



ASPIRATION



RESPECT

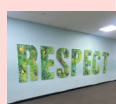


EXCELLENCE

w/c 19 February 2023 Week A

## HOUSE POINTS

Mapledurham	92173
Grove	90736
Rosehill	93829
Caversham	92516



And another term has drawn to a close! Thank you to all Year 13 parents/carers for your attendance at Thursday's Learning Review Meetings. I hope you found our feedback about what's going well and key areas for continued development helpful. Congratulations to the 140-odd students for completing their UCAS applications and to our students who are applying for an apprenticeship for next year.

Talking of apprenticeships, this week has been our third Careers Week of the academic year and as part of our careers education programme we held an Apprenticeship Fair earlier in the week. We are incredibly grateful to the wide range of providers who were able to attend alongside ASK, funded by the Department for Education, to speak with our students about apprenticeships – what they are, what fields are available, and how they work. This was attended by over 200 people – thank you for your support and engagement. Thank you also for the positive feedback we've had.

Tuesday was the annual national 'Safer Internet Day', and our students have been thinking about the theme 'Together for a better internet' in their Computing and ICT lessons this week. You can find some advice, guidance and useful resources on our website about keeping safe online [here](#).

We start Term 4 on Monday, 19 February at the usual time of 8.40am. However you are spending half term, I hope students and their families have a good week.

M A Grantham  
Head of School

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

### Term 4

<b>All Week:</b>	Y11 National Reference Tests
<b>Mon 19 Feb:</b>	Start of Term 4 Y11/13 Apprenticeship Application Clinic
<b>Wed 21 Feb:</b>	Y9 Learning Conference: What makes success
<b>Thurs 22 Feb:</b>	U13 County Hockey Tournament Student Leadership Meeting - Mapledurham (3.15pm)
<b>Fri 23 Feb:</b>	Y8 MEP Big Learning Event at Reading School



Follow us



### 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>.

### 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 Sumblar  
**Exams Officer**

### 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**



# 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](mailto: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.





The team at Arlington Business Park invite the local community to attend a

# CHILDNET INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOP

**ARLINGTON  
BUSINESS  
PARK** 35  
YEARS  
1989-2024

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

**5:30pm - 7pm**

**Arlington Business Park, Theale, RG7 4SA**

Arlington Business Park is more than just a place to work. It links its community of companies together, connecting them through a series of outstanding on-site amenities and an extensive events programme with many such as this, engaging the local community.

We invite you to attend this FREE Internet Safety session which will cover an overview of the key areas of online risk, whilst offering practical tips and advice that can be implemented at home. This workshop will cover key issues including digital wellbeing, online friendships, bullying, adult content and more. This is a must for any parent or carer, grandparents may also find it beneficial.

[CLICK HERE](#) to reserve your space



For further information please contact: [events@arlingtonbusinesspark.co.uk](mailto:events@arlingtonbusinesspark.co.uk)

## Workshop Sessions for Parents and Carers in February and March 2024

### February 2024

**Resilience workshop - 22 February 2024, 3-5:30pm. Free in person. Venue: St Johns Primary School, 121-147 Orts Rd, Reading RG1 3JN.**

"Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child". It's the ability to adapt well to adversity, trauma, threats or stress. It is difficult and distressing but parents can help children and young people to be more resilient in managing day to day challenges and more difficult situations.

*To book or for more information email [Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)*

**Understanding Autism & Anxiety Workshop – 27 February 2024, 9.30 - 12.00pm. Free online session via MS Teams.**

For parents/carers of Reading pupils ages 6 -16.

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

*To book or for more information email [Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)*

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**This is an interactive workshop and whilst we encourage attendees to participate in discussions this is of course optional. There will however be an expectation that cameras are on during the workshop and just to make you aware at the beginning we would like you to introduce yourself to the group and your child, giving a brief idea of what you would like to gain from the course.**

### March 2024

**Helping your child with fears and worries - 12 March 24, 9.30-12.00pm. Free online session via MS Teams. For parent/carer of a child attending any Reading state School who is aged 5-12 years.**

Teachers, parents and carers Cognitive Behavioural Strategies to help children to overcome their anxiety. The approaches are designed to help with "irrational" fears, for example, specific phobias (dogs, school phobia etc...), separation anxiety, generalised anxiety. The workshop is not designed for children:

- With a diagnosis of autism or significant social communication difficulties
- Who are pre-verbal
- Whose anxiety is due to trauma (e.g. domestic violence), PTSD, bereavement, sensory overload

*To book or for more information email [Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org).*

**Little People Big Feelings (LPBF) – 26 March 24, 1pm-2.30pm. Free in person: Committee Room 1, Civic Centre. For parents/carers of children in Reading Early Years' settings.**

Workshop that helps parents/carers know how to best respond to young children's BIG feelings and the BIG behaviours that come with it.

