



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



EXCELLENCE

w/c 06 May 2024 Week B

It has been great to receive our report from Ofsted from our visit just before the Easter holidays. We hope that families will enjoy reading it when published and take pride in being part of our community. We are pleased that our ethos and values came through strongly to the inspection team as well as our pride in seeing young people develop as wonderful young citizens with great qualifications. Much to celebrate for staff, students and families in the report. This will be sent out to families and will be on our website. Our action points align with our academy improvement plan and Highdown will never rest on any laurels.

It is, in many ways a great time therefore to be saying goodbye at the end of the academic year as Headteacher. The school is in a fantastic position for the next stage of it's development. As you will have seen from our Chair of Governors, we are delighted that our Head of School, Matt Grantham, is taking the headship position in an acting capacity until the end of the calendar year. This takes the school

forward with the other school leaders and rest of the academy staff.

Students have been interested to find that I am going to 'another job'. Many have engaged me in conversation over the last week. They understand that I will be very sad to leave Highdown, but excited to take up a new role with different challenges.

A theatre trip to Hamilton was enjoyed on Tuesday by an impeccably behaved group of year 8, 9 and 10 students. Thank you to Mrs Lake and team for leading this.

Congratulations to Year 9 for their hard work and getting used to public examination style assessments this week. They have been positive and organised, as well as exemplary in their behaviour.

Years 11 and 13 are getting closer to their main exam period and art, languages and technology examinations are underway. Best wishes to all young people and their families through the exam period. Remember, there is

plenty of support and advice via your mentors and teachers. Please use it!

**Rachel Cave**  
Headteacher



Mon 06 May	Bank Holiday— School Closed
Tues 07-09 May	Year 13 Art/ Textiles Exams
Thurs 09 May	GCSE Exams Commence

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## HOUSE POINTS

Mapledurham	128,087
Grove	127,671
Rosehill	128669
Caversham	131,437



Follow us

## INFORMATION

### Problems with Class Charts

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact [office@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto: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>.

### Water Bottles / Pollen Season

Please ensure your students have a water bottle in school with them at all times.



Hay fever season is also underway. Please encourage your students to take their medication at home before they leave for school. We are not able to supply antihistamines at school.

[SEND Local Offer Newsletter Spring 2024](#)

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

You can find more details about FSM and download an application form on our [website](#).

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.



See what the Gallery are cooking up for us this term by viewing their menus on the school website [HERE](#)



## Wellbeing

Are you worried about how they are feeling?

DECREASING DEPRESSION


FREE TALK




May 14th 7-8pm

Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE gives a one hour online talk explaining what we can do to reduce the symptoms of depression.

Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk) go to PARENT page




May 2024  
Newsletter




CPD training for anyone who works with children or teenagers.  
National Standards CPD accredited sessions  
All sessions booked & delivered online via [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Thursday  
2 May  
19:00 - 21:00  
£24




**Anxiety Explained**  
Anxiety, especially in our young is rising. This session explains what it is, why it happens and how you can help.

Monday  
13 May  
19:00 - 21:00  
£24




**Autism: Improving Communication**  
Small changes can lead to huge improvements with your ability to communicate with someone on the spectrum.

Monday  
20 May  
19:00 - 21:00  
£24



**Understanding the Teenage Brain**  
Improve your understanding and communication with your teen. Why they think, feel and behave very differently from adults.

Tuesday  
21 May  
19:00 - 21:00  
£24



**Raising Self-Esteem**  
How to support healthy self-esteem in your children and yourself. Easy to apply interventions shared.

[facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

[info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

## HAMILTON



On Tuesday 30 April, the drama department took a group of very excited Highdowners to London to watch Hamilton the Musical. It was an amazing experience for the staff and students, as we were treated to the best seats in the house!

The show was fantastic and the students behaved exceptionally well.

Afterwards, we were treated to a demonstration and Q & A from the various departments in the company. We were shown lighting cues and set changes as well as how they do the 30 second costume 'quick change'! The company spoke about their careers and how they got into the industry and it was incredibly inspiring.

Thank you to all members of staff who supported the trip and made the day so special.

**Mrs Lake**  
Curriculum Lead—Drama



## SIXTH FORM



On Friday 26 April, thirty-five sixth form students slept outside overnight to raise money for our local charity LaunchPad. LaunchPad is a homeless support charity that does plenty of brilliant work for our local community and the students have currently raised nearly £600 by completing the sleep out. If you are able to donate and support this excellent cause please use this link [HERE](#).

To learn more about Launchpad go to there website [HERE](#).



## CAREERS

Following a successful pilot in 2023, we have announced another series of exciting **Discover a Career as a Firefighter Sessions** to help potential applicants find out more about the role.

The sessions provide an ideal opportunity to come along to find out more about the role, the application process and what life at a fire station is like.

