

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 4 December 2023 Week A



Happy 1^sDecember!

It's certainly feeling a little festive at Highdown with our crisp and glistening grounds shining in the moonlight, the Christmas tree lighting up the main reception area, Christmas Jumper Day, and

our annual Christmas Concert coming up next week! We hope families can join us at the Christmas concert to enjoy a wonderful evening of music. Tickets are available on the door.

We also had our inaugural Student Christmas Fair this afternoon, which was an absolutely lovely way to end the week. Thank you to our PTA for their support with this event and to our fantastic student leaders for their organisation. Our students had prepared a wide range of goodies for sale – thank you to all involved.

Congratulations to our Year 11 Rugby squad for their tremendous efforts against The Oratory School earlier this week. It was a close game, but unfortunately, we got pipped to the post. Our students were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Have a great weekend everyone!

M A Grantham Head of School

HOUSE POINTS

Mapledurham	57427
Grove	55972
Rosehill	59746
Caversham	56720

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term dates can be found here: <u>2023/24</u>						
<u>Term 2</u>						
All Week:	Y11 PPEs					
Mon 4 Dec:	Y13 PPE					
Tue 5 Dec:	Y13 PPEs					
	Y9 Peter Pan Goes Wrong					
	Theatre Trip					
Wed 6 Dec:	Y13 Art/Textiles PPEs					
Thurs 7 Dec:	Y13 Art/Textiles PPEs					
	Christmas Concert Rehearsals					
	Flu vaccinations					
	Christmas Concert 7pm					
Fri 8 Dec:	Y13 Art/Textiles PPEs					
	Reading Climate Change					
	Conference					



Follow us

EXCELLENCE













HIGHDOWN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7:00 PM, THURS DECEMBER 7TH

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR £5 FULL PRICE £3 CONCESSIONS

The Health Bus

NHS Berkshire Healthcare have launched their very first Health Bus to bring their services direct to our community.

The bus will be at Tesco Portman Road on Friday 15 December from 9.30-11.30am. Parents need to complete a form to be able to access this clinic and it is appointment only. If you are having any difficulties, please contact:

westschoolimms@berkshire.nhs.uk.

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.

Problems with Class Charts

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



REMINDER TO YEAR 8

Friday ,1 December is the deadline for the year 8 Rhos-Y-Gwaliau trip; the online form can be found at: https://forms.office.com/e/cUAfdAkQpd.

SEND Local Offer Newsletter

The new look SEND Local Offer newsletter winter edition is here. This edition is packed full of information, blogs, updates from the sector and much more. Please feel free to send any feedback on the latest edition or suggestions for future editions to fis@reading.gov.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.

The Highdown Herald

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

Year 8

Congratulations to the students listed below who have been awarded P4s by Ms Cave for their exemplary readiness to learn. Their commitment to learning shines through, not only propelling their academic achievements but also serving as a beacon of inspiration for their peers and our Hightown community.

Mrs Taylor

Head of Achievement, Year 8

- 8G George G
- 8L Noah F
- 8D Leah F
- 8E Alice G
- 8C Yonatan G
- 8D Vedant J
- 8J Jamie L
- 8J Riley S
- 8J Freya W









Year 8 University of Reading Trip

Twelve Year 8 students enjoyed a day at the University of Reading learning about the fun and interesting opportunities further education can provide. We enjoyed the "Chemistry of Chocolate", campus tours, a jousting competition (won by Alana O R) and a well received 'all-you-can-eat' lunch buffet.

Thank you to the students for being such great Highdown representatives and Mrs Rackley for accompanying us to the campus.

Mr Hutchinson





Year 11 and Year 13: Top Tips For Helping Your Child Revise

Top tips for helping your child succeed in their learning

As the winter PPE season has now started and exams are closer than you'd care to think, you may be wondering what you can do to help your child succeed.

Last week's newsletter had links to advice and guidance about the benefits of retrieval practice and how quick low stake quizzes can help retain information for longer and even transfer information to the longterm memory.

This week I'd like to share the benefits of knowing what NOT to do.

In students' bid to find out what works best to maximise their learning and performance, it is also important to minimise the strategies that don't. These are the banana skins of learning, short term strategies that appear useful, but they are not. By becoming aware of the common mistakes children make, they can learn more efficiently and effectively, which means both less stress and better grades. We all want the best for our young people – so let's work together and be explicit about possible mistakes they could make without realising it.

