



**ASPIRATION** 



RESPECT



**EXCELLENCE** 

#### w/c 5 February 2023 Week B

#### **HOUSE POINTS**

Mapledurham 88141 Grove 86212 Rosehill 89062 Caversham 87794



#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term dates can be found here: 2023/24

Term 3

All Week: Careers Week 3: National

Apprenticeship Week

Mon 5 Feb: Y11 Food NEA2 Practicals (5days)

> Y11 MFL Speaking PPEs (5 days) Y12/Y13 Shakespeare workshop

Tues 6 Feb: Drama trip to Wellington College

> to see Les Misérables Apprenticeship Fair 6pm

Thurs 8 Feb: Music practical

> Wicked Theatre Trip 4pm Y13 Learning Review Evening

(virtual)

Fri 9 Feb: End of Term 3



It's been our third House Week of the academic year this week, with the theme of 'Identity'. Students have been thinking about their own identity, what makes them, them. Identity can be explained as the combination of memories, experiences, relationships, and

values that create a sense of self. Congratulations to the Mapledurham Dragons who achieved the most House Points this week, with over 3600 points. Overall, this week, our students have achieved about 13,000 House Points between them. For the year so far, the Rosehill Redkites are narrowly in the lead with approximately 89,000 House Points. This is fantastic!

Talking of successes, it was remiss of me last week not to mention and celebrate with you the achievement of our students completing their PiXL Edge awards. PiXL Edge aims to recognise students completing a series of challenges based on developing their LORIC skills (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication). It was an honour for me to award students with their certificates having completed a range of challenges both in and out of school. Well done everyone and I look forward to awarding you the next PiXL Edge award in the future!

On Wednesday, approximately 250 of our students had their next round of immunisations. We received some lovely feedback from the NHS staff working here for the day about our students. There was some nervousness, but they were fantastic Highdown ambassadors – as always!

Have a great weekend everyone.

Mr M A Grantham Head of School











Follow us



















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.

# Could you be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM)?

The benefits include:

- A daily allowance for meals in school.
- Financial support to purchase compulsory uniform items.
- Support during the year with the costs of trips and essential equipment

## 1. Are you eligible?

You might be eligible if you receive a qualifying benefit:



- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

#### 2. What evidence do I need?

No supporting evidence is needed as we'll confirm your eligibility with the local authority.



#### 3. What details do I need?

On the application form, you will be asked to provide:

- Your personal details incl. national insurance number
- Children's names and dates of birth
- Schools they attend.

# 4. How do I apply?

You can find more details about FSM and download an application form on our website, or alternatively call into the school to collect a paper application form.

If you need any support with your application, please contact us at finance@highdown.reading.sch.uk or call 0118 9015 809.

When completed, please return your application to the email address above or to the school office for the attention of the Finance Department.







#### **Culture Character and Citizenship**

#### **Culture Character and Citizenship Next Week**

**Year 7:** Making a nation-symbolism and identity

**Year 8:** RSE: sexuality and identity

**Year 9:** Budgets, manifestos and voting

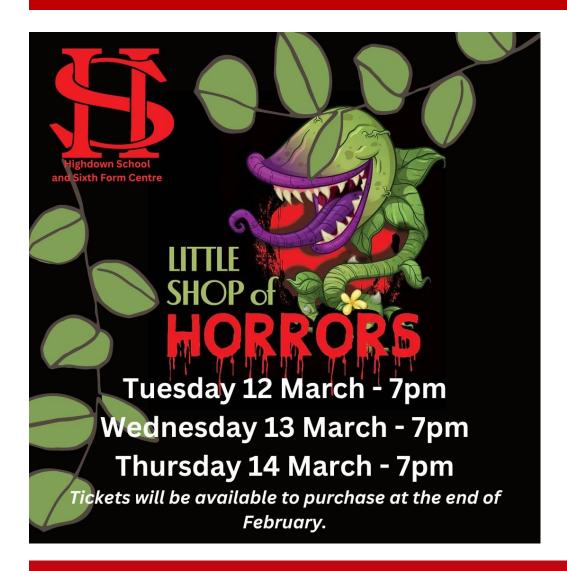
Year 10: Cohesive communities

**Year 11:** RS: Types of relationships

**Year 12:** Radical groups and e safety

Year 13: 'Culture wars' and tolerance

#### **Drama**

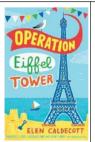


# For February we are looking at Real Life recommendations in the Hive

# **February is Library Lovers Month** YOUR LIBRAR

#### Operation Eiffel Tower - Elen Caldecott

Four siblings live by the seaside with their mum and dad. But their parents are always arguing, and then their dad moves out. Lauren and Jack decide they have to get them together again. And so begins Operation Eiffel Tower...they try to raise money to give their mum and dad a treat in an attempt to make them happier. First, they want to send their parents to Paris, but quickly realise they can never afford that, so instead they set up a dinner for two under the Eiffel Tower in the local crazy golf attraction. But will it get their parents talking again?