If you don't know much about the fire and rescue service at the moment – don't worry! These sessions have been designed to give anyone a flavour of the role – whether you've thought about it before or not.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**ROYAL BERKSHIRE**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**



**Sport In Mind** FUNDED BY 

16 OR 17? PASSIONATE ABOUT SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY?

WANT TO BOOST YOUR CONFIDENCE, INDEPENDENCE AND LEARN NEW SKILLS TO GET YOU WORK READY?

**ACCREDITED YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME** GAIN SKILLS THROUGH...

COMPLETE AN ONLINE COACHING ACCREDITATION

VOLUNTEERING AT SPORT IN MIND SESSIONS.

VOLUNTEER AT EVENTS, HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES AND WORKSHOPS

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, ADMIN AND OPERATIONS

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: [YOUTH@SPORTINMIND.ORG](mailto:YOUTH@SPORTINMIND.ORG) SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP TODAY!

SCAN ME 

**Reading** **Sport In Mind** **Youth Activities for Mental Wellbeing** Registered Charity 1161323 **FREE!**

Sport in Mind provides free sport and physical activity opportunities for children and young people to help build confidence and self esteem, meet new people and support low mood and other mental health challenges.

**Reading Sessions (Summer term)**

Day	Time	Activity	Age	Venue
Mon	5:00 - 6:00pm	Football	10-14 years	Palmer Park 3G pitch
Tue	4:15 - 5:15pm	Tennis	10-14 years	Meadway Sports Centre (inside)
Tue	5:00 - 6:00pm	Sport & games	10-14 years	Bulmershe leisure centre
Wed	4:45 - 5:45pm	Football	10-14 years	Prospect Park 3G pitch
Thur	4:15 - 5:15pm	Sport & Games	10 - 14 years	South Reading Leisure Centre - Outside courts
Fri	4:30 - 5:30pm	Sport & Games	9-13 years	Morgan Centre, Queen Anne's School

Sessions restart from Monday 15th April and run weekly excluding school holidays


[info@sportinmind.org](mailto:info@sportinmind.org)
[www.sportinmind.org](http://www.sportinmind.org)
01189479762

Working in partnership with







**READING CANOE CLUB** **LEARN TO KAYAK WITH OUR JUNIOR BEGINNER COURSES**

These 5-week courses, one session per week, are for 10-16 year olds. Each session is an hour long and children will get to try all sorts of boats and skills.

Choose from:

Course 1: Tuesdays, 14th May, 21st May, 4th June, 11th June, 18th June, 4:30-5:30pm

Course 2: Wednesdays, 15th May, 22nd May, 5th June, 12th June, 19th June, 4-5pm


Course 3: Thursdays, 16th May, 23rd May, 6th June, 13th June, 20th June, 5:30-6:30pm

The cost of the course is £60 for the 5 sessions. Maximum 8 places per course.

Go to our website: [reading-canoe.org.uk/beginners/junior-novice-introductory-courses](http://reading-canoe.org.uk/beginners/junior-novice-introductory-courses)

Reading Canoe Club, The Warren, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7TH

**MAY BEGINNER COURSES BOOKING NOW**



**Kayak on the River!** Come and try it out!

**Reading Canoe Club**

Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th May

[reading-canoe.org.uk/taster](http://reading-canoe.org.uk/taster)

**Taster Sessions** just £5 per child

Sessions times each day:

10-11.15am

11.45-1pm

1.45-3pm

Ages 9-16 years

10 places per session

Booking essential

To book a place, scan the QR code below or go to [reading-canoe.org.uk/taster](http://reading-canoe.org.uk/taster) and fill in the form.



**Emmer Green 5 & 10 k & Mini Oak Challenge 2024**

**Sunday 30th June 2024 - 10am**

**ENTRY**

10k: £20 (£23 on day)

5k: £15 (£19 on day)

Mini-Oak: £7.50 (includes race E-shirt)

The 5 & 10k runs follow a multi-terrain course along quiet country lanes and footpaths with chip timing.

**Mini-Oak Challenge** Children run (or walk) the school playing field as many times as they like (up to 33 laps).

Scan the QR code for more information and to register or go to: [emmergreen10k.org.uk](http://emmergreen10k.org.uk)

Thank you to our proud sponsors

















Raising funds for Emmer Green Primary School



# *Stars of the Week*

**Year 7**

7C—Harry Turnbull  
7D - Freddie Gordon  
7E—D'Anna Lafayette  
7F—Tala Istatiah  
7G—Tommy Fotyga  
7H—Rorke O'Reilly  
7J—Fejiro Orife  
7K—Cole Stockwell  
7L—Pip Cresswell

