.

Get into Dentistry Conference

Applications are now open to Dental Mentor's Medical Leadership Programme (MLP), the only national Medical Leadership programme in the UK! All MLP members receive free virtual teaching and mentoring to help them become leaders in Dentistry. This is a fantastic addition to their UCAS application and CV!

The deadline to apply is midnight on Friday 20 January. Click on this link to apply:

<https://airtable.com/shrTEjnrpWHDwkn6W>

As part of their MLP application, students are required to attend the free, virtual 'Get into Dentistry' conference, with the next one on Saturday 14 January. This conference will provide a full guide to the UCAS application process for dental school.

All students in Year 10 to Year 12 can register for the conference free here:

<https://airtable.com/shr7JL0vaCAzEYUo1>

DENTAL MENTOR
YOUR MEDIC FAMILY

Scan to register!

LIVE!
Get Into Dentistry.
FREE CONFERENCE

Dr Alicia Mead will take you step-by-step through your application to dental school.

- Application Timelines
- Interview Training
- Personal Statements
- CV Building
- Entrance Exams: UCAT & BMAT
- Accessing Medical Leadership Programmes, Awards Programmes and Scholarships to University

You'll also hear from a recently successful applicant on what it takes to make your candidacy to Dental School stand out!

SUCCESS AT SCHOOL'S 2022/2023 FREE CAREER GUIDE



Get your FREE careers guides for parents and carers

From university and apprenticeships to work experience, Success at School's 2022/2023 careers guides are packed full of advice to help support your child in making the best career choices for them.

Click this link to register for a FREE careers guide:

https://mc.successtoolschool.org/guides22?utm_source=Success+at+School+-+Newsletter+Signups&utm_campaign=8c0fea537d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_01_03_Resources_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0-c6c7e799d9-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&goal=0_65c6d67e71-8c0fea537d-205653837&mc_cid=8c0fea537d&mc_eid=1894e07280

Highdown Apprenticeship Fair

Date: Tuesday 24 January 2023

Time: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

We are inviting all Yr10-13 students and their families to attend Highdown's Apprenticeship Fair on Tuesday 24 January 2023 from 6.00pm.

The evening will start with a presentation by ASK (Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge programme). The ASK programme is funded by the Department for Education and aims to support schools and colleges in England to increase awareness of apprenticeships, traineeships and T Levels. You can find out more information about ASK here:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/about-ask/>

Also in attendance during the evening will be representatives from local companies who will be available to talk to you about apprenticeship opportunities that they offer and information on apprenticeships within the industry that they work.

The evening would be a great chance to gather information about apprenticeships and to see if this is a path that interests you. It will also be a good opportunity to answer questions like these:

- * *Why do an apprenticeship?*
- * *What are the levels of apprenticeship?*
- * *Is getting an apprenticeship competitive?*
- * *How does the application process work?*
- * *Do you need English and Maths?*
- * *How is the training delivered and how long does it take?*

Useful Links with information about apprenticeships:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/resources-for-parents>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/>

<https://www.adviza.org.uk/ask-apprenticeships>

FREE Adviza webinar on Year 9 Options

- ♦ Is your child worried about choosing their GCSE options?
- ♦ Do you feel unsure and unequipped to help?

Your child may need some guidance in helping them decide which options are best for them.

Don't worry, help is at hand... attend the FREE Adviza webinar on **Wednesday 11 January 6pm-7pm.**

The webinar will look at the routes into further education and apprenticeships from GCSE options chosen. We will also cover the different combinations of GCSEs that can be chosen, what they entail and where to locate information and resources to support with this.

What you will get out of it:

- ♦ A great opportunity to discuss options with a trained Level 6 careers guidance practitioner
- ♦ Get detailed knowledge and understanding of further educational routes
- ♦ Find out about useful resources for further information, tips and hints.

The webinar can be accessed via Zoom from the comfort of your home. You will not be seen or heard, you can just listen but you will have the opportunity to ask questions via the Q&A box.

The webinar can be booked online [via the Adviza Portal](#). You only need to book one place per family.

