



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



EXCELLENCE

w/c 22 January 2023 Week B

HOUSE POINTS

Mapledurham	79424
Grove	77906
Rosehill	80652
Caversham	79608



Not that I'm preoccupied by the weather (well maybe a little, as a Geographer!), but we've certainly had some harsh temperatures to contend with this week! Our estate has looked delightful in the winter sunshine, though. Fortunately, it looks like some milder weather is on its way.

We also had to contend with a sudden loss of water supply on Wednesday. Thank you to parents/carers for your support. Whilst this was happening, our Year 11 artists were in Oxford exploring the Natural History Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum as part of their course.

Well done to our Year 11 students who received their Pre-Public Examination (PPE) results this week. I am really proud of their hard work, motivation, and commitment to their learning. I am confident they will take on board feedback from this invaluable experience, so they are fully prepared for their final exams in the Summer. Our staff will continue to provide additional booster sessions outside of the usual school day to support students.

I hope that all families have a lovely weekend.

M A Grantham
Head of School

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term dates can be found here: [2023/24](#)

Term 3

All Week:	Y12/13 Learning Conversations Week
Mon 22 Jan:	RAF Schools Concert
Tue 23 Jan:	Y12 Politics Visit to Parliament
Thurs 25 Jan:	Y11 Learning Review Meetings



Follow us



Exam Certificate Collection Post Presentation Evening

If not already collected, certificates can be collected from reception during school hours with prior notification, the candidate will need to bring photo ID. Written permission can be given by letter or email for family or friend to collect with ID on the candidate's behalf. Certificate collection will require a signature.

Alternatively, certificates can be posted with provision of large A4 stamped self-addressed envelope.

Thank you.

Emma Sumbler
Exams Officer

The Highdown Herald

The latest edition of our student led newspaper, The Highdown Herald, is now available to view on our [web-site](#).

Problems with Class Charts

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact office@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 and 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.

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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

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.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.01.2023

A cartoon illustration of a Venus flytrap with a green body, purple mouth, and sharp white teeth. It is surrounded by green leaves and a small yellow flower. The background is black.

LITTLE SHOP of HORRORS

Tuesday 12 March - 7pm

Wednesday 13 March - 7pm

Thursday 14 March - 7pm

*Tickets will be available to purchase at the end of
February.*

Oxford Art Trip

Y11 Art, Photography and Graphic students enjoyed their trip to the Natural History Museum and Pitt Rivers in Oxford on Wednesday. Plenty of photography and drawing opportunities for them as starting points for their exam projects. Well done year 11 for being great all day.

