



Highdown Bulletin

w/c 16 September 2024 Week A



Follow us

A MESSAGE FROM MR GRANTHAM

That's our first full week of the academic year complete!

Evenings have been particularly busy at the school this week with our annual Excellence Evenings for Years 8, 9 and 11, together with our Welcome to the Sixth Form evening yesterday. Thank you to all parents/carers who were able to attend. Each Excellence Evening is bespoke to the year group, with Year 8 thinking about exploration, Year 9 considering a year of choices as they prepare for Key Stage 4 courses, Year 11 reflecting on study skills and preparation for their final exams. I hope you found these informative and helpful for the year ahead.



We are delighted to have received a prestigious award in recognition of our work to support our young carers with their education. Thank you to Mrs Holder, our Young Carers Lead, who works within the STAR Centre team for her leadership and work in this important area.



This year, we have introduced a 'Student of the Week' award to recognise and celebrate a student who has stood out for an achievement – academic or personal. Our first recipient is Joe Parr in Year 7 for achieving a phenomenal number of House Points in his first week at Highdown. He has demonstrated his commitment to our core values of aspiration, respect and excellence. Congratulations to all nominees and to Joe!



Wishing all families a great weekend!

Matthew Grantham
Headteacher (Acting)



Congratulations

Highdown School & Sixth Form Centre, Berkshire

for successfully gaining a
Young Carers in Schools Award.

Valid from June 30th 2024 to June 30th 2027

Charity Registration No. 2024
17th October 2024
Please see our website for more information

CARERS TRUST

The Children's Society

YOUNG CARERS AT HIGHDOWN

WHO ARE YOUNG CARERS?

- Are you under the age of 18?
- Do you help look after someone?
- They could be ill, elderly, have a learning or physical disability, substance or alcohol misuse or a mental health condition.

WHAT MIGHT A YOUNG CARER DO?

- You may help with:
- Cleaning, cooking, shopping
 - Managing medicines or money
 - Providing personal care
 - Supporting someone emotionally or physically
 - Helping someone communicate

If you help look after someone, you may be a young carer. We are here to help. Please speak with your Head Of Achievement or contact:



JENNA HOLDER
YOUNG CARERS CHAMPION



MR CLAWSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS

- One-to-One Mentoring
- Star Centre Drop In at break and lunch times
- Referrals to No.5 Counselling
- Referrals to School Nurse Service
- Referrals to Excellence Club (homework support)
- Young Carers Forum

CONTACT US

From your school email address ONLY, please email:
star@highdown.reading.sch.uk

VISIT US

Visit the Star Centre during break or lunch time for more information about being a young carer.



Highdown Bulletin

THIS WEEK

Mon 16 Sept	Year 13 Pathways Presentation, virtual at 6pm
Tues 17 Sept	Year 11 Geography Urban Fieldwork
Tues 17 Sept	Year 10 Course Information Evening at 6pm in the Main Hall
Weds 18 Sept	School Photos for Years 7, 9 and 11
Thurs 19 Sept	Year 11 Geography Urban Fieldwork
Thurs 19 Sept	Year 12/13 Employability Masterclass—Financial Awareness
Fri 20 Sept	Year 11 Geography Urban Fieldwork

COMING UP

Mon 23 Sept	AGM of the PTA Committee at 7pm in Main Hall—All Welcome
Tues 24 Sept	Year 11 Music Composer Workshop
Thurs 26 Sept	Early Close for Students—12:25pm
Thurs 26 Sept	HIGHDOWN OPEN EVENING @ 6pm—Book HERE
Fri 27 Sept	INSET Day—School Closed to Students
Mon 30 Sept	Year 6 Open Mornings Running Every Day this Week @ 9am—Book HERE
Tues 01 Oct	Celebration of Achievement @ 6pm by Invitation



