

w/c 27 March 2023 Week B

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term dates can be found here: 2022/23

Term 4

Mon 27 Mar: Y12 Art PPEs

GCSE Drama External Practical

Tues 28 Mar: Y12 Art PPEs

Y10 MEP Trip to Birmingham

Wed 29 Mar: Y12 Art PPEs

Y10 MEP Trip to Birmingham

Thurs 30 Mar: Y10/12 USA Adventure

A Level Music Recital

Fri 31 Mar: Y10/12 USA Adventure

End of Term 4

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham 108111 Grove 104386 MapleDurham 106408 Rosehill 104520

Comic Relief at Highdown

We are very pleased to report we raised just over £900 for Comic Relief and our House Charities through our recent non-uniform day and KS3 bake sale!

Thank you for all your generous donations and continued support with our charitable fundraising in school.

Caversham YoungMinds
Grove Daisy's Dream

MapleDurham Refugee Support Group

Rosehill Berkshire Vision

First Aid Request

We are looking for donations of water based, cool packs. These are often delivered along with food parcels from e.g. Gousto and Hello Fresh.

If you have any to spare, we would be grateful for any donations, which can be dropped off at main reception.

Thank you.

Miss A. Murphy

















Information

Latest News

receive all the latest news. Click this link for further information.

Problems with Class Charts

Please download our mobile website app to ensure you 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 efficient. You can find out more here:

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

ParentMail Accounts

We respectfully request all parents and carers regularly check their student's dinner money balances to ensure they are in credit.

At peak times, around mid-morning, it can take up to 2 hours for the monies to show on the account.

Therefore, if you need to top them up, please allow time for these to be processed, we have found topping up in the evenings to be the quickest way to add monies to the account.

The Highdown Herald

The Highdown Herald is our student-run newspaper.

The latest edition is now available to read on our school website, along with past editions at:

https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/highdownherald

Staying safe online

The UK Safer Internet Centre website has some top tips for Parents and Carers on how to support your child to stay safe and happy online. For further details please click on the following link:

https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/saferinternet-day-2023/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers

Safeguarding: National Online Safety Courses for Parents and Carers

We would like to encourage parents/carers to complete one of the following parent courses in National Online Safety, presented by Myleene Klass:

The course takes about 40 minutes and leads you on a journey through a child's digital habits, exploring the type of online world they are experiencing now, what risks they might be exposed to, and looks at what you can do to support them.

Annual Award in Online Safety for Parents and Carers of Children aged 11-14

Annual Award in Online Safety for Parents and Carers of Children aged 14-18



Work with us

Join Us

We currently have the following vacancies. Please follow the link <u>here</u> to the school website to find out more information.



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

EXAMINATIONS INVIGILATOR

- £10.79 per hour
- Flexible hours

We are looking to expand our team of Invigilators to support the running of external and internal examinations at Highdown.

You should enjoy working as part of a team and an interest in working in a school environment is essential. This will ideally suit responsible, punctual, calm, organised and approachable individuals.

Full training will be provided.

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, in the post or by email on https://mnbeacher.neading.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.



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

CLEANER/HOUSEKEEPING TEAM

- £10.79 per hour.
- 15 hours per week. Monday to Friday 3pm to 6pm. Morning shifts also available.

Come and join our join our Housekeeping team. Duties include; cleaning classrooms and offices, toilets, emptying bins, vacuuming, mopping floors helping to create a safe and welcoming environment to promote learning for our students

The successful candidate will be conscientious and reliable with a friendly and pro-active attitude. Experience is desirable, but training will be provided.

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

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HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

COVER SUPERVISOR

Salary: £17,622 - £18,618pa (NJC P14-P17). 30 hours per week, Term time plus 5 staff training days. Part time position considered.

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre is a very popular, oversubscribed and successful school set in 32 acres of parkland in Caversham to the north of Reading.

We are seeking to appoint a Cover Supervisor to cover lessons for absent teaching staff. Applicants should be confident, supportive and possess good interpersonal and communication skills.

We are keen to appoint a proactive and passionate individual with a strong classroom presence with excellent classroom and behaviour management skills. The ideal candidate will have experience of working in a similar environment.

You will be linked with a curriculum area and will undertake administrative tasks when you are not required for cover.

Why Highdown School?