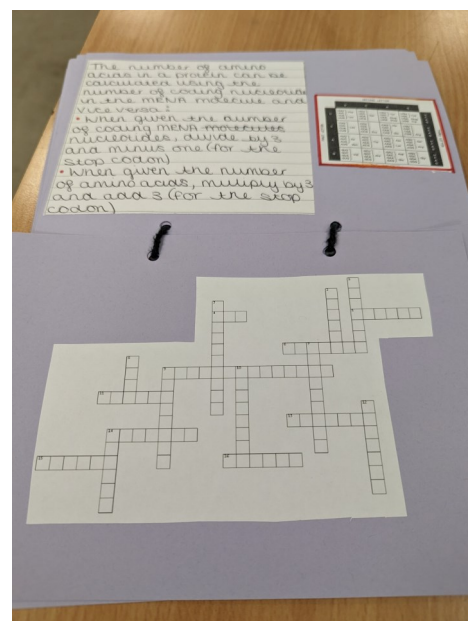
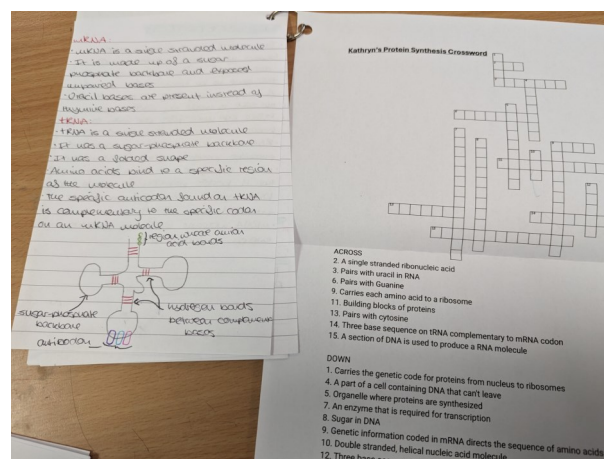
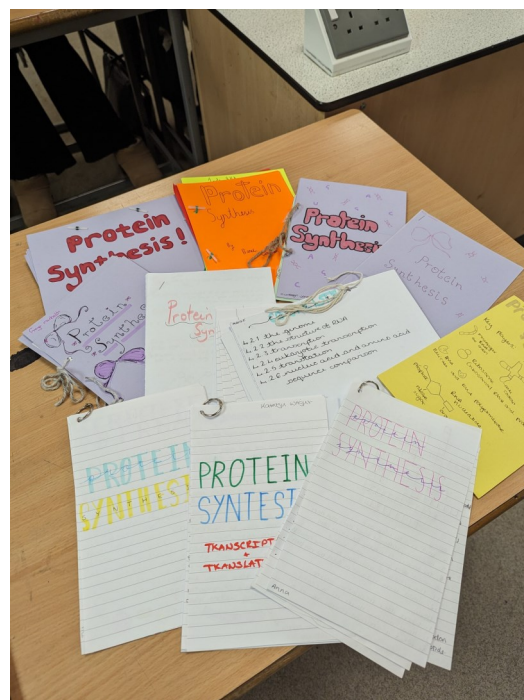
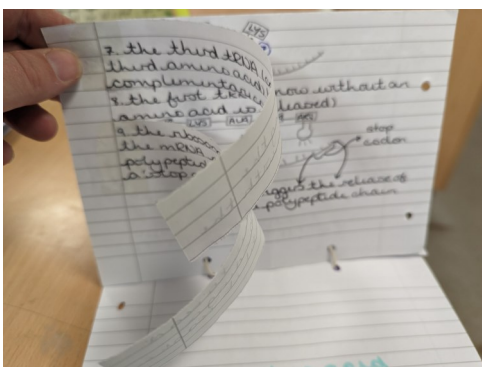
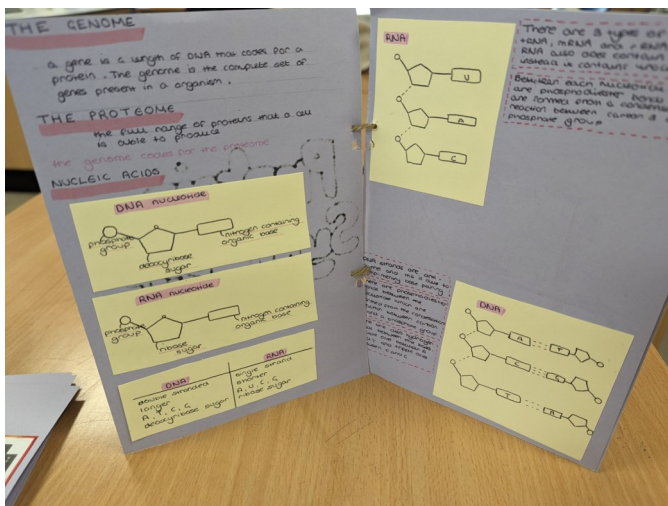
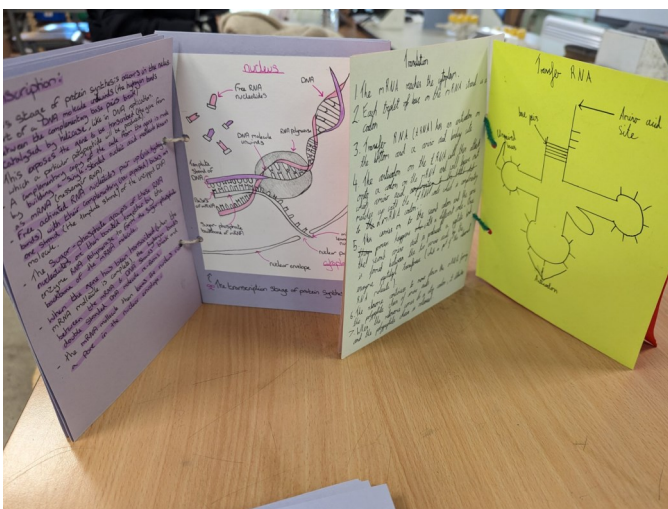
Miss E Garner



Year 12 Biologists venture into Scientific Authorship

Year 12 Biologists have submitted their own publications summarizing how proteins are made in our cells. Each student produced a revision booklet packed with a variety of learning ideas including a revision crossword they constructed. These are worthy of publication and the quality effort, care and attention to detail and pride in their work shone through. Thank you, Year 12....and any publishers reading please make contact.

