

### w/c 13 November 2023 Week B



This week in assemblies, as we approach Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, we have been reflecting on the sacrifices made by those who served their country in the First World War and in subsequent conflicts. We remembered and honoured those who lost their

lives, the veterans, and their families.

Earlier in the week a group of 34 students from across Years 11 to 13 travelled north to Birmingham to the annual NCSL Festival, which is the largest national careers and skills event in the country. Whilst there, students explored a wide range of potential apprenticeships, universities, careers and employability skills. This is just one part of our expansive programme of careers education for our students, and we have our second Careers Focus Week of the academic year next week with a range of activities planned.

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the Year 11 Music Recital on Thursday evening this week. The performances were amazing and students so talented. We were treated to a wide range of instruments and musical styles. The students' confidence to play/sing in solo performances in front of parents and siblings was impressive. Many thanks to the Music Department for organising this wonderful evening of music, and of course, our students for their performances.

I hope families have a great weekend.

M A Grantham Head of School

Reminder the PTA Quiz takes place this evening, Friday 10 November. Doors open at 7pm.













**Follow** us

#### **HOUSE POINTS**

Mapledurham	43315
Grove	42072
Rosehill	45191
Caversham	42864

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Torm 2

Term dates can be found here: 2023/24

Term 2	
All Week:	Careers Week 2 Anti-Bullying Week Geography Awareness Week Y11 MFL Speaking PPEs Y12 Learning Conversations Week
Mon 13 Nov:	Y12/13 GCSE Retake Exam (am) Y7 Alt Prov Group Presentation on Knife Crime
Wed 15 Nov:	Y12/13 Senior Kangaroos and Olympiad Maths Challenge
Thurs 16 Nov:	Careers Fair 6pm
Fri 17 Nov:	Y7 Learning Conference: Becoming Independent

#### Information

#### **The Highdown Herald**

The latest edition of our student led newspaper, The Highdown Herald is now available to view of our website.

#### Berkshire Music Trust October Newsletter

Please click here to read the latest copy of the Berkshire Music Trust Newsletter.



#### 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.

#### **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 office@highdown.reading.sch.uk





# Children in Read 2023





Children in Need are doing a 'Children in Read' and are auctioning off author signed books. For more information visit their website:

https:// www.jumblebee.c o.uk/ childreninread202 3

#### **Courses for Parents**

Online Courses for Parents and Carers -November 2023

Understanding and supporting attention for learning

13 November 2023, 10.00am - 12.30pm Free online session via MS Teams

For parents/carers with children of school age in a Reading school.

# Online Courses for Parents and Carers - December 2023

Understanding Autism & Anxiety Workshop 6 December 2023, 9.30am - 12.00pm Free online session via MS Teams For parents/carers of Reading pupils ages 6 -16. This workshop is targeted towards parents/carers whose children struggle with attention. This may include children who have a diagnosis of ADHD / ADD but is also open to parents of children who struggle with attention but do not have a diagnosis. The workshop explores how attention difficulties may present, support strategies and how SEN support may look in school.

To book or for more information email: Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org.

A 2.5 hour workshop targeted towards parents/carers of children with a diagnosis of autism or those who may be awaiting a diagnosis. It looks at common drivers for anxiety in those with autism, especially in relation to coping with uncertainty and not knowing what might happen. The workshop gives parents a chance to share their experiences and to learn strategies and approaches to manage anxious feelings.

To book or for more information email: Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

# AUTISM: Improving Communication



13th November 2023. 6:30-8:30pm

Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE giving a two hour online talk to parents (and teachers), explaining how simple changes in how you speak can lead to more positive communication with people on the spectrum.

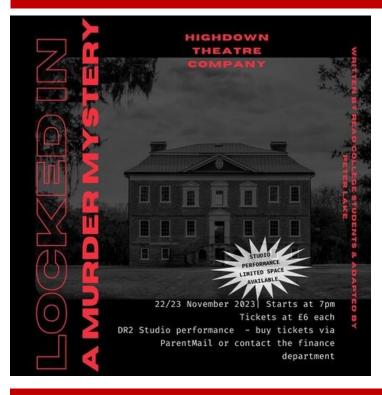
Book online now £24 facefamilyadvice.co.uk

# Safeguarding and National Online Safety

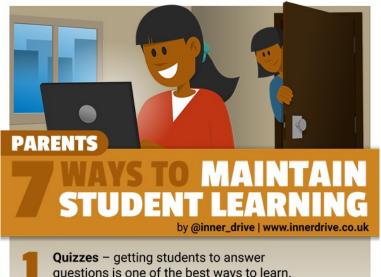


This is just one of the guides provided for parents/carers at <u>https://nationalonlinesafety.com</u> which is free to register with as a member of the Highdown community.

