



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



EXCELLENCE

The weekly newsletter of

# Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 8 January 2023 Week B

## HOUSE POINTS

Mapledurham	71293
Grove	69492
Rosehill	72880
Caversham	71137



Happy new year! I hope everyone had a lovely festive break. We ended last term with a fantastic Presentation Evening, recognising the successes of our former Year 11 and Year 13

students who collected their examination certificates. We were delighted to welcome Ben Hunt-Davis, former Olympic gold medallist rower, to present the awards and celebrate with our students and their families. His presentation was truly inspirational.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

### Term 3

**Tue 9 Jan:** Sixth Form trip to Iben's Ghost

**Wed 10 Jan:** Year 8 learning Conference

**Thurs 11 Jan:** Year 9 Learning Review meetings

It has been a pleasure welcoming students back to school this week. Uniform has been smart with only a few reminders needed. Phones have also been going into bags on the approach to the gate with little need for prompting. Mornings are a busy time at the front of the school and on the main drive. Please can I remind parents and carers that students should not be driven onto site for drop-off in the mornings without a medical reason. This is to ensure everyone, on foot or on bike, can access the site safely. It's been great to see the majority of cyclists wearing helmets and I urge all to ensure their child has a cycle helmet for their health and safety. Scooters (electric or push) are not permitted on site and should not be used as transport to/from school.

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2024!

Mr M Grantham

Head of School



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)



### The Highdown Herald

The latest edition of our student led newspaper, The Highdown Herald is now available to view of our [website](#).

### 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.**

### 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>.

### Evesham Road-resurfacing works

I thought it would be helpful to let you know of the temporary closure of Evesham Road for resurfacing works on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

Whilst a locally signed diversion route will be in place during the road closure, you may wish to advise staff and parents of the closure as it could cause delays in the local area.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Regards

Jeanette Jeans

Highway Maintenance & Asset Management Technician

Highway Maintenance & Asset Management | Directorate of Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services

Reading Borough Council

### Local Flooding

Please can you remind your children of the risks of walking in flooded areas, espically near the river and canal. Also, **Be careful walking in floodwater that is above knee level, it can easily knock you off your feet.** The water could cover open manholes, road works or objects and you won't be able to see them. Do not touch items that have been in contact with the water. Flood water is likely to be contaminated and could contain sewage.

# 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



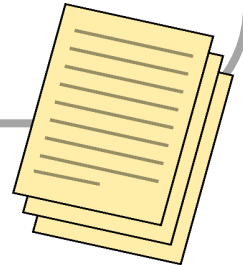
## Are you eligible?

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)

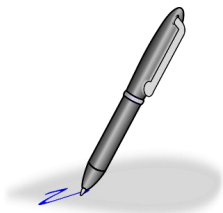
## What evidence do I need?

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



## What details do I need?

On the application form, you will be asked to provide:  
Your personal details incl. national insurance number



## 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



HIGHDOWN DANCE COMPANY  
**AUDITIONS**  
*for the 2024 Company*

*Open to Year*  
*7-13*



**THURSDAY 18 JANUARY**  
**2024 - 3.15-4.30PM**

*Location: DR1 - Bring PE Kit/dance kit to  
change into. Any questions see or email Mrs  
Hawkins.*

## Numeracy Puzzle

I can make a triangle with the numbers 1,2,3 where each number is the difference of the two numbers above it.

e.g

$$\begin{array}{cc} 3 & 1 \\ & 2 \end{array}$$

I can also do this with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 6 & 1 & 4 \\ & 5 & 3 \\ & & 2 \end{array}$$

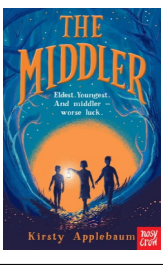
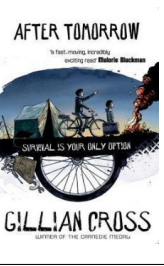

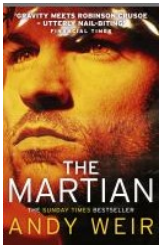
Can you do it with the numbers from 1 - 10?

How about the numbers 1 – 15?

The answer can be found on the back page.

As 2nd January was Science Fiction Day during this month we will be looking at Science Fiction and Dystopia recommendations from the Hive



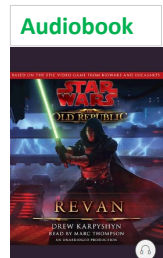



<p><b>The Middler – Kirsty Applebaum</b> <b>Dystopia</b> Maggie is a middle child, overlooked and unheard. Beyond her town's boundary, the Quiet War rages and the dirty, dangerous wanderers roam. Then Maggie meets Una, a hungry wanderer girl in need of help, and everything she's ever known gets turned on its head.....</p> <p>An absorbing, quietly menacing story of forbidden friendship, loyalty and betrayal, beautifully told.</p>		<p><b>After Tomorrow – Gillian Cross</b> <b>Winner of Carnegie Award 2014</b> <b>Science Fiction</b> What if you woke up tomorrow and everything had changed? Money is worthless. Your friends are gone. Armed robbers roam the streets. No one is safe. For Matt and his little brother, Taco, that nightmare is a reality. Their only hope of survival is to escape through the Channel Tunnel. But danger waits on the other side...Stay or go. What would you do?</p>	
<p><b>Maximum Ride - Book 1: The Angel Experience – James Patterson</b> <b>Science Fiction</b> Six unforgettable kids — with no families, no homes — are running for their lives. Max Ride and her best friends have the ability to fly. And that's just the beginning of their amazing powers. But they don't know where they come from, who's hunting them, why they are different from all other humans... and if they're meant to save mankind — or destroy it.</p>		<p><b>The Martian – Andy Weir – Rec. 6th form read</b> <b>Science Fiction</b> In Anthony Burgess's influential nightmare vision of the future, criminals take over after dark. Teen gang leader Alex narrates in fantastically inventive slang that echoes the violent intensity of youth rebelling against society. Dazzling and transgressive, <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> is a frightening fable about good and evil and the meaning of human freedom.</p>	