Dr Love



Culture Character and Citizenship

Culture Character and Citizenship Next Week

- Year 7:** Bullying and cyberbullying
- Year 8:** RSE and contraception
- Year 9:** Rights and government
- Year 10:** Migration, asylum, refugees and identity
- Year 11:** Safety, respect, and abuse
- Year 12:** Cultural and religious prejudice
- Year 13:** Social division and 'culture wars'

Extra Curricular Sports



Highdown School & 6th Form Centre Extra-Curricular Term 3+4 2024



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime clubs	Fitness suite - Girls Yrs 9/10/11 (VCL)	Volleyball - Mixed all years (SOT)	Badminton - Girls all years (RSA)	Basketball - Mixed all years (AG)	Fitness suite - Boys Yrs 9/10/11 (ADP) Badminton - Boys all years (LP)
After school clubs	N/A school meetings	U12 Boys football (SOT) U13 Boys football (ADP) U15 Girls netball (VCL) U16 Girls netball (VCL)	U14 Boys football (SOT) U15 Boys football (AG) U13 Girls netball (RSA) U14 Girls netball (RSA)	U16 Boys football (STC) U12 Girls netball (VCL)	Football - speak to Mr Patten for info

As 2nd January was Science Fiction Day, during this month we will be looking at Science Fiction and Dystopia recommendations from the Hive



<p>Frozen in Time – Ali Sparkes Science Fiction - Blue Peter Book of the Year 2010 Ben and Rachel have resigned themselves to a long, boring summer. Then they find the hidden underground vault in the garden-and inside it two frozen figures, a boy and a girl. Can Polly and Freddy adapt to the twenty-first century? Will their bodies survive having been in suspension for so long? And most important of all, what happened to their father-and why did he leave them frozen in time?</p>	<p>The Call – Peadar O'Guilin Dystopia Fiction Perfect for Games of Thrones Fans! Imagine a world where you might disappear any minute, only to find yourself alone in a grey sickly land, with more horrors in it than you would ever wish to know about. And then you hear a horn and you know that whoever lives in this hell has got your scent and the hunt has already begun. Could you survive the Call?</p>
<p>Maximum Ride - Book 1: The Angel Experience – James Patterson Science Fiction Six unforgettable kids — with no families, no homes — are running for their lives. Max Ride and her best friends have the ability to fly. And that's just the beginning of their amazing powers. But they don't know where they come from, who's hunting them, why they are different from all other humans... and if they're meant to save mankind — or destroy it.</p>	<p>A Clockwork Orange – Rec. 6th form read Dystopia Fiction In Anthony Burgess's influential nightmare vision of the future, criminals take over after dark. Teen gang leader Alex narrates in fantastically inventive slang that echoes the violent intensity of youth rebelling against society. Dazzling and transgressive, <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> is a frightening fable about good and evil and the meaning of human freedom.</p>

Below is a small selection of Science Fiction and Dystopia Fiction available as eBooks and Audiobooks through

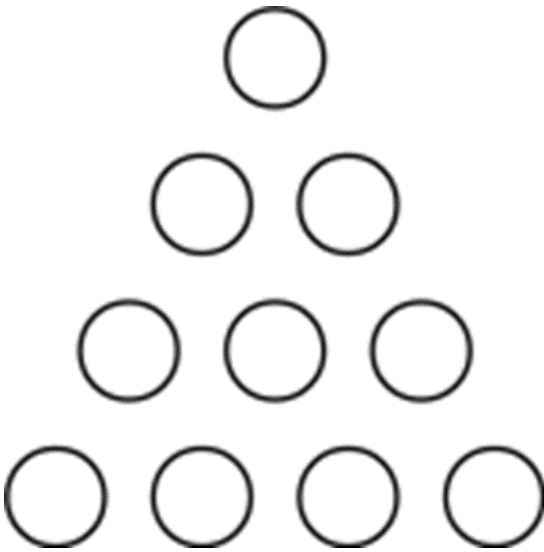
<https://highdown.eplatform.co/>All you need is your Highdown log-in!