#### The Breakfast Club - Kate Costelloe

Billie, Lexie, Ella and Natalie are all 14 years old, living in fashionable, hip Notting Hill Gate. Each of them have their own set of issues ...and support is there, every week at their weekly breakfast catch up, in their favourite cafe. In this book. Billie's narrative takes the lead, as she and her mum are at loggerheads over Billie's growing obsession with her music and her curiosity over her dad - who she hasn't seen since she was a baby. On top of that, the girls' favourite cafe has been bought up by property developers and the hunt is on for a new venue!



#### Turtles all the Way Down - John Green

It all begins with a fugitive billionaire and the promise of a cash reward. Turtles All the Way Down is about lifelong friendship, the intimacy of an unexpected reunion, Star Wars fan fiction, and tuatara. But at its heart is Aza Holmes, a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts



#### Dramarama - E Lockhart - Young Adult

Two teen theatre-fanatics. One dream, And SUMMER

Spending their summer at Wildewood Academy, an elite boarding school for the performing arts, tests the bond between teenagers Sadye and her best friend Demi. Despite all the glitz and glam, there comes rivalry and competition, and Sadye will have to prove her talents more than she has ever had to before.

Summer at Wildewood will not only determine Sadye's future - but will also test her friendships.



### eBooks and Audiobooks are available to all Highdowners at:

# https://highdown.eplatform.co/

All you need is your Highdown log-in

#### eBook

#### First Day of My Life - Lisa Williamson

There are three sides to every story . . . It's GCSE results day. Frankie's best friend, Jojo, is missing. A baby has been stolen. And more than one person has been lying. Frankie's determined to find out the truth and her ex-boyfriend Ram is the only person who can help her. But they're both in for a shock . . . EVERYTHING is about to change.



#### **eBook**

#### Everything, Everything - Nicole Yoon

Madeline Whittier is allergic to the outside world. So allergic, in fact, that she has never left the house in all of her seventeen years. But when Olly moves in next door, and wants to talk to Maddie, tiny holes start to appear in the protective bubble her mother has built around her. Olly writes his IM address on a piece of paper, shows it at her window, and suddenly, a door opens. But does Maddie dare to step outside her comfort zone? "Everything, Everything" is about the thrill and heartbreak that happens when we break out of our shell to do crazy, sometimes death-defying things for love



#### **Audiobook**

#### Yes No Maybe So - Becky Albertelli, Aisha Saeed

Jamie Goldberg is cool with volunteering for his local state candidate—as long as he's behind the scenes. There's no way he'd ever knock on doors to ask people for their votes...until he meets Maya, Maya Rehman's having the worst Ramadan ever. Her best friend is too busy to hang out, her summer trip is cancelled, her parents are separating and now her mother thinks the solution to her problems is political canvassing—with some awkward guy she hardly knows ... Going door to door isn't exactly glamorous, but maybe it's not the worst thing in the world.



#### **Audiobook**

#### Again, but, Better - Christine Riccio

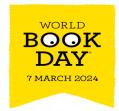
From one of the most followed booktubers today, comes Again, But Better, a story about second chances, discovering yourself, and being brave enough to try again. Shane has been doing college all wrong. Pre-med, stellar grades, and happy parents...sounds ideal — but Shane's made zero friends, goes home every weekend, and romance...what's that? Her life has been dorm, dining hall, class, repeat. Time's a ticking, and she needs a change there's nothing like moving to a new country to really mix things up.





# **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>

### **Numeracy Puzzle**

Here is an interesting way to do the 6,7,8,9,10 times tables all on your hands:

https://youtu.be/x2Nr-f02AUY

Try it out with a few numbers.

Why does it work?

# **Second Hand Uniform**

# In need of a blazer or any other second hand uniform items?

The PTA have second hand uniform in stock and all funds raised go to the school – contact Alina Parry on Facebook or email <a href="mailto:highdown\_pta@outlook.com">highdown\_pta@outlook.com</a> and we can put you in touch.

We would also gratefully receive any uniform items that your children have grown out of, particularly PE kit and larger sizes.



# Highdown School Lottery

Support the school and be in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes.