#### Drama Department



### Year 11/13: Top Tips For Helping Your Child Revise



questions is one of the best ways to learn.

Little and often - this is far more effective than cramming it all in one go.

Mindmaps - if making a mindmap, be sure to combine both pictures and words as this accelerates learning.

Get them to teach the material to someone else this helps the brain categorise, organise and focus.

Ensure they eat breakfast - this aids concentration over the course of the day.

Ensure they get plenty of sleep – sleep improves mood, memory, concentration and learning.

Get them to 'explain why' - getting them to tell you why something is the case, known as 'elaborative interrogation', is an effective memory booster.

### Top tips for helping your child succeed in their learning.

As the Year 11 and Year 13 PPEs approach, you may be wondering what you can do to help your child succeed.

You may have already seen the top tips to helping your child on the school website here: https:// www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/revision and I recommend you also look at The Essential Revision Guide which is here: https:// www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/attachments/ download.asp?file=1996&type=pdf

In addition to this, here is a short video specifically designed for parents and carers, informing them about retrieval practices and how the science of learning can help improve progress in your child. Teachers use these techniques in school, but you can enhance that by using them at home too. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U -TaSzYmx8

I hope you find all this information useful, both now and as the year goes on.

# Year 11 Music Recital

This week the two Year 11 music classes performed their solo pieces in two evening recitals on Tuesday and Thursday night. The standard of performance was very high and we had a wide variety of performances ranging from Mozart, to the musical Hamilton, to AC/DC. The students had been working hard on these performances since Year 10 and it was a fantastic display of all their hard work and dedication to their instruments. Here are a variety of photos from the evening kindly taken by Mrs Reid. Well done Year 11!

**Miss Jefferies** 



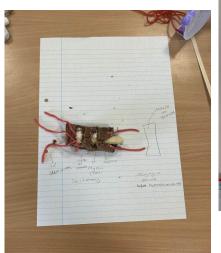
# Year 13 Biology

Year 13 biologists have been studying the structure and function of neurones...and no better way to model it than using a swiss roll, chocolate finger and a strawberry lace or two. Carefully the chocolate finger was inserted into the swiss roll to represent the axon, while the swiss roll represented the insulating myelin sheath. The students cut away tiny gaps in the swiss roll to represent the exposed areas of the

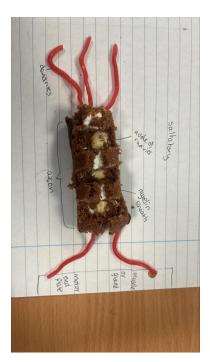
axon where the impulse develops. Well done 13A ...top quality modelling.

Dr Love









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nyelin sheath

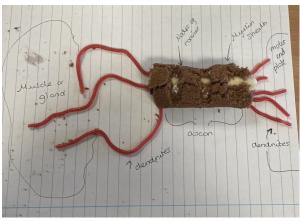
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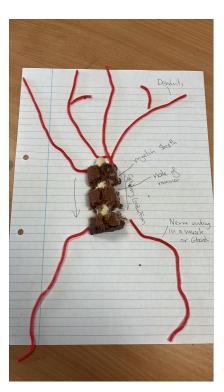
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#### **Stars of the Week**