<p>The Martian Chronicles – Ray Bradbury 'The Martian Chronicles' tells the story of humanity's repeated attempts to colonize the red planet. The first men were few. Most succumbed to a disease they called the Great Loneliness when they saw their home planet dwindle to the size of a pin dot. Those few that survived found no welcome. The shape-changing Martians thought they were native lunatics and duly locked them up. More rockets arrived from Earth, piercing the hallucinations projected by the Martians. People brought their old prejudices with them – and their desires and fantasies, tainted dreams. These were soon inhabited by the strange native beings, with their caged flowers and birds of flame.</p>	<p>Eve and Man – Giovanna & Tom Fletcher Against all odds, she survived. The first girl born in fifty years. They called her Eve. Eve lives alone in the Tower under the strict gaze of the Mothers. She is prized and protected, because she is the last girl on earth. Eve has always understood that the survival of the human race is in her hands. Now she's sixteen, and three males have been selected. Eve knows it's time to face her fate. Until she meets Bram. Eve sees a chance for something she never thought could be hers. But how do you choose between love and the future of humanity?</p>
<p>Stranger Things: Suspicious Minds – Gwenda Bond Random House presents the audiobook edition of Stranger Things: Suspicious Minds written by Gwenda Bond, read by Kristen Sieh. A mysterious lab. A sinister scientist. A secret history. If you think you know the truth behind Eleven's mother, prepare to have your mind turned upside down in this thrilling prequel to the hit show Stranger Things.</p>	<p>Under Falling Stars – Kate McLeod Scout Shannon's whole family died the day the Space Farers dropped an asteroid on their domed city. Now she lives alone, out in the wild with only her dogs for company. She prefers it that way. But Scout finds herself at a crossroads. One road leads back to a quiet life snug under the protective dome of a city. The other road leads to a life in the rebellion, a life of adventure and excitement but also danger. Dare she try to find the rebels hiding in the hills? Then a chance encounter with a stranger from the other side of the galaxy threatens to derail what remains of Scout's life.</p>

Numeracy Puzzle

Place 10 coins in a triangle like this:



Move only three coins to make the triangle point upside down.

We'd love to see your answers. So if you would have tried it and can share your method with us, upload a photo here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/1T1B4511Eu>



Stars of the Week

Year 7

7C Herne Thackeray
7D Emily Zachariadis
7E Tom Roach
7F Connie Upton
7G Benjamin Girdler
7H Freddie Brown
7J Xavion Paul-Fraser
7K Evie Webster
7L Alfie Seymour

Year 8

8C Jakub Miskuf
8D Leah Fothergill
8E Felix Laver
8F Aarav Aravind
8G Megan Brooks
8H Fletcher McConnell
8J Evie Sills
8K Tula Matthews
8L Jack Morgan

Year 9

9C Malo Finet
9D Daisy Mitchell
9E Lottie Hughes
9F Ben Waite
9G Chanelle Lawson
9H Lottie Borgeaud
9J Yassin Mohamed
9K Max Etherington
9L Eric Jones

Mrs Robinson's Bonus:

9L Rowan Bain

Year 10

10C Kara Taylor
10D Janice Lau
10E Ben Baker
10F Jude Lambourne
10G Leslie Antwi
10H Evelyn Hunt
10J Thomas Neal
10K Yassin Sayed
10L Oscar Hastings

Year 11

11C Jazmine Cole
11D Emmi Tong
11E Bejan Suhrobi
11F Jasmine Highley
11G Hannah Redhead
11H Chloe Wenman-Bateson
11J Sophie Ford
11K Dylan Sandrey
11L Joshua Ford
11M Taine Buck

Highdown Apprenticeship Awareness Evening

Date: Tuesday 6 February 2024

Time: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

We are inviting all Y10-13 students and their families to attend Highdown's Apprenticeship Awareness Evening on Tuesday 6 February 2024.

The evening will start at 6.00pm 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 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. We will also have local training providers joining us for the evening who will be able to answer any questions you may have. The evening would be a great chance to gather information and to see if this is a path that interests you.

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://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices/apprenticeship>

Work With Us

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 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 extra-curricular activities that the department offers.

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our [website](#).

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 well-resourced 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 [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 well-resourced 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 [website](#).

Cleaner/Housekeeping Team

£10.79 per hour

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

Come and 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.

For more information please click [here](#) to access our website.

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 [website](#).

Do you have a few hours free per week and would like to work in a paid role as a PA? (Personal Care Assistant)

People who need social care support can source this either through agency carers or through PAs. Reading Borough Council is trying to increase the use of PAs in Reading as this is a really personalised and flexible way of receiving support.

A PA is employed by an individual employer to assist them with their care and support needs; PAs support people with a specific need to live independently and lead their best possible life. It is not a care role in the traditional sense; the role is hugely varied and can include support with:

- preparing meals
- going shopping
- going out and about
- household chores such as washing, cooking and cleaning
- dressings and personal hygiene
- medical appointments and administration of medication.

Experience in care is not essential as training will be given. Online learning and classroom training are available.

The pay starts at £12 per hour (£15.24 for self-employed PAs) depending on the role.

Does the Personal Care Assistant role interest you?

If you'd like to find out more, please email Reading Borough Council's friendly PA

Team: pa.register@reading.gov.uk

You could also look at [Personal Assistants - Reading Borough Council](#)