Further information if you would like it is here: https://blog.innerdrive.co.uk/10-commonstudent-mistakes?utm_campaign=Student% 20Workshops&utm_content=272345168&utm _medium=social&utm_source=twitter&hss_ch annel=tw-85885295



Highdown Rugby 2023 Update

A BIG Thank You to PE Staff (A Gordon, A Patten, S Thompson) for giving up considerable time in running numerous Pre-School, Lunchtime and Post School Training Sessions.

2023 Results

U12 Mr S Thompson Played 7 Won 0 Drew 0 Lost 7 Points for 36 Points against 87

Used 45 players **Most Valuable Player**: Fletcher Jenkins, **Most Improved Player**: Jasper Gilchrist, **Team Player**: Benjamin Girdler.

The youngest team in the school played the most games and towards the end of the season began to show considerable potential as a more settled team emerged. We have every confidence that next year will see them progress as a team that plays with enthusiasm and eventually will develop into a good rugby team with continued application and focussed effort.

U13 Mr A Patten Played 5 Won 5 Drew 0 Lost 0 Points for 47 Points against 18

Promoted from Division 2 to Division 1. Won Wallingford 7's. Most Valuable Player: Lewis Bridge

Most Improved Player: Munahid Mohamed, Team Player: Xav Carter.

A group full of characters who were unfortunate not to have the opportunity to play the premier division, as last year, because they did not play all their allocated league games. The team that trained with greatest regularity in the morning sessions and embraced the concepts of principles of play and functional playing roles. The team was rarely threatened on the field of play and won promotion with ease and will become a top performing team next year.

U14 Dr T Browne Played 6 Won 6 Drew 0 Lost 0 Points for 88 Points against 18

Finalist Beat Bohunt **15-12**, Lost to Forest **12-15** in Final Runners Up. **Development players**: Samuel Franklin, Ethan James. Wallingford 7's Runners Up (2nd) **Most Valuable Player**: Bailey Lamden, **Most Improved Player**: Harry Davies, **Team Player**: Euan Boarder.

The most eager group of players on the Highdown programme, however the lack of finishing cost the group dearly. Nevertheless, the team continued to train with purpose and enthusiasm. They improved their understanding of sequential action and consequence, cause and effect and risk taking. A enthusiastic group who will develop and enjoy playing a particular brand of rugby next year as they develop as tactical decision makers.

U15 Mr A Gordan Played 7 Won 5 Drew 0 Lost 2 Points for 54 Points against 34

Finalist 3rd Position **Most Valuable Player:** Max Negro-Halpin, **Most Improved Player:** Charlie Baker, **Team Player:** Luke Vickery.

Candidates for Team of the Year given the improvement and journey the team have been on. Last year they did not play but encouraged by Mr A Gordon this merry band grew amazingly and developed into dominant play at "home/pick and drive team". A no-nonsense direct style of play saw them gain a place in the finals and we are confident about next year.

U16 Dr T Browne Played 11 Won 10 Drew 0 Lost 1 Points for 138 Points against 32 "Threepeat" Played 31 Won 30 Drew 0 Lost 1

Champions Semi Finals beat The Willink School **7-21** Finals beat St Crispin School **0-12**. Development Players, Ben Bridge, Julius Hormigo, Marlowe Rundle. Wallingford 7's Runners Up (2nd) Most Valuable Player: Marlowe Rundle, Most Improved Player: Zain MacDonald, Team Player: Ollie Dew.

The U16 group successfully managed a "threepeat" winning the Reading Title three years in a row playing a muscular brand of rugby. Adopting a direct team pattern and profile, dominating opponents with the simple application of applying pressure and go forward. The group's positive culture meant that the team played in the Berkshire Cup with a quarter final appearance against The Oratory School (Away), during which the team experienced a high exposure to rugby at another level, eventually going down **24-29**.

Next year it is hoped to extend the season by playing teams outside the Reading League; look to playing at more tournaments and investigate the possibility of tour games. Pre-season skills and positional clinics will also feature in next year's programme. Note: New playing strip photographs for all squad members will be arranged within the next few weeks with playing record and all team squad names recorded. Winter Training: Fitness training Tuesday and skills training on Thursday before school. THANKS to the many parents for continually supporting the different games and tournaments and arranging transport to games and training throughout the year. Thanks also to the coaching staff of teachers who have demonstrated commitment above and beyond expectation and this is reflected in the success experienced by all teams.

