



**ASPIRATION** 



RESPECT



**EXCELLENCE** 

#### w/c 29 January 2023 Week A

#### **HOUSE POINTS**

Mapledurham 83716 Grove 81910 Rosehill 84922 Caversham 84005

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Term dates can be found here: 2023/24

Term 3

All Week: House week 3: Identity

Wed 31 Jan: **Y9** Immunisations

Y9/10 Intermediate Maths

Challenge

Thurs 1 Feb: Y10-13 Textiles Trip to Design

Museum (London)



Thank you for the positive feedback we have received following our Year 11 Learning Review meetings on Thursday afternoon/ evening. With clear areas to work on identified from their recent PPEs and their deliberate practice, I am certain our

students will achieve fantastic success in their examinations this summer.

As always, it's been a real privilege for my colleagues and I to visit several lessons during the week across all year groups. We have seen a diverse mix of activities and ways of learning which is providing our students with a rich learning experience. Our students' commitment and attitude to their learning really embodies our core values of aspiration and excellence. Also, this week we welcomed the RAF to school to showcase their musical talents and our A-Level Politicians visited the Houses of Parliament. Thank you to staff for organising these opportunities.

Somehow, we are already nearing our half-term break with two school weeks to go. Next week marks our third House Week of the academic year, with a focus on 'Identity, our Key Stage 4 mathematicians are preparing for the national Maths Challenge, and our upper school Textiles' students will be exploring a range of works and seeking inspiration from a visit to the Design Museum in London.

Wishing all families, a great weekend.

Mr M A Grantham Head of School





























# Safer Internet Tuesday Day 2024 6 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.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.

#### **Exam Certificate Collection Reminder**

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** 

#### **Problems with Class Charts**

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact

office@highdown.reading.sch.uk



#### The Highdown Herald

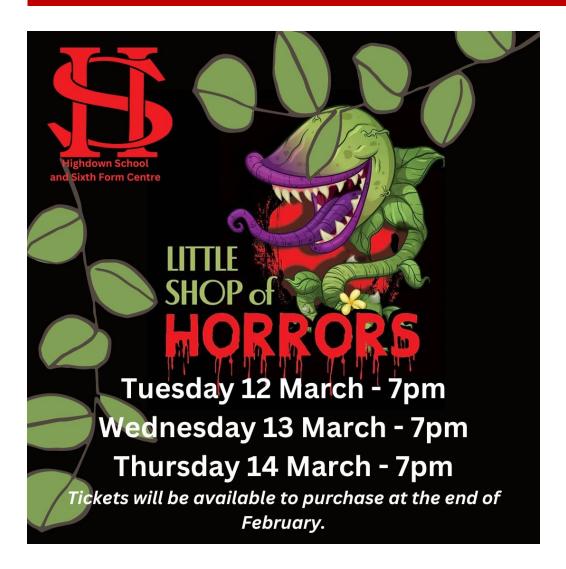
The latest edition of our student led newspaper, The Highdown Herald, is now available to view on our website.

#### **Information**

Some of you may remember Mollie from the Year 11 cohort last year. She and her Aunt are fundraising for BEAT, a National charity supporting young people with eating disorders. Below is a link if you would like to join in supporting this event and read about her story.

https://www.justgiving.com/team/teamcampbell27?utm\_medium=proxy\_team&utm\_content=team% 2Fteamcampbell27&utm\_source=copyLink&utm\_campaign=pfp-share

#### **Drama**





#### Year 11s Talk Live To Artist, Patrick Vale

A big well done to Ollie Hayden and Jack Hogarth for leading a Teams call and chat with New York based artist, Patrick Vale this week. And a big thank you to Patrick Vale for talking to our students!

Jack and Ollie prepped well before the meeting by devising questions they would like to ask Patrick. Both had studied him in their coursework projects, so it was very exciting.

The Teams call was also projected to the Y11 Art class so all could hear about Patrick's creative career path and engage in the very valuable and exciting call, live from New York. We all loved it.