7C	Albie O'Neill	8C	Summer King	9C	Ben Hughes
7D	Greta Nagy	8D	Leah Fothergill	9D	Alfie Dixon
7E	James Prodger	8E	Luke Preece	9E	Tabby Bradbury
7F	Niamh Rafferty	8F	Jacob Martin	9F	Joshua Packer
7G	Jessica Loveridge	8G	Kimi France-Miller	9G	Ellie Chan
7H	Evie Titchener	8H	Oscar Nash	9Н	Sammy Smyth
7J	Abeeha Hussain	8J	Sam Escott	9J	Felicity Pohler
7K	Makar Shapovalov	8К	Tula Matthews	9К	Isla Routledge
7L	Isla Kingsmill	8L	Ken Díaz	9L	Josh Church
				Mrs Robinson's bonus:	
10C	Corey Hawkes	11C	Joshua Smith	9C	Georgie Barnbrook
10D	Hollie Martin	11D	Theo Turay		
10E	Ashlynne Kingshott	11E	Erin Bonsall		
10F	Charlie Waterman	11F	Ophelia Baldwin		
10G	Erin Powell	11G	Alice Jolley		
10H	Callum Pieper	11H	Michael Foulkes		
10J	Ruby Riddington	11J	Dexter Jeynes		
10K	Joel Fenning	11K	Dylan Sandrey		
10L	Eva Stratton	11L	Brooke Mattingley		
		11M	Sam Hayes		

#### **Numeracy Puzzle**

Here is a puzzle from the film Die Hard.

With a 5 gallon and a 3 gallon jug (and a fountain) how do you measure out exactly 4 gallons in one of the jugs?

You can watch the video, the first minute is the problem, and the rest of the video is the solution: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=6cAbgAaEOVE</u>

Note: There is one swear word (s\*\*\*) in the above video from the movie. For a clean alternative, with the problem and solution, but not using the movie clip:

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=CQTfH1zmivA We're keen to get some competition going! Try this numeracy problem at home, if you think you have an answer, submit it to us using the given link or QR code!

We'll post a leaderboard in the next newsletter.

https://forms.office.com/e/jX1H1N3pii



# Library / The Hive



# WWI and WWII fiction recommendations from the Hive as we remember, this weekend, those who gave their today for our tomorrow.

#### Five Children on the Western Front – E Nesbit

Set on the eve of the First World War, in this heart wrenching sequel to Five Children and It, Cyril is off to fight, Anthea is at art college, Robert is a Cambridge scholar and Jane is at high school. The Lamb is the grown-up age of 11, and he has a little sister. Edith, in tow. The sand fairy has become a creature of stories...until he suddenly reappears. The siblings are pleased to have something to take their minds off the war, but this time the Psammead is here for a reason, and his magic might have a more serious purpose. Before this last adventure ends, all will be changed, and the two younger children will have seen the Great War from every possible viewpoint - factoryworkers, soldiers and sailors, nurses and the people left at home, and the war's impact will be felt right at the heart of their family.

Kicking Off – Eve Ainsworth It's 1917, and Britain is at war. Shy teenager Hettie wants to help the war effort, and signs up to work in the local Dick, Kerr & Co. munitions factory. She's nervous, but she has no idea quite how much her life is about to change... For, inside this factory are young women who are going to make sporting history. Can Hettie find the courage to join them, and in doing so, find her own place in the world?



#### The Valley of Lost Secrets – Lesley Parr

September 1939. When Jimmy is evacuated to a small village in Wales, it couldn't be more different from London. Green, quiet and full of strangers, he instantly feels out of place. But then he finds a skull hidden in a tree, and suddenly the valley is more frightening than the war. Who can Jimmy trust? His brother is too little; his best friend has changed. Finding an ally in someone he never expects, they set out together to uncover the secrets that lie with the skull. What they discover will change Jimmy -- and the village -- forever.

#### My Brother's Secret – Dan Smith

Germany, 1941. 12-year-old Karl Friedmann is looking forward to ioining the Hitler Youth, like all boys his age. But when his father is killed, his rebellious older brother Stefan shows him things that leave his faith in the Fuhrer shaken. What does it mean to be a good German? What does it mean to wear the mysterious flower sewn inside his brother's jacket? Who is the real enemy?





# **Recommended Diwali reads from** the Hive and eBooks/Audiobooks.

https://highdown.eplatform.co/

#### Stay a Little Longer – Bali Rai

Indian and a girl - forget it.

a talent scout, it all kicks off ...