Library / The Hive

Show is failing and Looks are

these books are available to borrow from the Hive

Father Christmas and Me – Matt Haig

It isn't always easy, growing up as a human in Elfhelm, even if your adoptive parents are the newly married Father Christmas and Mary Christmas. For one thing, Elf School can be annoying when you have to sing Christmas songs everyday - even in July - and when you fail all your toy-making tests. Also it can get very, very cold. But when the jealous Easter Bunny and his rabbit army launch an attack to stop Christmas, it's up to Amelia, her new family and the elves to keep Christmas alive. Before it's too late ...



Graphic Novel

Avalanche Freestyle – Celia Rees

Rich kid Tony Jay is a shoe-in to win the Silver Falls snowboarding tournament, but his biggest rival, Jack Hewlitt, can't afford to enter. Tony may be spoiled, but he knows that victory means nothing if you don't beat the best. So, he agrees to hold a one-on-one freestyle run with Jack on top of the Silver Falls Mountains. But just when things start to heat up, a massive avalanche threatens to put both boys on ice, turning their friendly competition into a race for their lives



Mistletoe and Murder – Robin Stevens

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are spending the Christmas hols ir snowy Cambridge. Hazel has high hopes of its beautiful spires, cosy libraries, and inviting tea-rooms - but there is danger lurking in the dark stairwells of ancient Maudlin College. Three nights before Christmas, there is a terrible accident. At least, it appears to be an accident - until the Detective Society look a little closer, and realise a murder has taken place. Faced with several irritating grown-ups and fierce competition from a rival agency, they must use all their cunning and courage to find the killer (in time for Christmas Day, of course).



6th form read

Light on Snow – Anita Shreve

What makes a family? That's what twelve-year-old Nicky Dillon wonders after she and her widowed father discover a wailing abandoned baby in the snow-filled woods near their New Hampshire home. Through the days that follow, the Dillons and an unexpected visitor who soon turns up at their door-a voung woman evidently haunted by her own terrible choicesface a thicket of decisions, each seeming to carry equal possibilities of heartbreak and redemption.



eBooks and Audiobooks are available to all Highdowners at: https://highdown.eplatform.co/

All you need is your Highdown log-in

Winter, White and Wicked – Shannon Dittemore

Mad Max: Fury Road meets Frozen in this striking YA fantasy about a rig driver's journey to save her friend Twice-orphaned Sylvi has chipped out a niche for herself on Layce, an island cursed by eternal winter. Alone in her truck, she takes comfort in two things: the solitude of the roads and the favor of Winter, an icy spirit who has protected her since she was a child. Sylvi likes the road, where no one asks who her parents were or what she thinks of the rebels in the north. But when her best friend, Lenore, runs off with the rebels, Sylvi must make a haul too late in the season for a smuggler she wouldn't normally work with, the infamous Mars Dresden.

Oseman's acclaimed debut novel Solitaire and graphic novel

author of the 2021 YA Book Prize winning Loveless. The festive

Charlie. And this year's going to be harder than most.I used to think that difficult was better than boring, but I know better now...I'm not going to think about the past few months, about Charlie and me, and all of the sad. I'm going to block it all out

series Heartstopper - now a major Netflix series. From the

season isn't always happy for Tori Spring and her brother

This Winter – Alice Oseman

Just for today."Happy Christmas, " I say.



The Edge Chonicles 2: The Winter Knights -Paul Stevens & Chris Riddell

Quint Verginix has enrolled as a squire in the Knight's Academy. After his training, he will be able to pilot stormchaser sky-ships into the heart of Great Storms, and retrieve the solidified lightning - stormphrax - to weigh down the floating rock on which Sanctaphrax is built. But as a freezing winter takes hold, and the city strains to break free of its tether, ancient feuds threaten to tear its people apart. On his own, Quint can do nothing to help avert the impending doom. But with the help of a band of loyal friends he might just be able to avert disaster.

Frost Wolf – Kathryn Lasky

A terrible danger is looming on the horizon, and Faolan is the only one who knows how to fight it. Will he be able to claim his rightful place as leader and lead his clan in battle? Unless Faolan can inspire the pack to stand together, it could be the end of the wolves of the beyond.