*To book or for more information email [Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org).*

Details of all our courses across this academic year for parents/carers can be found here: <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/educational-psychology-service-pc/>



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 apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalonlinesafety.com](https://nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
17+  
(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a false date of birth)

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

### IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

### INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

### RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

### REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

### SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

### 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**  
**NOS**  
**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety) [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) [@natonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/natonlinesafety) [@national\\_online\\_safety](https://twitter.com/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: 07.02.2024

## Culture Character and Citizenship

### Culture Character and Citizenship Next Week

**Year 7:** Health

**Year 8:** Community Vs Social Influencers

**Year 9:** Families

**Year 10:** Respect and Harassment

**Year 11:** Family (RSE + RS & CZ)

**Year 12:** UK Economy

**Year 13:** Budgeting

## Drama Production





## Year 11

As part of their GCSE Geography Course, Year 11 students have learnt about how to reduce the gap between High Income Countries (HIC) and Low Income Countries (LIC). One way in which this can be achieved is Goat Aid from Action Aid.

Money donated is used to buy a family a goat which produces milk, butter and meat. These are also a sustainable source of fertiliser and young goats (kids) can be sold at market to pay for food and education.

Some Year 11 students clubbed together to donate and help this worthy charity. This also helped consolidate their learning on the topic. These students are Kenny Parry, Megan Ray, Ella Martin, Petra Bartusz and Taine Buck.





## Little Shop of Horrors at Wellington College

On Tuesday, 6 February, Mrs Lake, Mrs Hawkins and the cast of Little Shop of Horrors went to Wellington College to watch their school's production of Les Misérables. It was absolutely brilliant, from the set and props to the amazing talent on stage. We were thrilled to be invited and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It definitely got our students pumped for our own musical production of Little Shop of Horrors coming up in March (12, 13 & 14) and we were straight back in the rehearsal room the next lunchtime.

Our relationship with Wellington College grows further still, as Mrs Lake applied to Wellington College's Art Fund earlier in the school year and received a sizeable donation towards our set and hiring of the plants for the show. So, watch out everyone, Audrey II is coming for you! We can't wait to share our musical with you - our showband is preparing and rehearsing like crazy, the cast are practicing their singing, dancing and acting and the crew are preparing to assemble. Tickets will go on sale at the end of February.

Mrs Lake



## English Department

### A Level English Literature

On Monday we had Adam Cunis from The Globe Theatre visit us at Highdown to work with our A-Level English Literature students. Students had an enjoyable and enriching day getting to learn about the history of The Globe; comparing different productions of *The Tempest* and getting to perform some scenes from the play themselves.

### A Level Biology

A big shout out to Georgie Wilson, Scarlett Mendham, Elizabeth Lam, Darshan Wilkes, James Barrett, Ollie Evans and Tom Russell for putting them through the rigorous programme of the Biology Olympiad 2024. This international renowned Biology Competition challenges students to the highest level of knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation to a standard beyond A level. While we await their scores...I just wanted to say a huge thank you to them for the time, effort and pure brain power used in the Competition. We are all Biologists, but this highlights their passion and commitment to challenging themselves where their Biology has never gone before.

A very proud Year 12 Biology Team: Miss Arrington, Miss Das Neves, Dr Love.