**Year 8**

8C—Malik Drammeh  
8D—Eli Nanayakkara  
8E—Jacob Gough  
8F—Eddy Giani  
8G—Ollie McAndrew  
8H—Emily Todman  
8J—Leo Diamond  
8K—Myka Mann  
8L—Guto De Oliveira

**Year 9**

9C - Bernard Mendy  
9D - Maverick Chiu  
9E - Matteo Bellofatto  
9F - Aryahi Chavan  
9G - Medi Weatherall  
9H - Robyn Bassett Gray  
9J - Samuel Musker  
9K - Max Etherington  
9L - Darcey Jones  
Miss Robinson - Harry Davies

**Year 11**

11C—Harkirat Singh  
11D - Rushda Basha  
11E - Tymur Rudnyev  
11F - Ewan Hastings  
11G - Amelie Greenfield  
11H - Rory Hunt  
11J - Emily Baxter  
11K - Petra Bartusz  
11L - Farzan Moin  
11M - Bethia Miller



## Top tips for helping your child succeed in their learning

As the Year 11 and Year 13 PPEs approach, you may be wondering what you can do to help your child succeed.

Last week's newsletter had links to advice and guidance about different methods of revision.

This week, I'd like to share the scientific findings about spacing and interleaving your child's revision. Little and often really does work, even if it's the same time studying – someone who spreads that time out will gain a higher grade than someone who does it all in one attempt.

Did you know ... the phrase 'little and often' really does work, even if it's the same time studying – someone who spreads that time out will gain a higher grade than someone who does it all in one attempt.

## THE ONE ABOUT SPACING AND INTERLEAVING

@inner\_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk

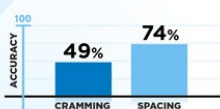
### THE STUDY

How much impact does the order and timing of questions that students answer have on how well they learn the material? Is spacing, which is doing little and often, better than cramming? Does interleaving, which is mixing up the type of problems, help more than blocking?

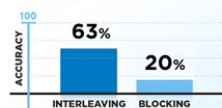
In the first study, researchers explored the difference between spacing out maths revision sessions over the course of a week, compared to doing them all in one sitting. In their second study they also measured the impact of working on the same sort of maths problems for the whole session against mixing up the type of questions the students had to answer.

### THE MAIN FINDINGS

1 In the final test, students who spaced out their revision sessions got an average mark of 74%, whereas those who crammed their revision got 49%.



2 One week after their revision, students who interleaved the type of questions they answered got an average of 63% whilst those that had answered the same sort of problem (i.e. blocking) got on average 20%.



Ref: Rohrer and Taylor, 2007, Instructional Science  
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**COFFEE EVENING FOR PARENTS AND CARERS  
OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**  
**THURSDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**  
**6.30 PM – 8.30 PM**  
Venue: RISC, 35-39 London St, Reading RG1 4PS

A chance to meet other parents and talk to service providers.

- Louise Mole, the Team Manager of the Learning Disabilities and Autism (LDA) Team in Adult Social Care and
- Claire Thomas, the Senior Educational Psychologist for Reading's Mental Health Support Team

will attend to hear your views on local services and answer any questions.

Booking is essential, [fran@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk](mailto:fran@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk) Mobile: 07516 185380.

A few car parking spaces at rear of the building subject to availability. Venue is walkable from most bus routes, nearest parking is Queens Road or Oracle, or metered parking on London Road.

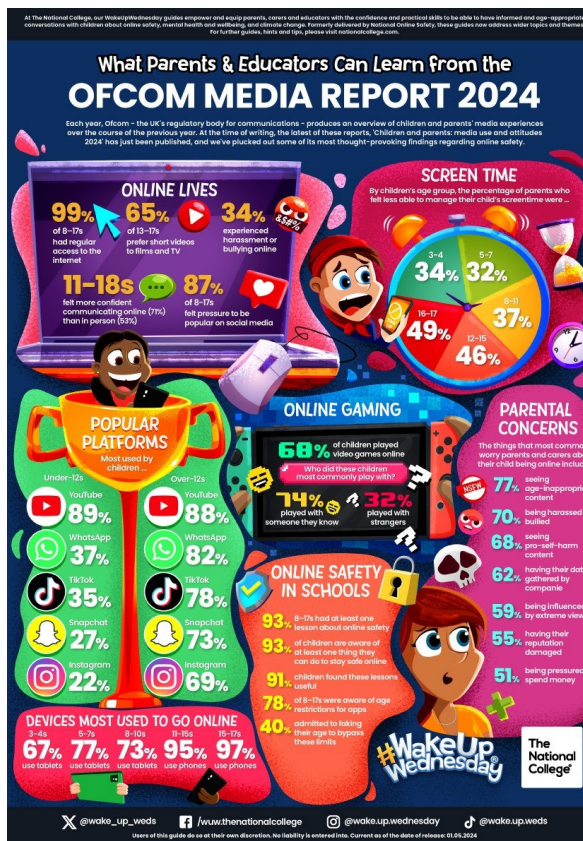
An on-line link is available if you cannot attend in person.