Aman's dad is gone, leaving her feeling lost and alone. She struggles to talk about it, but it's a fact and he isn't coming back. When a lovely man called Gurnam moves in to her street and saves Aman from some local bullies, he and Aman quickly become friends, perhaps even like family. But Gurnam has his own sadness. One that's far bigger than Aman can understand, and it's tearing his life apart. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant or dyslexic readers aged 13+

Bend It Like Beckham – Narinder Dhami Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the global smash hit film! If

you're 18, love football and can bend a ball like Beckham, the

world must be your oyster, right? Wrong. If you're Jess - 18,

Jess just wants to play football but her wedding-obsessed parents have other ideas so she hides it from them. But when

Jess and her friend Jules join a ladies team and get spotted by



#### Anita and Me – Meera Syal – eBook

This poignant coming-of-age tale follows Meena, the irreverent teenage daughter of the only Punjabi family in the mining village of Tollington. When she becomes friends with the impossibly feisty Anita, she thinks she's found her soul mate but her world is turned upside down and she finds herself caught between her two cultures.

Adapted from the much-loved novel by the award winning playwright Tanika Gupta, Anita And Me paints a colourful portrait of village life in 1970's West Midlands during the era of flares, power cuts and glam rock.

#### Run Rebel – Manjeet Mann – Audiobook

When Amber runs, it's the only time she feels completely free far away from her claustrophobic home life. Her father wants her to be a dutiful daughter, waiting for an arranged marriage like her sister Ruby.

Running is a quiet rebellion. But Amber wants so much more and she's ready to fight for it.

It's time for a revolution.



ANITA AND ME . MEERA SYAL



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#### **PTA Lottery**

#### Win a PS5/VR2 prize bundle!

We are thrilled to introduce our biggest EVER Super Draw prize: A HUGE PlayStation bundle, consisting of not only a Limited Edition Spider-Man 2 PS5 console (disc edition, of course) – undeniably the hottest console of the year – but also the BRAND NEW PlayStation VR2 Virtual Reality headset, which ALSO comes bundled with Horizon: Call of the Mountain, for an unforgettable Virtual Reality gaming experience! With our new Super Draw, there are exciting new flexible way to play – so get your tickets now ready for the big draw on 25 November!

Support Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre when you play Your School Lottery - Your School

#### Highdown Careers Fair

### HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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YOU ARE INVITED TO A



# CAREERS FAIR!

We are delighted to announce the return of our annual Careers Fair for students (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.



# Thursday 16th November

6pm-8pm

Years 9-13



#### **Careers Corner**

#### INVESTIN

Summer Career Experiences in London

Registration for our 2024 Summer Career Experiences are now open!

Where : University College London (UCL)

#### When: During the summer holidays

InvestIN provides teenagers with the chance to experience life beyond school, as well as receive unparalleled career preparation.

Opportunities include:

Work with world-class industry professionals across 15 top careers.

Participate in hands-on career simulations.

Visit exclusive professional venues.

Receive personalised industry reference letters and certificates to showcase on university and job applications. For a limited time only, students can use the early bird discount code SUMMER15A to receive 15% off programme fees.

https://investin.org/ collections/summerexperiences-2024

View & Register: Ages 15-18

View & Register: Ages 12-14

# Insight to Deloitte Virtual Webinar

Wednesday 15 November from 5pm-6.30pm

#### FAO Students in Y11, 12 & 13

Deloitte is one of the most prestigious professional services and accounting firms in the world, offering careers in audit, tax, legal and advisory services to enable brands to grow, succeed and maintain their global status. This fantastic evening will give you an insight into what Deloitte do and what a career at such a huge global firm can look like. They will be sharing tips on how you can succeed in your future and we will be hearing from top professionals who will be sharing their personal insights into a Big 4 firm.

Providing such a range of professional services all in-house, makes a lifetime career at Deloitte so exciting, vibrant and full of opportunities. Future 'you' could be auditing or advising global brands like GSK, Boeing or even Morgan Stanley!

Click here to sign up now:

#### https://

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ InsightintoDeloitte

### **Teacher of Geography**

#### Main Scale, Full time/Part time

#### **Required for January 2024**

We are looking for an outstanding, passionate and dynamic practitioner to join our highly successful and wellresourced Geography department of 6 staff.

