



# Highdown Bulletin

w/c 09 September 2024 Week A



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## A MESSAGE FROM MR GRANTHAM



Welcome back to everyone and a special welcome to new families and young people joining Highdown this week. I hope you all had a great summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead.

Our new Year 7 and Year 12 students have made a great start, finding their way around, getting used to our routines and expectations. Thank you to our fantastic Year 8 Buddies for all their help this week too, to make the transition from primary school to secondary school as smooth as possible for our Year 7 Highdowners.

In our first assemblies of the school year, we reflected on the theme of 'Frontiers'. We looked at a range of examples from the early explorers, to space, the oceans, medical science, technological innovation and AI. We considered the braveness of going beyond frontiers into the unknown, facing the challenges this presents, in the pursuit of greater knowledge and understanding. From these examples, we encouraged our students to embrace the 'Frontier Spirit' in their education and areas of personal interest, by demonstrating characteristics such as courage, resilience, adaptability, creativity, perseverance, and determination. Above all, to have a willingness to venture beyond their own frontiers.

As you may have observed already this week, our driveway can get very busy at the start and end of the school day with young people walking to/from school. We therefore want to keep our drive free from traffic so our students can use the area safely. Please do not drive on to the school site at these times for drop-off/collection. When parking in local streets, please be considerate of local residents by not blocking access to local properties. Please do not block pavements so that our students, and other members of the community, are forced to walk into the road. I appreciate your support and cooperation regarding parking outside our school.

Wishing all families a great weekend!

**Matthew Grantham**  
Headteacher (Acting)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Welcome back to the new academic year and a very warm welcome to new families who are joining us this year.

I hope that you and your children settle successfully back into the school routine this week.

Feedback from parents and carers (as well as staff and students) is incredibly important to me, and later in the year we will conduct a parent survey to seek your feedback. Please look out for communications from GLF via your schools' usual newsletters.

I wish you and your children a happy and successful academic year 2024-25.

**Julian Drinkall**  
CEO, GLF





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## THIS WEEK

<b>Mon 09 Sept</b>	<b>Year 11 Excellence Evening from 6–7pm in the Main Hall</b>
<b>Tues 10 Sept</b>	<b>Year 8 Excellence Evening from 6–7pm in the Main Hall</b>
<b>Weds 11 Sept</b>	<b>Year 9 Excellence Evening from 6–7pm in the Main Hall</b>
<b>Thurs 12 Sept</b>	<b>Year 12 Excellence Evening from 6–7pm in the Main Hall</b>

## COMING UP

<b>Mon 16 Sept</b>	<b>Year 13 Pathways Presentation, virtual at 6pm</b>
<b>Tues 17 Sept</b>	<b>Year 11 Geography Urban Fieldwork</b>
<b>Tues 17 Sept</b>	<b>Year 10 Course Information Evening at 6pm in the Main Hall</b>
<b>Weds 18 Sept</b>	<b>School Photos for Years 7, 9 and 11</b>
<b>Thurs 19 Sept</b>	<b>Year 11 Geography Urban Fieldwork</b>
<b>Thurs 19 Sept</b>	<b>Year 12/13 Employability Masterclass—Financial Awareness</b>
<b>Fri 20 Sept</b>	<b>Year 11 Geography Urban Fieldwork</b>
<b>Mon 23 Sept</b>	<b>AGM of the PTA Committee at 7pm in Main Hall—All Welcome</b>
<b>Thurs 26 Sept</b>	<b>Early Close for Students—12:25pm—HIGHDOWN OPEN EVENING</b>
<b>Fri 27 Sept</b>	<b>INSET Day—School Closed to Students</b>



## HOUSE POINTS

<b>Mapledurham</b>	<b>2425</b>
<b>Grove</b>	<b>2549</b>
<b>Rosehill</b>	<b>2489</b>
<b>Caversham</b>	<b>2495</b>