[www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk](http://www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk)



## SOCIAL MEDIA AND CHILDREN

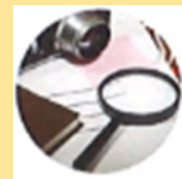




## LIBRARY RECOMMENDATIONS

To honour Sherlock Holmes Day which is actually Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday, coming up on 22 May, we are looking at book recommendations from the Mystery & Crime section in the Hive.

Mystery & Crime books have this sticker on their spine



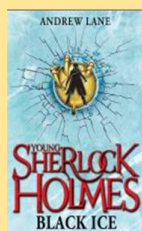
eBooks and Audiobooks are available to all Highdowners at:

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

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

### Young Sherlock Holmes: Black Ice – Andrew Lane

The year is 1868, and Sherlock Holmes is fourteen. His older brother, Mycroft, has vanished. Sherlock follows his trail to Russia, to face an unknown enemy - but will he arrive in time to save his brother?



### Heist Society Book 1 – Ally Carter

When Katarina Bishop was three, her parents took her to the Louvre...to case it. For her seventh birthday, Katarina and her Uncle Eddie travelled to Austria...to steal the crown jewels. When Kat turned fifteen, she planned a con of her own - scamming her way into the best boarding school in the country, determined to leave the family business behind. But now her dad's life is on the line, and Kat must go back to the world she tried so hard to escape...



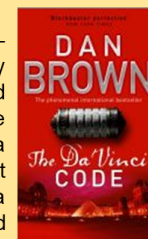
### Guggenheim Mystery – Robin Stevens

When a painting is stolen from the famous Guggenheim Museum in NYC and Ted's Aunt Gloria is framed for the theft, Ted, his sister Kat and cousin Salim set off across the city to find the real thief. Ted's the perfect detective, good at spotting intricate patterns and remembering tiny details. But he's certain something doesn't add up here and it's a race against time to crack the case before Aunt Gloria's sent to prison and the painting disappears forever.



### The Da Vinci Code – Dan Brown – rec. 6th form read

Professor Robert Langdon receives an urgent late-night phone call while on business in Paris: the elderly curator of the Louvre has been brutally murdered inside the museum. Alongside the body, police have found a series of baffling codes. As Langdon and a gifted French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu, begin to sort through the bizarre riddles, they are stunned to find a trail that leads to the works of Leonardo Da Vinci - and suggests the answer to a mystery that stretches deep into the vault of history.



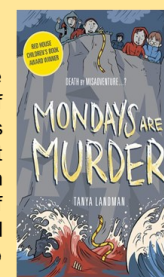
### The Deadly Dare Mysteries – Malorie Blackman - eBook

In Deadly Dare, there's a new craze at Theo and Ricky's school. The rules are simple: write a dare, put it in the bag and take turns to pick one out. But on the night Ricky does his dare and enters the deserted warehouse, he disappears. What really happened to Ricky - and how much does new girl Angela know? Theo needs to find the answers before it's too late...



### Mondays are Murder – Tanya Landman – eBook

When Poppy goes on an activity holiday to a remote Scottish island, she is looking forward to a week of climbing, hill-walking and horse riding. But things take a bad turn when their instructor has what appears to be a fatal abseiling accident. When Poppy discovers that his rope was cut, and more of the instructors start to have "accidents", she and best friend Graham suspect foul play and decide to investigate.



### Classic Crime Short Stories – Audiobook

A spine-tingling selection of detective stories including contributions from Edgar Wallace, Conan Doyle and G. K. Chesterton.



### Nothing More To Tell – Karen McManus - Audiobook

True crime can leave a false trail. Four years ago, Brynn left Saint Ambrose School following the shocking murder of her favourite teacher. The case was never solved, but she's sure that the three kids who found Mr. Larkin's body know more than they're telling. When Brynn gets an internship working on a popular true-crime show, she decides to investigate what really happened.



We have a number of posts available at Highdown, please click on the job roles below for more information or visit our website [HERE](#) to view all vacancies, including teaching roles.



**Examinations Invigilator**

£11.79 per hour, Flexible hours

**Cleaner/Housekeeping**

15 hours per week, Monday to Friday 3pm to 6pm. Morning shifts also available. £11.79 per hour.

**Junior Site Controller**

37 hours a week, full-time (part time/term time will be considered)

NJC P2-5. Full time salary:  
£23,114-£23,500 pa

"(Highdown) has supported my personal and professional growth. During my time as an LSA, I have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated colleagues and extraordinary students. The experiences and relationships I have made here will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on my career."

**Senior Leisure Attendant**

Part-time position, evenings and weekends. Up to £11.50ph dependent on experience and qualifications.

**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