- We are committed to staff professional learning and leadership development for all staff, at all levels
- We are conveniently located for quick and easy access to London, the rest of Berkshire and Oxfordshire
- Staff have subsidised access to Highdown Sport and Leisure facilities
- Staff have free access to Westfield Health advice and support service

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

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HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Full time, term time only plus 2 staff training days (NJC P3-4) Actual Salary: £14,968pa.
8.30am to 3.15pm.

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.

Funding is available for further training to obtain Qualified Teacher Status.

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

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The RSB's Biology Teacher of the Year nominations



Big congratulations to our very own Dr Andy Love, who has been shortlisted for the Royal Society of Biology's School Biology Teacher of the Year 2023 award. The award seeks to identify the UK's leading secondary education teachers, recognising the invaluable role they play in educating and inspiring the next generation of biologists.

Andy's passion for teaching Biology comes through in all he does and he is an outstanding teacher of his subject. After hearing the news of his successful shortlisting, he said: "I am so proud to be shortlisted for this award and it represents the curiosity, commitment and love of Biology my students have which drives my continued practice to support not only their development as biology aware citizens of the future but the development of passionate, upcoming teachers in the subject."

The three shortlisted teachers will now each submit a case study, explaining the methods they use to enhance their students' learning. The Award's judging panel will also visit each teacher.

The winner will be announced in August 2023 and will receive £500 for themselves and £500 of school resources, both provided by Oxford University Press.

Good luck Dr Love!

Year 11

<u>Yr11 Learning Conference: Stress Free</u> Productivity

All Year 11 took part in their final Learning Conference this week. In this session on 'Stress Free Productivity', students heard about how to avoid distractions and stop the cycle of procrastination, how to increase motivation and all about neuroplasticity and how to create new neural pathways to create healthy habits.





If you have a child in Year 11 why don't you ask them about the benefits of positive visualization? Or the importance of goal setting? Or even see if they can tell you some ways to take care of their mental health?

Addams Family



From all involved in The Addams Family we would like to say a massive thank you to those who came to support our show last week. It meant so much to everyone that we had such a fantastic audience on both nights. So much effort and time go in to putting on a musical and we are so grateful for all the kind words we received.

Final thanks have to go to the cast, musicians and technicians. You were all amazing! Your hard work and talent shone through in every area of this production. We couldn't be prouder of you!

We will have to start thinking about next year's show soon...watch this space! Mrs Lake











Year 12: Jolly Geography

The week of 6 March 2023 the Year 12 Geography team spent a week in Southwest Wales as part of the A Level Geography course. Students have to undertake at least 4 days field work away from home. We stayed at Dale Fort in a stunning location on the Dale estuary. The centre is run by the Field Studies Council.

The students were able to bring to life the coastal geography studied at school looking at coastal landforms and features and issues with how and where to manage the coastline. We went into the heart of the National Park to walk along the Pembrokeshire coastal footpath taking in stacks and arches and the beautiful Barafundle Bay.

They also went to investigate how the market town of Narberth has successfully regenerated. The field work allowed students to explore a range of field work techniques to allow them to undertake their Non-Examined Assessment - Geographical Independent Investigation.

The NEA field work was carried out in Tenby where students undertook a wide range of data collection methods to help them complete their individual enquiry.

Investigation title of the week went to Kez Mehmet -

'There's rats in the cliff!'

What are we going to do?

To what **extent** is the increased **population** in the **tourist season** & **environmental quality** in Tenby responsible for the increased rat population?

The weather at times was challenging but the students represented team geography@highdown with excellence! They were polite, considerate, punctual, hard working and fun company!

Student Awards:

Geographer of the week: James Bridge

Field trip fashionista: Arjun Sandhu

Student who immersed themselves into the Welsh culture & experience & was calm & conscientious all

week: Isir Msalali

Outstanding effort, aiming for success & pacing with purpose! - Rebecca Lennon

Student who was consistently helpful, happy, with a positive presence - great all round geographer! - Ben New

For enthusiasm, attention to detail with field work & hard working - Charlee Potter

Innovative & topical title! - Kez Mehmet

Expertise in power napping & saving energy! - Lucy Latimer

Head down and high expectations! - Evie Elson

Jolly Geographer of the week! Consistently positive impact on others - George Jolley.