Ms Garner









#### **Ophelia Baldwin - Ice Skating Junior British Champion**

It is always lovely to hear of the success of students, with so many taking part in numerous activities outside of school. This week it has been fantastic to hear from Ophelia Baldwin and her team's success at the Junior Ice Skating Championship where they became the British Champions. This is an amazing achievement, which is down to the many hours of training Ophelia undertakes each week, alongside studying for her GCSEs.

Ophelia says 'We are a group of 18 girls that perform to a Moulin Rouge medley. Our home rink is Slough Ice Arena, where we spend three days a week working hard and improving the routine at every chance we get. We went into the British Championships with the hope of winning, but never could've imagined it actually happening. With a PB and so many amazing memories, we are unbelievably proud of our achievement of becoming Junior British Champions.'

Well done Ophelia, we are incredibly proud of you too.

#### Miss Clark



#### Ben Fraser's 'Run The Month'

I'm running a minimum of 6 miles a day throughout January for Prostate Cancer UK and cycling an extra 9-12 miles a day. I'm raising money to help fund lifesaving research and support for men and their families affected by prostate cancer.

Each day, I record the distance ran, distance cycled and total converged distance (distance ran + distance cycled/3). This is because cycling is said to be 3 times easier than running so I'm converting this together to count for "total converged distance".

https://runthemonthme.prostatecanceruk.org/fundraising/bens-run-the-month-marathon-challenge2023

#### **RAF Concert**

#### **RAF Brass Quintet Concert & Careers Session**

On Monday we watched the RAF band perform, it was very interesting to see how much sound could be made with only 5 instruments! Between each song they explained the differences between each instrument and how long they had been playing. We learnt how different mutes could be used to create different sounds on the trumpet, the similarities and differences between tubas and tenor horns, how the tuning of a French horn can be altered by the player's hand in the bell, and how trombone slides affect the pitch of the note. The four of us who already play brass instruments got the opportunity to play onstage with the RAF band, which was a great experience.

Hannah Redhead (Y11 GCSE Music Student)



#### **Art Murals**



These recently added murals were done by local artist George Ryan - 'Gabr Arts'.

Last academic year our students took part in a competition of illustrations and George used some of them in his designs.

Look out for them around the school. They can be found in the English department upstairs, the Science department and on the wall outside classroom A3 in the Art department. Absolutely beautiful!

Ms Garner





Some of Highdown student's artwork, used in the designs.



Noah Flint 7L



Tabby Bradbury





### 27 January to 4 February

This annual event is a celebration of the power of sharing stories. Stories teach us about the world, they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy, they help us to relax and escape and they can help develop essential literacy skills.

How could you celebrate this event?

You could write a story to share with family and friends — story cubes are a great way to get ideas

You could read your favourite story to someone

You could listen to a story being told - ebooks

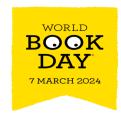
(https://highdown.eplatform.co/) or ask a family member to tell you a story

If you have a story to tell come to the Hive at break or lunchtime during the week and tell your story.



### **Highdown Book Swap**

4 March—8 March



To celebrate World Book Day (7 March) we will be running a book swap in the Hive during the week beginning 4 March.

We are asking students to bring in books, that they would like to swap, from now until the 4 March when they will be able to choose a book to take home. So, if you have books that are gathering dust on the bookshelf and are thinking of having a clear-out over half term please consider donating them to our book swap — all we ask is that books are in a good, readable condition and suitable for ages 11 - 18.

Books can be dropped off at the school office (labelled with student name) between school hours or students can bring the books into the Hive between 8.30am and 4.00pm.

Any student bringing a book/s to swap before 4 March will have their name recorded on a list so that they can come during the book swap week to choose a book.

If you have any questions please email: <a href="mailto:librarian@highdown.reading.sch.uk">librarian@highdown.reading.sch.uk</a>

# Here is the last of the Science Fiction and Dystopia recommendations from the Hive for now:

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



Maze Runner—James Dashner

#### **Science Fiction**

When the doors of the lift crank open the only thing Thomas remembers is his first name. He's surrounded by boys who welcome him to the Glade, a walled encampment at the centre of a bizarre and terrible stone maze. Like Thomas, the Gladers don't know how/ why they came to be there or what's happened to the world outside. All they know is that every morning when the



Noughts and Crosses — Malorie Blackman

#### **Science Fiction**

Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Against a background of prejudice, distrust and mounting terrorist violence, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger . . .

Front Lines — Michael Grant

#### **Science Fiction**

Front Lines gives the experience of WWII a new immediacy while playing with the 'what ifs?' of history. It's WWII, but not as you remember it from history lessons! This time the girls aren't stitching socks for the brave boys at the front. In the face of reluctant colonels and sceptical sergeants, three teenage soldier girls must prove their guts, strength, and resourcefulness as soldiers. Far from home and in the battlefields, Rio discovers exactly who she is and what she can accomplish.....

Stranger Things — Amy Rose Capetta
Science Fiction
High school is a monster, and it's eati

High school is a monster, and it's eating everyone Robin knows. Discover the backstory of the new Stranger Things fan favourite character, Robin! It's the beginning of sophomore year, and Robin's Odd Squad friends have decided: this time, they're going to fit in. They couple up, they won't stop talking about college and their future careers, and they're obsessed with trying to act

"normal." This prequel chronicles one girl's realization that the only person she really needs to be accepted by is herself.



#### Library / The Hive

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!

#### **Doctor Who: Time Lord Fairy Tales**

#### **EBOOKS**

DOCTOR WHO

**AUDIOBOOK** 

#### **Science Fiction**

These captivating stories include mysterious myths and legends about heroes and monsters of all kinds, from every corner of the universe. Originally told to young

Time Lords at bedtime, these twisted tales are an enchanting read for Doctor Who fans of all ages. Written by Justin Richards and illustrated by David Wardle.

#### The Enemy — Charlie Higson

#### **EBOOKS**

#### **Science Fiction**

They'll chase you. They'll rip you open. They'll feed on you . . . When the sickness came, every parent, policeman, politician - every adult - fell ill. The lucky ones died. The others are crazed, confused and hungry. Only children under

fourteen remain, and they're fighting to survive. Now there are rumours of a safe place to hide. And so a gang of children begin their quest across London, where all through the city - the grown-ups lie in wait. But can they make there alive?



#### FANG—James Patterson

#### **Dystopia**

Fang will be the first to die for years, Max has been on the run from evil forces threatening her and the Flock but nothing could have prepared her for this horrifying prophesy delivered to her by Angel. Fang is Max's best friend, her soulmate, her partner in leadership of her

flock of winged children. A life without Fang is a life unimaginable. Max's desperate desire to protect Fang brings the two closer than ever.



Chasing the Stars —

**AUDIOBOOK** 

#### Malorie Blackman—Science Fiction

Olivia and her twin brother Aidan are heading alone back to Earth following the virus that wiped out the rest of their crew, and their family, in its entirety. Nathan is

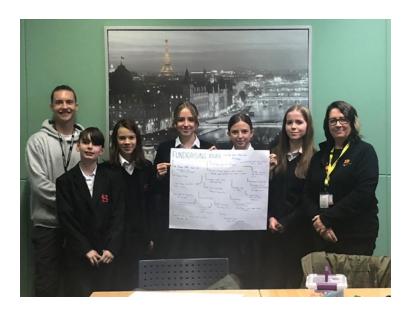
part of a community heading in the opposite direction. But on their journey, Nathan's ship is attacked and most of the community killed.. Only a few survive. Their lives unexpectedly collided, Nathan and Olivia are instantly attracted to each other, deeply, head-over-heels — like nothing they have ever experienced. But not everyone is pleased.



#### **Grove House**

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January Joanne Somner from Daisy's Dream came and ran a working group with our Grove Student leaders on planning and running charity and fundraising events. Joanne asked them questions, and this fuelled some great discussions. Joanne helped with the dos and don'ts of charity fundraising and suggested some fantastic

ideas on events, resources and where to look for support from the local community. The students worked exceptionally well and planned some fantastic upcoming events to raise money for our House Charity Daisy's Dream.