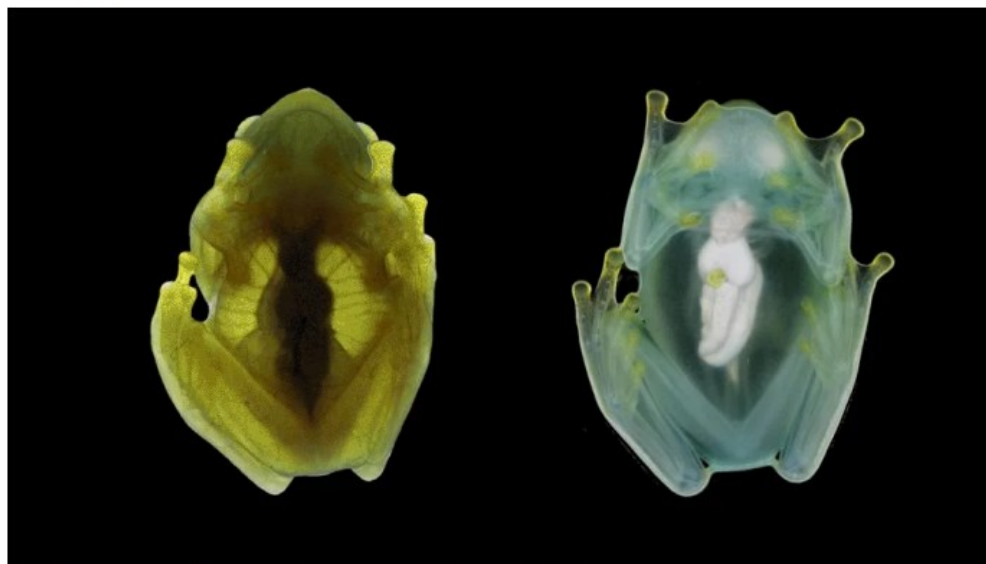


### Why not have a go at a question from the Olympiad yourself?

Email your answers to Dr Love: [anlove@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:anlove@highdown.reading.sch.uk).

#### Part 1 of 3

Glass frogs are famous for their ability to appear almost transparent, especially when sleeping. The recordings show a glass frog from underneath when it's awake (left) and asleep (right).



The Atlantic; Jesse Delia / American Museum of Natural History

#### Part 2 of 3

As frogs fall asleep, they condense almost all of their red blood cells into their liver, and coat their liver with a layer of shiny reflective crystals.

#### Part 3 of 3

Are these likely true or false?

#### 3 marks

Mark the following as TRUE or FALSE

- a) Glass frogs probably sleep during the daytime.  
TRUE FALSE
- b) Glass frog organs can probably survive prolonged periods without oxygen.  
TRUE FALSE
- c) Glass frogs are probably warm blooded.  
TRUE FALSE
- d) Glass frog blood is probably less able to clot than human blood.  
TRUE FALSE
- e) The main reason glass frogs go transparent is probably to hide from predators.  
TRUE FALSE



### Art Club Competition News

Highdown Art Club students listed below, have had a fantastic time designing and making abstract artwork for a brief provided by Bovis Homes. They had a clear sense of the space that they were creating their artwork for from the mood board and details provided by Bovis Homes.

Students have been thrilled to be working as if they were professional artists on this brief and have got a lot from the experience. Our thanks go to Bovis Homes for providing the opportunity and the canvasses. I would also like to say a big well done to our students for their amazing work.

On Wednesday Bovis judges came in to Art club to announce the winners, and take photographs of students with their beautiful work. All students involved had a marvellous time having their photographs taken with their work and were made to feel very special to be part of the whole thing. Well done to our amazing winners, Mo B and Sophia M; both worked really hard on their designs and spent many lunch times on them as well as Art club.

Art Clubbers involved:

*William F, Alice L, Sophia M, Samuel B, Aryahi C, Grace T, Matilda C, Enya G, Ava C, Mo B, Brody M, Alex C, Piper F, Sophie A, Lara N, Smruti G, Zoe E, Zara P, Elin J, Betty N-W, Miah W.*

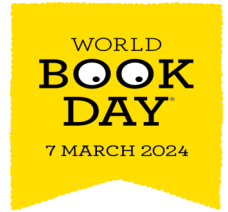






# Highdown Book Swap

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: [librarian@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:librarian@highdown.reading.sch.uk)

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

## February is Library Lovers Month YOUR LIBRARY

### The Girl Savage – Katherine Rundell

Wilhelmina Silver's world is golden. Living half-wild on an African farm with her horse, her monkey and her best friend, every day is beautiful. But when her home is sold and Will is sent away to boarding school in England, the world becomes impossibly difficult. For lions and hyenas are nothing compared to packs of schoolgirls. Where can a girl run to in London? And will she have the courage to survive?



### All The Invisible Things – Orlagh Collins - YA

For four years Vetty Lake has been keeping her heart in hiding. Since her mum died and her family moved out of London it's felt so much safer not to tell people how she really feels. She's never told anyone she's attracted to girls as well as boys. But now Vetty's seventeen and coming back to London she's determined to start living out loud. She's convinced that reconnecting with her childhood best friend Pez is the key. She was always fearless around him. But when she sees Pez again, he's different. Guarded. It's like their special connection never existed. And suddenly Vetty's sure he's been hiding too...