Below is a small selection of Science Fiction and Dystopia Fiction available as eBooks and Audiobooks through

<https://highdown.eplatform.co/> .....All you need is your Highdown log-in!



<p><b>Good Omen – Terry Pratchett &amp; Neil Gaiman</b> The book behind the Amazon Prime / BBC Series. What if, for once, the predictions are right, and the Apocalypse really is due to arrive next Saturday, just after tea? It's a predicament that Aziraphale, a somewhat fussy angel, and Crowley, a fast-living demon, now find themselves in. They've been living amongst Earth's mortals since The Beginning and, truth be told, have grown rather fond of the lifestyle and, in all honesty, are not actually looking forward to the coming Apocalypse. And then there's the small matter that someone appears to have misplaced the Antichrist . . .</p>	<p><b>eBook</b></p> 	<p><b>I am Number Four – Pittacus Lore</b> Nine of us came here. We look like you. We talk like you. We live among you. But we are not you. We can do things you dream of doing. We have powers you dream of having. We are stronger and faster than anything you have ever seen. We are the superheroes you worship in movies and comic books--but we are real.</p> <p>They caught Number One in Malaysia, Number Two in England, And Number Three in Kenya. They killed them all. I am Number Four. I am next.....</p>	<p><b>eBook</b></p> 
<p><b>Star Wars: Revan - Drew Karpshyn</b> There's something out there: a juggernaut of evil bearing down to crush the Republic, unless one lone Jedi, shunned and reviled, can stop it.</p>	<p><b>Audiobook</b></p> 	<p><b>Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury</b> Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.</p>	<p><b>Audiobook</b></p> 

### Teacher of English

**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 English department of 12 staff. This post would be suitable for either an ECT or an experienced teacher. A willingness to teach across all years and abilities is essential.

You should be a highly motivated and successful individual who is willing to contribute to all aspects of the school vision and the many enrichment activities that the department offers.

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](#)

### 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](#).

### Examinations Invigilator

**£10.79 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](#).

### 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](#).



**We've now helped 450 STEM professionals return to work across the UK**

**Are you looking to return to STEM?**

**STEM RETURNERS**

Have you taken a career break of any length from STEM and wish to return?  
Are you working below your capability?  
Do you have a STEM qualification that you aren't using?

**STEM opportunities with AWE**

**Location: Near Reading**



**If so this could be the opportunity for you!**

**Please contact us for more information:**

[www.stemreturners.com](http://www.stemreturners.com) [jzmine.gouldbourne@stemreturners.com](mailto:jzmine.gouldbourne@stemreturners.com)

**To work at AWE you will need to be a British National and normally to have resided in the UK for the past five years for Security Clearance (SC) roles and ten years for Developed Vetting (DV) roles.**

## The British Army: Apprenticeships & Scholarships - parent webinar

We encourage parents and teachers to join on this webinar where we will be discussing apprenticeships, bursaries and scholarships. This webinar offers valuable insights into educational and career opportunities within the Army, providing a holistic understanding of the benefits, financial support, and quality training available to young people. By participating, parents and teachers can better guide young people in making informed decisions about their future, helping them explore the diverse pathways, gain financial assistance, and develop skills that will benefit their military career and beyond. Come hear from the experts to find out more!

Tue, Jan 16

Online event

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM GMT

Sign in here: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

Invitation to Reading Football Club's 3rd Schools and Grassroots fixture of 2023-24

**When?**

Reading vs Leyton Orient  
Saturday 27 January, 3pm

**Where?**

Select Car Leasing Stadium

**As part of the invitation, we would like to offer the following discounted prices:**

**12 and Under: £1**

**17 and Under: £3**

**18 to 24: £5**

**65 and over: £5**

**Adult: £10**

To redeem, please visit <https://ticketing.readingfc.co.uk> and enter the unique coupon code: **#HighdownSchool** in the basket, once you have logged in and selected your tickets. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy using your unique code. For every ticket which is purchased you will receive one entry in a prize draw for a chance to win a series of 'money can't buy experience' prizes!

**Important! This offer applies to tickets in the Eamonn Dolan Stand blocks and Y19/Y20 of the Sir John Madejski Stand. Coupon codes are valid up until 4 hours before kick-off.**

**Answer to the Numeracy Puzzle**

**Answer:**

6 1 10 8  
5 9 2  
4 7  
3

**Answer:**

6 14 15 3 13  
8 1 12 10  
7 11 2  
4 9