HOUSE POINTS

Mapledurham	8111
Grove	8820
Rosehill	8565
Caversham	8320





MAINS *From £2.75* *Week Three: 16th Sept, 7th Oct, 4th Nov, 25th Nov, 16th Dec*

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Greek Garlic Lemon, Thyme Chicken and Potato Tray Bake with Broccoli and a Chef's Salad	TEX MEX Tex Mex Turkey Enchiladas (G,Mu,Mk) Chick pea and Vegetable Moqueta (Su,Mu) Blackbean, Sweetcorn and Coriander Rice Seared Greens Extra Cheesy Cornbread (Mk,E)	THAI KITCHEN Thai Green Chicken Curry or Thai Pork Noodles with Sweet Chilli (G,E) Butternut Squash Thai Curry (Mk,F) Coconut Rice (Su) Thai Ginger Beansprout Salad Extra Spring Roll with Sweet Chilli Sauce (G,So,Mk,E,Ce)	Sticky BBQ Chicken (G,Su,So,Ce) with Potato Wedges and Cowboy Beans (Su,So,G,Ce) Sticky BBQ Sweet Potato (G,Su,So,Ce) with Potato Wedges and Cowboy Beans (Su,So,G,Ce)	FISH & CHIP SHOP Battered Fish Fillet (G,F) Cheese and Onion Pastie (G,So,Mk) "Chip Butty" (G,Se,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



THEME BARS - PLUS DAILY - JACKET POTATOES & SALAD BAR

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

GLOBAL EATS *From £2.35*

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Halloumi Burger (G,Se,Mk,E)	5 Spice Chicken Wrap (G,So,E)	Chilli Dog with Grated Mozzarella and Crushed Tortillas (G,Su,So,Mu,Mk)	Love Joes - Baja Mexican Chicken Burrito (G)	Fish and Chip Shop



DESSERTS
 Selection of home bakes, flapjacks, cookies, sponges, jelly and fruit pots
 From £1.15

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

ALLERGENS
we're allergy aware!

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

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

Come along and join our wonderful team!



Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
8C Tamzin Biddle	9C Nathan Crozier	10C Rowan Harris	11C Griffin Barnett Ward
8D Jake Johnstone	9D Chris Chandler	10D Furqan Khan	11D Cara Fothergill
8E Sam Lovegrove	9E Zoe Krecek	10E Lola Wilde	11E Tom Smith
8F Ethan Lunnon	9F Charlie Chislet	10F Elin Jones	11F Therene Kejang
8G Daniel Linley	9G Nelly Anscomb	10G Channelle Lawson	11G Olivia Mann
8H Jay Sirohi	9H Lucy Watts	10H Robyn Bassett Gray	11H Khalid Fuad
8J Alpha Barrie	9J Riley Stace	10J Ariyah Ajaz-Moir	11J Jaden Rock
8K Lenny Rogers	9K Myka Mann	10K Lainee Urquhart	11K Helen Agryropoulou
8L Rohan Hinds	9L Lewis Smith	10L Rohan Hinds	11L Gracie Paudel

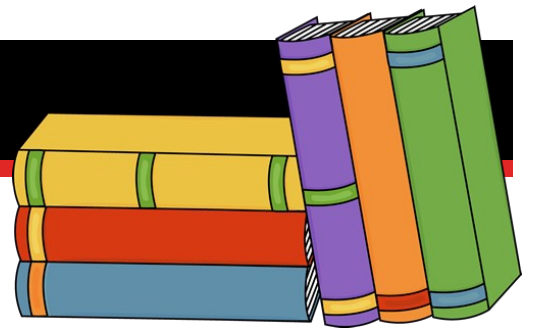


Open Events at Highdown School

OPEN EVENING - Thursday 26 September @ 6pm

OPEN MORNINGS - Mon 30 Sept- Fri 04 Oct

For more info about our school visit our website
www.highdown.reading.sch.uk



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

40 Book Challenge



Read 40 books within the academic year!

Highdown School is once again challenging students to read 40 books in one year.

This can be broken down to be one book a week during a school year and a book that is over 300 pages can count as two books.

To complete this challenge students can read books at home as well as using the reading time provided at school, during Accelerated Reader lessons and English lessons.




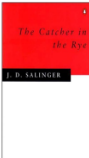












Once students have read 40 books, they need to take a list of the books to Mrs Robinson in the Hive and they will be in with a chance of winning a prize at the end of the school year!

Why should we be reading?

Students are encouraged to read as it is well known that reading boosts creativity, improves writing skills, enhances memory as well as expanding vocabulary.

HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Sixth Form - 16 x 16 Challenge

<p>REFUGEE BOY Acclaimed performance poet and novelist Benjamin Zephaniah's honest, wry and poignant story of a young refugee left in London is of even more power and pertinence today than when it was first published.</p> 	<p>THE BELL JAR Esther Greenwood is at college and is fighting two battles, one against her own desire for perfection in all things - grades, boyfriend, looks, career - and the other against remorseless mental illness.</p> 	<p>WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT Semi-autobiographical classic, written by the beloved Judith Kerr, tells the story of a Jewish family escaping Germany in the days before the Second World War</p> 	<p>THE CATCHER IN THE RYE Written with the clarity of a boy leaving childhood behind, <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> explores the world with disarming frankness and a warm, affecting charisma which has made this novel a universally loved classic of twentieth-century literature.</p> 
<p>WE WERE LIARS is a modern, sophisticated suspense novel from <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author, National Book Award finalist, and Printz Award honouree E. Lockhart.</p> 	<p>YOU'VE REACHED SAM Seventeen-year-old Julie has her future all planned out—move out of her small town with her boyfriend Sam, attend college in the city, spend a summer in Japan. But then Sam dies. And everything changes.</p> 	<p>KITE RUNNER 1970s Afghanistan: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what would happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives.</p> 	<p>TOM SAWYER AND HUCKLEBERRY FINN Tom Sawyer, a shrewd and adventurous boy, is as much at home in the respectable world of his Aunt Polly as in the self-reliant and parentless world of his friend Huck Finn. The two enjoy a series of adventures.</p> 
<p>HIS DARK MATERIALS – NORTHERN LIGHTS Lyra's friend Roger disappears. She and her daemon, Pantalaimon, determine to find him. Their quest leads them to the bleak splendour of the North where a team of scientists are conducting unspeakably horrible experiments.</p> 	<p>MAUS The Pulitzer Prize-winning Maus tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his father's story.</p> 	<p>THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.</p> 	<p>THE HUNGER GAMES Written in the perspective of 16 year old Katniss Everdeen who lives in the future, post-apocalyptic nation. The Hunger Games is an annual event in which 1 boy and 1 girl aged 12–18 are selected by lottery to compete in a televised battle royale to the death.</p> 
<p>LIFE OF PI The protagonist, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.</p> 	<p>THE COLOUR OF MAGIC On a world supported on the back of a giant turtle, a gleeful, explosive, wickedly eccentric expedition sets out.</p> 	<p>WHITE CROW It's summer. Rebecca is an unwilling visitor to Winterfold - taken from the buzz of London and her friends and what she thinks is the start of a promising romance. Ferelith already lives in Winterfold - it's a place that doesn't like to let you go, and she knows it inside out.</p> 	<p>MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS When the unconventional Durrell family can no longer endure the damp, gray English climate, they do what any sensible family would do: sell their house and relocate to the sunny Greek isle of Corfu.</p> 



The School Photographer will be coming into school on Wednesday 18 September for Years 7,9 and 11.

Students should be in full school uniform and on the day students will be handed a unique proof card which they should take home with them after their photo has been taken. This will allow parents to view and purchase the photo, should they wish to.



Special United

The voice of young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their siblings

Come and join us

on

Wednesday 25th September 2024 from 6:20pm-7.50pm

at

Churchend Primary Academy, Usk Road,
Tilehurst, RG30 4HP

We will be joined by Andrea King, Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) Consultant and Jo Brown, SEND Travel Trainer and Assessor, both from Brighter Futures for Children

Andrea and Jo would like to talk to young people about the services they provide and hear young people's views on how they could improve their services.

We will also be joined by the Reading Local Offer Team who have information about services in the area for young people with SEND and their families.



£10 Amazon vouchers for all young people who take part - plus delicious snacks!

Special United evenings are open to any Reading young people who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities aged 8-25 years old and their siblings.

To book email

lisaharry14@aol.com

RSVP No later than Tuesday 24th September 2024

We look forward to seeing you! 😊

www.me2club.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1140812 Tel: 0118 969 6369

Exploring a career in Prosthetics and Orthotics

- >>> Are you aged 14+ and considering a career in healthcare?
- >>> Are you interested in design, engineering, science and technology?
- >>> Would you like to find out more about Prosthetics and Orthotics?

Join us to learn more about the different roles and ways to get into the Prosthetic and Orthotic profession (including apprenticeships)

Norfolk & Weymouth AHP Faculty

Online via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday October 15th 2024
5pm - 6pm

Scan the QR to register your interest

NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB

Art & Design

I'M GOING TO SEE MY DESIGNS COME TO LIFE

IT STARTS ON SATURDAY

Free local Saturday Clubs for 13-16 year olds

Find your Club
www.nscsb.org.uk
Saturday-club.org.uk

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