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## MAINS *From £2.75*

*Week Two*

9<sup>th</sup> Sept, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, 18<sup>th</sup> Nov, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Mexican Chili Beef Con Carne with Steamed Rice and Sour Cream (Mk)	<b>BURGER BAR</b> Quarter Pounder Beef Burger in a Sesame Bun (G,So) or Spicy Chicken Burger in a Sesame Bun (G,Se,Mu)	<b>ASIAN FLAVOURS</b> Crispy Asian Sweet Chili Chicken (G,So,E) Szechuan Spiced Pork with Ginger Noodles (G,So,E) Tofu and Mushroom Mapo Stir Fry (G,So,Mu)	Slow Cooked Beef Lasagne Topped with Mozzarella (G,Mk,E) Chef Salad Coleslaw (E) Extra Focaccia Fingers (G)	<b>FISH &amp; CHIP SHOP</b> Battered Fish Fillet (G,F) Cheese and Onion Paste (G,So,Mk) "Chip Butty" (G,So,Mk) Jumbo Sausage (G,Su) Fish Fingers (G,F,E) Oven Baked Chips Garden Peas Baked Bean Chunky Tartare Sauce (Su,E) Ketchup and Lemon
Nachos Sweetcorn and Peppers	Falafel Burger in a Sesame Bun (G,Se)	Shredded Asian Slaw (Su,So,Se) Egg Noodles (G,E) Coriander Steamed Rice Spring Rolls (G,So,Mk,E,Ce)	Mediterranean Vegetable Lasagne Topped with Mozzarella (G,Mk,E) Chef Salad Coleslaw (E) Extra Focaccia Fingers (G)	
Vegan Chili with Steamed Rice and Vegan Sour Cream (So,Mu,Ce)	Add Mayonnaise (E) Shredded Iceberg Ketchup Sweetcorn BBQ Beans (Su,So,G,Ce) Baked Potato Wedges			



**THEME BARS -PLUS DAILY- JACKET POTATOES & SALAD BAR**



### Daily Pasta Bar

Slow Cooked Beef Bolognese (G)  
Tomato and Basil (G)  
Mac 'n' Cheese (G,Mk)

### Served with

Home baked Garlic Bread (G,So,Mk)  
Cheese (Mk)

*From £2.35, extras from £0.55*

## Meal Deal

Check out what's on offer today, available for free school meals!

## GLOBAL EATS *From £2.35*



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Love Joes Tandoori Chicken with Mango Chutney (G,Mk,E) and Green Coriander Chutney (Mk)	Cauliflower Keralan Curry with Steamed Rice (G)	Pulled Pork in a Bun with Chipotle Slaw (G,So,Se,Mu,Lu,E)	Fiery Jerk Chicken Burger with Pineapple Salsa (G,Su,Se)	Fish and Chip Shop

## DESSERTS

Selection of home bakes, flapjacks, cookies, sponges, jelly and fruit pots

*From £1.15*



## ALLERGENS

*we're allergy aware!*

Ce = Celery  
Cr = Crustacean  
E = Eggs  
F = Fish  
G = Cereals containing Gluten  
L = Lupin  
Mk = Milk  
Mo = Molluscs  
Mu = Mustard  
N = Nuts  
P = Peanuts  
Se = Sesame Seeds  
So = Soy  
Su = Sulphur Dioxide

Speak to one of our chefs if you have any allergies.

## NOTICE OF PTA AGM

Please join us for our AGM. It will be held on 23 September in the Hall at 7pm.

The AGM is an opportunity for you to elect the PTA Committee to represent the Association throughout the forthcoming academic year. Nominations can be sent to [highdown\\_pta@outlook.com](mailto:highdown_pta@outlook.com)

We would especially like to invite parents who are new to Highdown!

Come along and join our wonderful team!



## The Hive - Library

It has been lovely to see new faces in the Hive already this week, along with familiar ones from last term.

For those new to Highdown, and as a reminder to others, please find below information about the Hive and the library services that are available:

The library is open to students **8.30am - 9.05am, at breaktimes, lunchtimes and after school until 4.00pm.**  
If students need a book for AR lessons then these are the times for them to come and get one

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Students can **take out up to 4 books** at a time - all they need to do to check a book out is give their name

•

**Book loans are for 2 weeks;** however, loans can be extended if needed

•

It is a **fiction library;** non fiction books are held in departments

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The **library catalogue** is available for students to view on the school website.

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

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Books can also be reserved here and then collected from the library

•

The school subscribes to an **Audio book and eBook service - ePlatform** - students can download the app to any device or search on the school website and sign in with their Highdown log in

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

•

Should any students have questions about borrowing books, viewing the library catalogue, logging on to the ePlatform service, have book requests, etc, then they should come and see me during the above times.

Happy reading!

Mrs Robinson

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

**HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE**



# **OPEN EVENING**

**Thursday 26 September 2024**

**6pm-8pm**

Headteacher presentation at 6pm, followed by a tour of the school's facilities with an opportunity to meet department staff and view student's work.



**Open Mornings 9:05am-10:05am**

- Monday 30 September
- Tuesday 01 October
- Wednesday 02 October
- Thursday 03 October
- Friday 04 October

Booking will open for all events in September on the school website  
[www.highdown.reading.sch.uk](http://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk)

Telephone: 0118 901 5800

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



## Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

### **Per Parent, Per Child**

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

### **5 consecutive days of term time leave**

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

### **First Offence**

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

### **Second Offence (within 3 years)**

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

### **Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)**

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.