Audiobook



A short novella based on the beloved characters from Alice

House Stars of the Week

7C	Advika Badkur	8C	Belle Grant	9C	E
7D	Ethan Amos	8D	Irem Akverdi	9D	A
7E	Eden Whitington	8E	Alice Gomm	9E	S
7F	Elspeth McLaren	8F	Vanessa Han	9F	L
7G	Cindy Da Cruz Costa	8G	Nelly Anscomb	9G	R
7H	Aimee Yeung	8H	Florence Hastings	9H	L
7J	Fejiro Orife	8J	Soraya Hyman-Straker	9J	Z
7K	Rie Bracewell	8K	James Taylor	9К	E
7L	Zoe Eighteen	8L	Baker Keating	9L	S
10C	LOC Sean Curtayne		Isabel Church	Miss	Ro
10D	Jingru Goma	11C 11D	Chrissie Ching	9L	R
10E	Muhammadu Sy	11E	Digby Cresswell		
10F	Chloe Gritten	11F	Ellie Houghton		
10G	Lewis Harte	11G	Olivia Yearwood		
10H	Tsz Kiu Chan	11H	Ishaq Riaz		
10J	Nilo Lambert	11J	Katie Ma		
10K	Aleksandar Cvetkov	11K	Aurora Knight		
10L	Thomas Kahl	11L	Senna Kuiper		
		11M	Renae Ifill		

9CEddy Leach9DArthur Parkes9ESonia Vetsko9ELexi Godsell9FIshwith Vipperla9GRishwith Vipperla9HLottie Borgeaud9HSachary Dolby9KEvie Johnson9LSamuel Boughton9LRohan Hinds

Numeracy Puzzle

Try this numeracy problem at home, if you think you have an answer, submit it to us using the given link or QR code!

At the moment we have had great responses from Team Leung and Team Miranda

The answer to the last problem was that you will end up getting to the gate faster if you tie your shoe on the travelator rather than off it.

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



You are trapped in a room with a friend in the room next door.

You are told you can only go free if you complete this challenge.

You are given a coin each. You will both be told to flip the coin in your rooms. After the flip, you must guess what side the OTHER person's coin landed on.

You have to do this 10 times, and at least one of you must be correct every time. You are given some time to discuss a plan first... what should your plan be?

2024 Microsoft Apprenticeships

Register your interest now and find out as soon as roles are available for application.

Interviews are in January and February

Microsoft.getmyfirstjob.co.uk



Join ACCA and Success at School on **December 6th for the Careers in Business virtual expo!** We're bringing together students aged 13 to 18, their parents, guardians, teachers, as well as career experts.

Experience a day filled with live sessions featuring industry experts from UCAS, NHS, Warner Bros. Discovery, Santander, and more. Topics include university applications, careers in accounting, degree apprenticeships, and insights into women in leadership.

If that's not exciting enough, attendees have the chance to win prizes like Amazon vouchers from ACCA and a set of Success at School guides for their school or college. Interact with live sessions and engage with employers to climb to the top of the leaderboard!

As this event is taking place during the school day, if teachers want to attend with their class that is possible and **encouraged**. For follow-up purposes we would still ask teachers to **ask the students to register individually**.

Register here to secure your place

Here's the schedule for the day:

8:30 - 9:00am - 'Applying for an apprenticeship masterclass' with Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge (ASK) 9:00 - 9:30am - 'A day in the life of a solicitor apprentice' with Taylor Wessing 9:30 -10:00am - 'Applying for university masterclass' with UCAS 10:00 - 10:30am - 'Careers in accountancy panel discussion' with Universal Music Group, Mercedes-Benz, and Johnston Carmichael 10:30 - 11:00am - 'Working in healthcare' with NHS Health Careers 11:00 – 11:30am - 'Supporting the entertainment industry' with Warner Bros. Discovery 11:30 - 12:00pm - 'Listening skills masterclass' with Sean Cunningham, OBE, Hostage and Crisis Negotiator 12:00 - 12:30pm - 'All about degree apprenticeships' with Manchester Metropolitan University 12:00 - 12:30pm - "All about graduate apprenticeships' with Robert Gordon University 12:30 - 1:30pm - Careers advisor online Q&A surgery (with careers advisor specialists) 1:30 - 2:00pm - 'University or apprenticeships - how to decide?' with Success at School 2:00 - 2:30pm - 'Financial wellbeing' with ACCA and Your Game Plan 2:30 - 3:00pm - 'Women in business panel discussion' with Migrant Leaders and Ebit Intelligent Procurement Ltd 3:00 - 3:30pm - 'Starting your career in banking' with Santander 3:30 - 4:00pm - 'Working for the government' with QA 4:00 - 4:30pm - 'Entry pathways into marketing' with Sage 4:30 - 5:00pm - 'Careers in STEM subjects' with Amazon

Berkshire Maestros November Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2023

Welcome to our newsletter, in this issue we are very excited to share details of our upcoming events and information!