A willingness to teach across all years and abilities is essential. We welcome applications from ECTs, for whom we have a superb induction programme.

Applications will be considered on receipt.

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our <u>website</u>.

# Teacher of Physical Education

Main Scale Full time/part-time.

#### **Required for January 2024**

This is an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic and well-qualified teacher of Physical Education to join a successful department with excellent resources and facilities. A willingness to teach across all years and abilities is essential. We welcome applications from ECTs, for whom we have a superb induction programme.

The successful candidate should be a highly motivated and successful practitioner who is willing to contribute to all aspects of the school vision and the many extracurricular activities that the department offers.

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our <u>website</u>.

# **Senior Leisure Attendant**

Part-time position, evenings and weekends

# Up to £11.50ph dependent on experience and qualifications.

We are seeking to appoint a Senior Leisure Attendant to join our dedicated team. You will have level 2 fitness instructing or preferably level 3 personal training, working mainly weekends and some evening during the week.

You will have responsibility for supervising the use of the sports centre facilities whilst maintaining high standards of cleanliness and customer service. No previous experience is necessary as training will be provided, but an interest in fitness is an advantage.

Full details can be accessed on our website.

#### **Learning Support Assistant**

Full time, term time only plus 2 staff training days, 8.30am-3.15pm

#### (NJC P3-4) Actual salary £14,968pa

# Part time hours would be considered.

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.

For more information please click <u>here</u>.

### **Examinations Invigilator**

#### £10.79 per hour, Flexible hours

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

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

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our <u>website</u>.

#### Community



Stageworks Performing Arts School are putting on a production of The Jungle Book. Among the cast are some students from Highdown School.





# Sport & Games - for Youth Mental Wellbeing



Time Fridays 4-5PM (Ages 9-12) 5-6PM (Ages 13-16) sessions running weekly during term time Morgan Centre - Queen Annes School, 6 Henley Rd, Reading RG4 6DX

Description

Fun, free and interactive sessions to help improve the mental wellbeing of young people. A great way to help build confidence, support self-esteem and meet new people. To book please email:

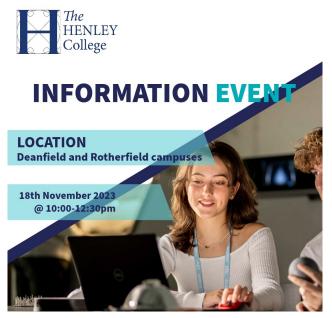
youth@sportinmind.org This group is provided FREE by mental health charity Sport In Mind for the benefit of local young people. Your local representative is Kieran.



Berkshire Healthcare

Children, Young People a Families services

🐼 Reading



Visit The Henley College for our Saturday open event, as we welcome prospective students and their parents to explore our impressive campuses after an enormous summer refurbishment, including new facilities and equipment such as:

**3D** Printers Virtual Reality Room **VR** Metaverse Headsets Data Network Cabinet for Computing Students Corporate style boardroom New study spaces

Hear from the Senior Leadership team, meet enthusiastic teaching staff, and find out more about our high-achieving, diverse, and welcoming College in the centre of the beautiful Henley-on-Thames. Learn about the varied qualifications on offer, including A-Levels, Applied A-Levels, BTECs, and the introduction of brandnew T-Levels in Health, Digital, Business, and Engineering.

We look forward to welcoming you. For more information and to secure your place, please click here.

#### leading Football Club's 2nd Sch Invitation to I

When?		Where?				
Reading vs Barnsley		Select Car Leasing Stadium				
Saturday 9 De	rday 9 December, 3pm					
As part of the invitation, we would like to offer the following discounted prices:						
12 and Under: £1						
17 and Under: £3						
18 to 24:	£5					
Adult:	£10					

To redeem, please visit https://ticketing.readingfc.co.uk and enter the unique coupon code: #HighdownSchool in the basket, once you have logged in and selected your tickets. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy using your unique code. For every ticket which is purchased you will receive one entry in a prize draw for a chance to win a series of 'money can't buy experience' prizes!

Important! This offer applies to tickets in the Eamonn Dolan Stand blocks and Y19/Y20 of the Sir John Madejski Stand. Coupon codes are valid up until 4 hours before kick-off.

# Happy Weekend!