Year 12: Jolly Geography



















House Stars of the Week





ROSEHILL HOUSE R1 Luke McAdden-Evans R2 **Harry Friday Ellie Bloxam** R3 **Charley Launchbury** R4 **Farzan Moin** R5 **Ava Smith** R6 **Daisy Rundle** R7 R8 **Advit Jha Callie Wenham** R9 **Lucas Taplin** R10 **R11 Annis Ghomari R12** Lilian Moore **Theodore Hodge R13**



Library: The Hive



Thank you to parents and staff who have recently donated books to the library. Some of the donated books are now on the system ready for students to read!

If you are having a clear out of books at home, please consider donating them to Highdown. We are happy to accept teen and young adult fiction books that are in a good condition.

Feel free to email a list of the books to me, if you would like to check if they are suitable before dropping them into school:

librarian@highdown.reading.sch.uk

The Hive is open at breaktimes and lunchtimes and we are still running the click and collect service. You can search the library catalogue via the Highdown Website:

https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/library

Library Book Returns

We currently have about 250 books that are overdue by more than 30 days. Please can all parents, carers and students keep an eye out for any Highdown Library books they have on their shelves at home, and return them to school should they find any.

There are no fines or penalties for the return of these overdue books, we would just be grateful to have them back for other students to read.



Careers Corner: Success at School's Insight Webinars and Apprenticeship Opportunities

Free Insight Webinar in Partnership with Deloitte

Hear from current apprentices as they share their insights on apprenticeships at Deloitte and get an overview about how you can start your own apprenticeship journey at Deloitte!

25 April 2023 at 6.30-7.15pm

For Students and parents of those in years 10-13. Careers leaders and teachers are welcome to join.

Book your place here

Explore Opportunities with AWE

Location: Nationwide **Deadline:** Ongoing

Latest Opportunities: Work to support the defence of our country. Opportunities for students interested in engineering, physics, environmental sustainability and nuclear energy.

For further information on Apprenticeships with AWE, click here

Explore opportunities with Dixon Wilson

Location: Nationwide

Deadline: 30 April 2023

Latest opportunities: Work in the heart of London, earn a competitive salary and become a Chartered Tax

Advisor in only four years!

For further information, click here

Explore opportunities with bp

Location: Nationwide

Deadline: Ongoing

Latest opportunities: For students interested in Marketing, Operations, Business Sales, Tech Solutions and Product Design. Degree apprenticeships available in Business Management and Sales.

For further information, click here

Explore opportunities with National Audit Office

Location: Newcastle and Greater London

Deadline: Ongoing

Latest opportunities: Begin your accountancy career on

the Apprentice Accountancy Scheme 2023.

For further information, click <u>here</u>

Explore opportunities with Lloyds Banking Group

Location: Newcastle and Greater London

Deadline: 9 April 2023

Latest opportunities: Are you interested in making a real impact in banking and finance? Apprenticeships are now open across Audit, Commercial Banking, Corporate

Treasury and more! For further information click here

Explore opportunities with PwC

Location: Nationwide

Latest opportunities: For students who want to kickstart their careers in Business and Management Consultancy, Banking and Finance, Audit or Technology.

Year 12 work experience opportunities available nationwide. For further information click here

Explore opportunities with Rolls-Royce

Location: Nationwide

Latest opportunities: Engineering, Manufacturing,
Software Engineering, Digital and IT, Electrical and
Electronics, Supply Chain, Nuclear Engineering, Finance,
Project Management, Commercial, Materials
Engineering, Non-Destructive Testing, Nuclear Business,
Aerospace Services, Marketing, Quality Management
apprenticeships. For further information click here

Careers Corner

Fast Forward Vocational Training

Fast Forward Vocational Training offers an alternative training provision in your local area.

The provision will be based at your local Teamsport indoor karting track (Cradock Rd, Reading RG2 0EE). This STEM course aims to provide a line of sight to a future career in mechanical engineering and give the students experience in an active workplace alongside Teamsport staff whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification in motor vehicle studies.

We currently operate the provision in 20 cities and have seen great success engaging young people from mainstream schools and PRU's as well as helping to build the confidence and skills of students from SEN schools.

For the 2021/22 academic year the provision as a whole had an **attendance of 92.56%** which shows the course engagement.