# Only £1 to play!

It's easy to sign up, just visit:

https://

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/
lottery/school/highdown-school-and
-sixth-form-centre



#### **House Stars of the week**

#### **ROSEHILL HOUSE** Advika Badkur R1 R2 Freddie Brown **Nathan Crozier** R3 **Alvin Karki** R4 **Ivan Solilin** R5 **Poppy Mulroy** R6 **Bence Bardos** R7 R8 **Lewis Bridge** R9 **Callie Wenham R10 Aoibh Denney R11 Conor Allen R12** Lilian Moore R13 Lilac Ivey-Michie

## **MAPLEDURHAM HOUSE Katy He** M1 **Devante Nembhard** M2 **Imogen Pett M3** Abeeha Hussain M4 **Joseph Roberts** M5 M6 **Jake Johnstone** M7 **Belle Lundberg** M8 **Thivyan Sutharsan** M9 **Charly Burgess** M10 Robbie Genery-Baker M11 Nyasha Mutabeni M12 Lucy Ray M13 Herne Thackeray

#### G1 **Alpha Barrie** Jessica Fenning G2 Cian Ivens G3 G4 Karisa Ip G5 **Muhammad Khalid Hasan** G6 Aisha Alizada **G7 Lewis Smith** G8 **Benedek Nagy** G9 **Kate Monro Ben Waite and Rhiannon Evans** G10 Jasper Gilchrist, John Paudel & Albie G11 O'Neill G12 Isabelle Lee Bianca Zinzani G13

**GROVE HOUSE** 



# 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.



# Competition organised by Department of Theology, University of Nottingham

This year's theme is "Our Changing World: Census 2021 and Religion".

We invite video submissions to bring the Census 2021 numbers to life by telling us a story about how religion is changing in the area around your school.

The competition is open to students enrolled on GCSE and A-level courses in the 2023-24 academic Year. Deadline for submission is Monday, 1 July 2024. Find out more here: <u>David-Garlick-Prize-Competition-2024</u> (nottingham.ac.uk)

#### **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> Apprenticeships | Adviza

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

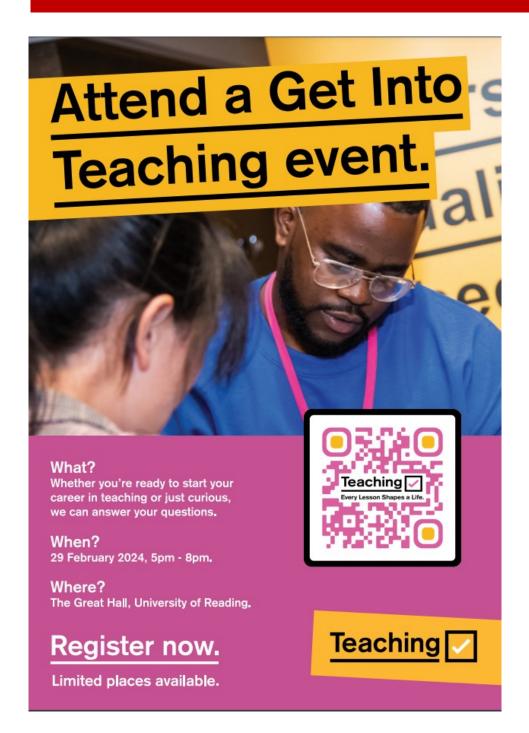
This is a unique chance to discover a world of career opportunities at the UK's largest careers event focused solely on the **space industry**, <u>Make The Future Yours! in the Space Industry</u>.

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.



#### **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. The 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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Learning Support Assistant**

Full time, term time only, plus 2 staff training days.

(NJC P3-P4) Actual Salary: £14,968pa. 8.30am to 3.15pm

We require enthusiastic and committed candidates, who have experience working with children, to join our hardworking and successful team.

You will need a high level of interpersonal skills, be well motivated and enthusiastic about working alongside young people. You will also have an excellent standard of literacy and numeracy. Funding is available for further training to obtain Qualified Teacher Status.

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

#### **Science Technician**

NJC P5-P6 (£23,500-£23,893) (Actual salary: £18,057-£18,359)

34 hours per week (flexible hours possible). Term time only.
September 2024 start (or earlier).

We are seeking a Technician to join a well-resourced Science Department. The role will include assisting in the lab, preparing for lessons and experiments, ensuring all apparatus and chemicals are put away correctly and adhering to health and safety standards.

The ideal applicant will have previous experience of working in a school science lab, but full training will be provided. You will be happy to work alone as well as part of a team of experienced Technicians. All science backgrounds welcome.

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 <u>website</u>.

#### **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 <u>website</u>.