### Bliss – Karen McCombie

Molly's sure this summer is destined to be the best ever. Great mates, great boyfriend, great holiday - what could possibly go wrong? But as Molly's about to discover, fate has a few surprises in store... This book is written by the brilliant, best-selling author of "Stella Etc." and "Ally's World".



### Ethan's Voice – Rachel Carter

Perfect for fans of Mark Haddon, David Almond and Jacqueline Wilson. How do you begin to tell your story when you can't speak? Ethan lives on the canal. He likes it there. He can go to the pond and catch newts and minnows. He can learn everything he needs to know from books and from his mum. No one there laughs at him because he doesn't talk. Ethan can't remember exactly when he stopped talking or why. It is only when he meets Polly, a girl who has recently moved to the canal, that he begins to wish things were different.



eBooks and Audiobooks are available to all Highdowners at:

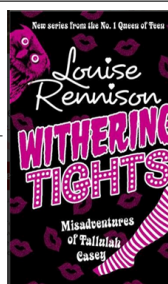
<https://highdown.eplatform.co/>

All you need is your Highdown log-in

### eBook

#### Withering Tights – Louise Rennison

Queen of Teen - Picture the scene: male and female FAME! I'm gonna liiiiiive foreeeeeever, I'm gonna fill my tiiiiights. When DO the boys arrive? Six weeks of parent-free freedom. BOY freedom. Freedom of expression... cos it's the THEATRE dahling, theatre! The hilarious misadventures of Tallulah Casey...



### eBook

#### Apple and Rain – Sarah Crossan

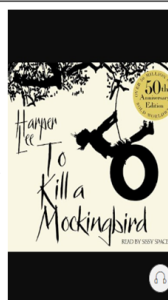
When Apple's mother returns after eleven years of absence, Apple feels whole again. She will have an answer to her burning question - why did you go? And she will have someone who understands what it means to be a teenager - unlike Nana. But just like the stormy Christmas Eve when she left, her mother's homecoming is bitter sweet, and Apple wonders who is really looking after whom. It's only when Apple meets someone more lost than she is, that she begins to see things as they really are.



### Audiobook – 6th form recommendation

#### To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the thirties. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much. To Kill a Mockingbird is a coming-of-age story, an anti-racist novel, a historical drama of the Great Depression and a sublime example of the Southern writing tradition. Out now as an unabridged audiobook, narrated by Sissy Spacek.



### Audiobook – Young Adult

#### Just One Day – Gayle Forman

When sheltered American good girl Allyson "LuLu" Healey first meets laid-back Dutch actor Willem De Ruiter at a performance of Twelfth Night in England, there's an undeniable spark. After just one day together, that spark bursts into a flame, or so it seems to Allyson, until the following morning, when she wakes up after a whirlwind day in Paris to discover that Willem has left. Over the next year, Allyson embarks on a journey to come to terms with the narrow confines of her life, and through Shakespeare, travel, and a quest for her almost-true-love, to break free of those confines.



## Stars of the Week

### Year 7

7C	Jane Adeyeba
7D	Shauntai Browne
7E	Amelia Wilson
7F	Christian Mrozinski-Carvalho
7G	Michael Foulkes
7H	Emma Grössl
7J	Tanisha Ali
7K	Saketh Batchu
7L	Isla Kingsmill

### Year 8

8C	Nathan Crozier
8D	Chris Callander
8E	Sam Childs
8F	Harry Friday
8G	Leo Pennycott
8H	Lily Jackson
8J	Maisie Cox
8K	James Barrett
8L	Darcey Denovan

### Year 9

9C	Ueja Rukoro
9D	Aaryan Desour
9E	Joshua Allen
9F	Betty Nowicki-Wallace
9G	George Busby
9H	Thomas Ellwood
9J	Cian Ivens
9K	Alfie Davis
9L	Mariella Williams

*Miss Robinson's Bonus:*

9C	Rowan Harris
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### Year 10

10C	Isaac Ford
10D	Ella Matthews
10E	Kathleen Gordon
10F	Charlie Waterman
10G	Ruby Cook
10H	Roshni Taylor
10J	Ellie Jacobs
10K	Isabella Macias Rodriguez
10L	Patryk Solus Natividade

### Year 11

11C	Lyna Ghomari
11D	Owen Lau
11E	Kiera Cox
11F	Zinnia Hodge
11G	Amelie Greenfield
11H	Paulina Miskufova
11J	Luke Gough
11K	Ellie Hughes
11L	Seren Marshman
11M	Lawrencia Oteng