Visit Teamsport website to find out more https://www.team-sport.co.uk/go-karting-reading/

We are now enrolling students onto our 12-week introductory course for the remainder of this academic year. This is due to begin in April after the Easter holidays and the costs are in line with our prices for the 2022/23 academic year of £55 per student, per session or a discounted price of £400 for a full group of 8 students, per session. If you feel this may be of any interest to you, please don't hesitate to contact Kieran Norton

at knorton@racewaytraining.co.uk

University of Plymouth

Online Parents & Guardians Information Evening 29 March 2023, 19.30 - 21.00

On Wednesday, 29 March the Outreach Team will be delivering information and guidance talks, **via Zoom**, covering the following topics:

- Choosing a Course and the Benefits of University
- UCAS and Personal Statements
 Student Finance and Budgeting

This event is open to all teachers, advisers, students from year 11 onwards, parents and guardians.

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Thinking about Cambridge University?

The prestigious Gonville & Caius College at Cambridge University are running a virtual webinar for students in years 9 to 11 on "Thinking about Cambridge? Introduction and advice". This is a great introduction to thinking about competitive universities that hopes to raise aspirations and inspire discussions.

The webinar is scheduled for **25** April from **4:30-5:30 pm** and students can sign themselves up at this link: https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aWpII12tuXDJmCi which has already been communicated on Class Charts as an announcement . The deadline for signing up is **5:00 pm on 18 April.**

I would strongly suggest anyone contemplating applying to Oxford or Cambridge in the coming years to sign up and see what it's all about!

Any problems please email mihutchinson@highdown.reading.sch.uk







The Summer Internship Scheme is aimed at 16 and 17-year-old residents of Berkshire who are from ethnic groups that are currently under-represented within our Service.

The internship will run from Monday, 17 July to Friday, 18 August.

It is a paid internship designed to help young people develop their workplace skills and discover the opportunities available in a modern fire and rescue service.

Through a tailored programme of activity, as well as career development workshops and learning sessions, the **five-week summer internship** supports interns in gaining transferable skills and real-world experience for their future education or career ambitions, whatever these may be.



Learn more about the scheme by scanning the code or online at rbfrs.co.uk/interns

🖪 RoyalBerksFRS 💓 😭 RBFRSOfficial 🗵 RoyalBerkshireFire

Careers Corner

RAF Logistics apprenticeships webinar

Join us to find out more about how to become a Chef, Driver, Mover, Supplier or Air and Ground Steward with the RAF



Join the RAF Logistics webinar

Join apprentices and colleagues from the RAF Logistics team on Wednesday 29 March between 3-4pm to find out more about the different roles available, how to apply and what it's like to be an apprentice with the RAF.

REGISTER HERE

The Royal Air Force offer an exciting range of apprenticeships that give you opportunities that you won't find in any other career.

Visit the website to find out more about the logistics roles available and how you can apply.

Find Out More

Why the RAF?

The RAF can provide an exciting career for apprentices who want to be a key part of the team that keep the RAF moving.

Voted as one of England's Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers (2022), the RAF offer the very best training, a chance for apprentices to travel the world, play sport and perform an important role in the RAF, whilst also gaining a qualification and getting paid to learn.

APRIL 2023

EASTER HOLIDAY INSPIRATION

READING ROCKS IS THE ULTIMATE WHAT'S ON GUIDE FOR FAMILIES TO FIND THINGS TO DO IN THE LOCAL AREA WWW.READING-ROCKS.CO.UK

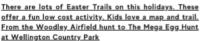
EASTER EVENTS



Our website is iam packed with ideas of things to do this Easter. Get hands on at West Green House's Easter Weekend with petting zoo or head to one of Readings Museums for lots of Easter fun! Check out our website for lots more ideas.

Check out our events tab here

EASTER TRAILS





To check out local Easter Trails check out our Easter Article here.

FOLLOW US AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY!
There are thousands of local parents following us Social Media, and we'd love for you to join in! Just search Reading Rocks and like our page!

www.reading-rocks.co.uk





Save the date!

Somewhere over the Rainbow: A Concert for Charlie

Saturday 24 June, 7pm in Highdown School Hall

A concert in memory of Charlie Ilsley by Reading Phoenix Choir, The Hill Primary School and Highdown School to raise money for Team Charlie, a charity providing gifts and wishes to children with brain tumours across Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

More details to follow!