BERKSHIRE MUSIC TRUST MUSIC LESSONS AND ENSEMBLES

We offer individual and group lessons in schools and at our music centres. From small groups for beginners, up to longer individual sessions, there are lots of different lesson options at different fee levels. Ensembles offer fantastic value and an extra dimension when learning an instrument. <u>Click here</u> to see our fees and fee support options available. We also offer a huge range of instruments for hire – if you can learn to play it with us, you can probably hire it from us! Most instruments are available in different sizes and different versions, to suit players of all ages and levels. <u>Click here</u> to hire an instrument. <u>Click here</u> to register for lessons. You can also see what we teach in your school and if you would like a free taster session please email admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL MINI MAESTROS SESSIONS

Only a few spaces left in our Christmas Special Mini Maestros sessions! Bring your Christmas jumper and join us for a festive musical adventure that your little ones will love on December the 1st at Berkshire Music Trust Reading Music Centre, Stoneham Court, 100 Cockney Hill, Reading, RG30 4EZ 9.30am - 10.15am Family Beats (18 months to 3 years old) 10.25am-11.10am Family Beats (18 months to 3 years old) 11.20am- 12.05pm Baby Beats (0 - 18 months old) We'll be singing and spreading some holiday cheer! <u>Book now</u>

BERKSHIRE YOUTH CHOIR AUDITION DAY

Our Berkshire Youth Choir is open to all Year 10 – Year 13 to audition on Wednesday 6th December

The county choir rehearses every other Wednesday including some weekends throughout the year and will be singing a variety of repertoire and get to sing at some wonderful events throughout the year!

To read more and sign up click here



MAX'S WINTER ADVENTURE - RELAXED CUSHION CONCERT FOR UNDER 7'S



Embark on a wondrous journey for the whole family with Mini Maestros Max the Mouse's Winter Adventure on Saturday 9th December 11am at Ranelagh School Hall, Bracknell

Come and relax at this cushion concert with the enchanting sounds, woven by the harp's magic, the cello's melodies, and the piano's harmonies.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to enjoy live music with your little ones – <u>get your tickets today!</u>

We hope you have found this newsletter useful and have enjoyed reading. Feel free to get in touch with us and give us a follow on social media!



The newsletter is also available to read on our website

Team Charlie



In memory of Charlie, we are a non-profit organisation set up to offer grants to children who have been diagnosed with brain tumours living in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire to offer a bit of respite, provide gifts or treats, create memories or make a last wish come true.



enable us to achieve our charitable

aims. You can help us make a difference to the lives of children living in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire who are suffering from a brain tumour by making a donation to Charlie's charity. Please help us make a positive impact on these children's lives!

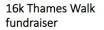


Previous Fundraising Events

• Somewhere Over The Rainbow: A Concert For Charlie

 On the 24th of June 2023 over 200 people attended <u>Highdown's</u> school hall to watch <u>Charlies</u> concert. Pupils from the Hill Primary and Highdown School performed alongside The Pheonix Choir as a tribute by singing some of his favourite songs.

- This helped us raise over £2100!
- The money went to help support children
 with brain tumours.



• On Saturday the 4th of March 40 of us walked 16k around Henley to mark the date for $\underline{Charlies}\ 16^{th}$ birthday.

 In total we raised over £2800 for the same <u>charity</u> and it was a massive success!



10,000ft Skydive

• On the 11th of February 2024, Close relations of Charlie will be doing a skydive to raise money for Team Charlie again.

 We are hoping to raise £1500 and need your help to make this happen. To donate to the charity head to the Team Charlie website or look for Emily Ashby on Just giving.

- Thank you for your time and support.
- #TeamCharlie
- Emily Ashby is fundraising for Team Charlie (justgiving.com)
- Fundraising for Children with Brain Tumours | Team Charlie



Teacher of English

Main Scale, Full and Part time positions for September 2024 start

We are looking for an outstanding, passionate and dynamic practitioner to join our highly successful and wellresourced English department of 12 staff. This post would be suitable for either an ECT or an experienced teacher. A willingness to teach across all years and abilities is essential.

You should be a highly motivated and successful individual who is willing to contribute to all aspects of the school vision and the many enrichment activities that the department offers.

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>.

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>.

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 evenings 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.

Teacher of Maths

Main Scale, Full and Part time positions for September 2024 start

We are looking for an outstanding, passionate and dynamic practitioner to join our highly successful and wellresourced Maths department of 12 staff. A willingness to teach across all years and abilities is essential. Maths and Further Maths are very popular subjects at A level. We welcome applications from ECTs, for whom we have a superb induction programme.

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

The Big Ambition



The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.