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

House Charity
Grove Bake Sale

KS3 BREAK & LUNCH

Outside Science under the Cover Cakes / Biscuits all **50p or £1 each** 





Grove Upcoming charity Event during House week (29<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February)

#### We need your help! GROVE HOUSE

If you can bake or bring in cakes / biscuits For Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

If you are making you will need to also provide a full ingredients list to be displayed to support those with allergies.

Bring all cakes and biscuits to DT3 before Friday mentor from 8.30am

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

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
7C	Faya Nishad	8C	Sienna Ellmer	9C	Euan Miller
7D	Benjamin Girdler	8D	Isabelle Lee	9D	Casper Lomas
7E	Florence Thomas	8E	Dylan Mann	9E	Oliver Levy
7F	Tala Istatiah	8F	Leo Clark	9F	Sophia May
7G	Rose Higley	8G	Oliver Pearce	9G	Archie Howes
7H	Ava Graham	8H	Adam Wood	9H	Celia Apostolatou
<b>7</b> J	Isobel Harland	8J	Luca Barber	9J	Ila Namaseevayum
7K	Nate Williams	8K	Freddie Sheppard	9K	Nyasha Mutabeni
7L	Jemima Tollet	8L	Eyman Usta	9L	Olivia Adeyeba
				Miss Robinson's Bonus:	
				9D	Furqan Khan

Year 10			Year 11		
10C	Sean Curtayne	11C	Luke Seaman		
10D	Shubham Patal	11D	Jaida Wallace		
10E	Dylan Cripps	11E	Elijah Charles		
10G	Juan Dreyer	11F	Zinnia Hodge		
10H	Thomas Robinson	11G	Bee Highley		
10J	Cleona Mason	11H	Holly Buck		
10K	Lucy Foulkes	11J	Katie Ma		
10L	Josh Glister	11K	Ellie Hughes		
		11L	Poppy Mulroy		
		11M	Sonner Sprackling		



#### Are you in Year 10-13?



Are you thinking about doing an apprenticeship instead of going to college or university?

Would you like to find out more?

# Then come to Highdown's Apprenticeship Awareness Evening!

The evening will begin with a 30 minute presentation by ASK (Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge programme). After the presentation you will have the opportunity to speak to companies who will be able to tell you about apprenticeship opportunities that they offer and provide you with 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.



#### **Careers Corner**

Are you thinking about a career in Law? — Calling all aspiring legal professionals, solicitor apprentices and anyone who is considering a career in law.

Young Professionals have something exciting lined up for you this year!

They have teamed up with 8 of the biggest law firms in the world who are all coming together to provide insights, work experience and solicitor apprenticeship opportunities for students up and down the country. They have 2 Magic Circle Law Firms joining them; Clifford Chance and Linklaters; International Firms Bird & Bird, Fragomen and Charles Russell Speechlys, TLT, Farrer & Co and Freeths!

This is your chance this year to get in front of many law firms all in one go to network, learn and ultimately help you secure your dream job with the help of some invaluable work experience leading to a solicitor apprenticeship or trainee contract when you leave school / college.

To kick things off, Young Professionals are holding a virtual event on **Wednesday 7 February, 5pm – 6:30pm** to tell you all about the routes into law, how to secure a role and give you exclusive access to sign up to in person events.

You'll get the chance to come face to face with the firms, experience panel discussions, hear some inspiring keynote presenters as well as have plenty of opportunity to network and build up your personal legal connections, helping you build a bright future.

**Application Link:** <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YVDLFD5">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YVDLFD5</a>



#### **Careers Corner**

#### Space Industry: 6 and 7 March 2024

This is a unique chance to discover a world of career opportunities at the UK's largest careers event focused solely on the **space industry**, <u>Make The Future Yours!</u> in the Space Industry.

Careers in the space industry are constantly evolving and now extend far beyond engineering and technical roles. For example, space law is a growing sector and there is huge demand for people with gaming and graphic design skills.

A limited number of free tickets are available, so book now to avoid disappointment.