HIGHDOWN PTA PRESENT



**IT'S BACK!! QUIZ & CURRY EVENING**

**FRIDAY, 22 MARCH, 2024**  
**DOOR OPEN AT 7:00PM**  
**FOR A 7.30PM START**

**£16 ENTRANCE INCLUDING MOMO HOUSE CURRY**  
**£8 ENTRANCE ONLY**  
QUIZ HOSTS: THE BRILLIANT MR FASHAM & MR HUTCHINSON  
(OF ONLY CONNECT/UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE/JEOPARDY FAME!!)  
CASH/CARD BAR - PRE ORDER AVAILABLE  
TEAMS OF UP TO 8 EMAIL [HIGHDOWN\\_PTA@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:HIGHDOWN_PTA@OUTLOOK.COM) FOR HELP WITH FORMING A TEAM

**BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW:**  
[www.pta-events.co.uk/highdown](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/highdown)  
bookings close midnight on Sunday 17th of March

The ever-popular PTA Quiz is back on Friday, 22 March. We are delighted that our brilliant quiz hosts Mr Fasham and Mr Hutchinson are devising another quiz for us. Ticket information will be sent out soon.

### Join the PTA

We would love to add some new members to our PTA, please email [highdown\\_pta@outlook](mailto:highdown_pta@outlook) if you would like to keep up to date with PTA fundraising and events please follow our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/highdownschoolpta/>

### Bird & Bird's Virtual Apprentice Open Evening - Hear From One Of The UK's Most Prestigious Law Firms and How You Can Secure Yourself A Role There!

Monday, 12 February 2024, 5pm - 6pm

Y11, Y12 & Y13 students, who are interested in law, are invited to this event which will take place virtually via Zoom on Monday, 12 February 2024, from 5pm - 6pm.

**Click on the Application Link below to secure your space:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RZ9C2QC>

### Apprenticeship Opportunities at Reading Buses

Opportunities include Mech/Elec Technicians, Bodyshop Technicians and Parts and Stock Controller for August 2024 start.

Here is a glimpse of what the apprenticeship entails:

#### ***‘Mech/Elec Technicians***

*Are you someone who loves to unravel the mysteries of how things work while embracing cutting-edge technology? If so, our Mech/Elec Technician apprenticeship might be the perfect fit for you.*

*Based at our modern depot and workshop in central Reading, you'll have the opportunity to work on state-of-the-art gas and diesel vehicles. From servicing to diagnosing and repairing mechanical and electrical systems, you'll play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and reliability of our fleet for both customers and staff.*

*Throughout the four-year apprenticeship, you'll undergo a blend of on-the-job training and college education, working towards achieving your NVQ3 in Heavy Vehicle Maintenance. With a starting pay of £9.21ph and a clear pathway for progression, this apprenticeship offers not just a job but a solid foundation for a rewarding career in the automotive industry. In addition to comprehensive training, we also provide perks such as free driving lessons—including bus driving—and travel, a pension scheme, and more.’*

## 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](#).

### 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](#).

### D&T Technician (Food & Textiles)

**NJC Point 5-6, £8,536-£8,877  
(actual salary)  
16 hours per week (term time only)  
over 5 days, flexible hours  
Temporary basis with possibility of  
a permanent role in the future.**

We are looking to appoint a hard-working and friendly Technician to join our Design & Technology department. You will provide support to the Curriculum Leader and other members of the team, ensuring the maintenance of equipment, materials, work rooms and storage areas; preparing equipment and materials for lessons; providing support during practical lessons and admin support for the department including preparation of displays. Knowledge and application of rigorous standards of food and equipment hygiene and safety is required.

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](#).

### School Receptionist

**37 hours a week, 8.00am – 4.00pm  
Term time, plus 5 x staff training days  
(NJC P5-6) Actual Salary: £20,191 -  
£20,528pa**

Highdown is looking to appoint a hardworking, enthusiastic, flexible and friendly person to join our school office team as our Receptionist.

The successful applicant will have a positive and professional approach, be able to use their initiative and have excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Experience in school office procedures would be an advantage, but not essential as training will be provided. A good working knowledge of Microsoft Office, such as Word and Excel is essential.

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](#).



## Work With Us

### 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](#).

### 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](#).



# INFORMATION EVENING

## LOCATION

The Henley College

22nd FEBRUARY 2024

@ 17:30 - 20:00



## Attend a Get Into Teaching event.



### What?

Whether you're ready to start your career in teaching or just curious, we can answer your questions.

### When?

29 February 2024, 5pm - 8pm.

### Where?

The Great Hall, University of Reading.

## Register now.

Limited places available.



Teaching ☒