Taking place alongside the UK's largest space industry event, Space-Comm, Make The Future Yours! In the Space Industry is open to students from Year 10 upwards and gives them the chance to:

- Hear directly from industry professionals about working in the space sector, in a specially curated programme of talks.
- Discover the range of career opportunities available, from traditional engineering and technical roles to law, graphic design, gaming and more.
- Meet prospective employers and get more information about apprenticeships and the other avenues available for school leavers.

#### **Civil Engineering Webinar**

Civil Engineering involves a vast number of roles and skills. What will the job actually be like? What job opportunities are there for me? If you would like the answers to these questions, sign up for this Adviza webinar to see if a career in property might be an option for you!

Run by our qualified careers advisers via Zoom; hosted by: Kathryn Denham-Maccioni, Digital Engagement Manager, Institution of Civil Engineering.

30 January 2024 at 6pm.

Book your place here: <u>Sector Webinar: Civil</u> Engineering | Adviza

#### **Apprenticeships Webinar**

An Adviza webinar for parents/carers and students to find out about apprenticeships. Run by our qualified careers advisers via zoom. A great opportunity for students/parents and carers to find out more about apprenticeships and whether they might be the right option.

6 February 2024 at 6:00pm.

Book your place here: <u>Parent Webinar:</u> <u>Apprenticeships | Adviza</u>

# British Army Apprenticeships Webinar: 1 February 2024

Join us at **4pm** to hear from Colonel Craig Terblanche, who leads the delivery of the British Army apprenticeship programme and current apprentices, to learn more about their amazing apprenticeship opportunities available for individuals looking to start an exciting career in the British Army. The Army can offer adventure and opportunity to people who want to do something different and impactful through an apprenticeship.

<u>British Army Apprenticeships – Amazing Apprenticeships</u>

#### **Transition and Marketing Lead**

30 hours per week, 8.30am-3pm. Term Time only plus 30 hours (including two Results Days in August)

Salary NJC P17-P21: £28,770— £30,825 FTE (Actual Salary £20,489-£21,953).

We are looking to recruit for an exciting new role of Transition and Marketing Lead. We need an organised and proactive individual to oversee and coordinate the important processes and events around the transition from primary to secondary school, reporting to the Assistant Headteacher responsible for Transitions.

The role will also include marketing the Academy through developing and maintaining the school website, producing the weekly parent newsletter and managing our social media presence across various platforms, providing photography support (which may include some evening events) and developing marketing resources, reporting to the Head of School.

Experience of working in a school environment would be an advantage.

Closing date: 12pm on Friday 16 February

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our website.

#### **Behaviour Advocate**

Salary (P5-P6): £23,500-£23,893 (Actual salary: £20,191-£20,528)

37 hours per week. Term time only plus 5 x staff training days.

We are seeking to appoint a Behaviour Advocate to join our Pastoral Team to promote our whole school emphasis on excellent behaviour for learning.

You will also assist with the school's behaviour referral rota which involves working positively with students and staff where there may be difficulties in the classroom. You role will also involve working with students to improve punctuality and attendance.

You will need to be enthusiastic, committed and hardworking. You will need a high level of interpersonal skills and be highly motivated and enthusiastic about working alongside young people and teachers and maintaining strong relationships with parents.

Closing date: Applications considered on receipt.

Full details can be accessed on our website.

#### **Cleaners/Housekeeping Team**

£11.79 per hour

Are you local and looking to earn some extra money?

Up to 15 hours per week, ideally 6.30 -8.30am and/or 3 - 6pm. Flexibility around these hours will be considered.

We also offer an excellent pension scheme, a friendly team and training and equipment will be provided.

If you are conscientious, reliable, with a friendly pro-active attitude, then we would love to hear from you.

Closing date: Applications considered on receipt

For details and an application form, please visit our website.

#### **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 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 <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 website.

#### **Examinations Invigilator**

#### £11.79 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.

#### **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.

#### Community

FINAL REMINDER Reading Football Club's 3rd Schools and Grassroots fixture of 2023-24



When? Where?

Reading vs Leyton Orient Select Car Leasing Stadium

Saturday 27 January, 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

65 and over: £5

Adult: £10

To redeem, please visit <a href="https://ticketing.readingfc.co.uk">https://ticketing.readingfc.co.uk</a> 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.