



**ASPIRATION** 



RESPECT



**EXCELLENCE** 

#### w/c 11 March 2023 Week B

#### **HOUSE POINTS**

Mapledurham 106151 Grove 105220 107589 Rosehill Caversham 107407





#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term dates can be found here: 2023/24

Term 4

Mon 11 Mar: Y10/11 French Trip (4 days)

**U15 County Hockey Tournament** 

Y10 Visit to Microsoft

Whole School Production

Rehearsal

Tues 12 Mar: Whole School Production 7pm

Whole School Production Primary

Performance

Y11/12 MEP University Event

Wed 13 Mar: Whole School Production 7pm

Thurs 14 Mar: Whole School Production 7pm

Girls STEM event at Reading

College



Thank you to families of students in Key Stage 3 for your support with our Numeracy event earlier in the week. It was great to hear about the various maths games and audience participation, whilst exploring different ways to engage students with numeracy at home.

Our students have been thinking about a wide range of ideas beyond their subject curriculum this week. Their assemblies have focused on International Women's Day. This is an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness of discrimination, and take action to drive equality. The theme this year is #inspireinclusion. In English lessons, students have been celebrating World Book Day, by thinking about their favourite books, authors or genres. In a lesson yesterday, students were telling me about a wide range of fiction they've read and enjoyed, ranging from gothic novels, historical texts, science fiction, science fantasy, and Roald Dahl classics! The Hive (our library) has also been running a book swap scheme, to encourage and promote reading for pleasure. This week has also been National Careers Week and our 4<sup>th</sup> Careers Spotlight Week, with students considering links between different subjects and career opportunities.

In the previous bulletin, I mentioned that our Year 12 Geographers were on their residential fieldtrip Pembrokeshire this week. I've heard they have been having a fantastic time exploring South-West Wales' diverse physical and human landscape, collecting data for their NEA (coursework). They are returning, as I write this roundup, as a group of GCSE students prepare to leave us for a residential in France at the weekend. Wishing them Bon Voyage!

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mr M A Grantham Head of School









Follow us

















#### Information

# School Transport Policy Consultation

BFfC is seeking families' views on proposed changes to its school transport policy. The consultation is

open until **Sunday, 17 March 2024** and is related to the following proposals

**Brighter** 

Children

**Futures for** 

- That free transport entitlement for pupils attending Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School is removed.
- That travel assistance entitlement for eligible pupils is clarified and means an offer of a bus pass or school bus at a pickup point, with an expectation for active travel as part of a child's healthy development.
- That the policy clarifies the exceptional circumstances required to access any exceptional additional support in addition to travel assistance
- That the policy clarifies that parents are liable for costs incurred by Brighter Futures for Children on behalf of Reading Borough Council if children did not access travel assistance provided.
- That the policy clarifies that students are not entitled to travel assistance post-16 except in appropriately evidenced, exceptional circumstances.

A copy of the proposed new policy and a summary of changes can be found on the BFfC website, along with a short series of consultation questions.

#### **Problems with Class Charts**

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact office@highdown.reading.sch.uk

# Community 'Safe Space'

Lucy Glover from the No5 Charity will be in school from next week. She will be around at break times to ask students about what they would like



to have in a community 'Safe Space'. This is part of a wider project to create a community 'Safe Space' for young people to attend. Lucy is also visiting Emmer Green Primary so younger siblings may already know the name. Lucy will be wearing a Purple No5 hoodie so students can identify her. Please encourage your child to have a chat with her and share some of their ideas.

# The PTA Quiz night is fast approaching!

Tickets are on sale now.

https://www.pta-events.co.uk/highdown/



# **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.



Early Language Workshops

The Early Years Speech & Language Therapy Team will be visiting sites across Berkshire on the Health Bus. Our Speech & Language Therapists will be delivering workshops live between 10.30am – 11.30am and be available for any questions before and after.



Please scan the QR code below for more information:



### **Morrisons**

Off Basingstoke Rd, Reading RG2 0HB **13 March 2024** 9.00am – 12.00pm





# **Community Events and Courses For Parents And Carers**



# COFFEE EVENING FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS THURSDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

6.30 PM - 8.30 PM

AVENUE SCHOOL, CONWY CLOSE, TILEHURST, READING RG30 4BZ

Meet other parents and find out about the new Reading Inclusion Support in Education from Joyshree Saikia, Community Engagement and Research Advisor, Brighter Futures for Children. Talk to them about what schools need to do to help include children with additional needs and disabilities.



Also, the Racial Literacy Team will be there to talk about their services.

Booking is essential, fran@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk

Mobile: 07516 185380. An on-line link is available if you cannot attend in person.

www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk



# AUTISM: Improving Communication



# 18th March 7-9pm

Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE giving a two hour online talk to parents (and teachers), explaining how simple changes in how you speak can lead to more positive communication with people on the spectrum.

Book online now £24 facefamilyadvice.co.uk

# A different approach to supporting Anxiety, Anger, OCD & Neurodiversity



What is ACT?

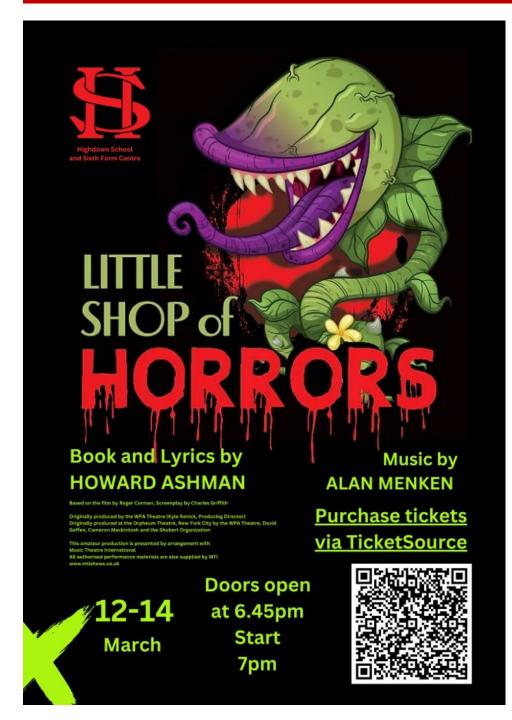
Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT)
Jane Keyworth gives a two-hour online talk

TUESDAY 19th March 7-9pm

Book Online £24 facefamilyadvice.co.uk



# **Drama Production**



Next week is our school production of Little Shop of Horrors.

Show dates are:

Tuesday 12 March -7pm
Wednesday 13 March -7pm
Thursday 14 March -7pm

To purchase tickets click on the following TicketSource link or scan the QR code on the poster.

https:// www.ticketsource.co.uk/ highdown-school-and-sixthform-centre

We can't wait to see you all there!

The Performing Arts Team

### National Careers Week: 4 - 9 March 2024

This past week has been National Careers Week and our fourth Careers Week in school of the academic year. Students have had a number of opportunities from a range of guest speakers. Included were Reading College thinking about higher education and



apprenticeships; University of Hertfordshire focusing on choosing degree courses and a university; local employers, and a range of presentations from a diverse array of careers. Thank you to everyone involved, to our guests, to staff, and to students for your fantastic engagement.

Mr Franks and Miss Barnett:

# **Culture, Character and Citizenship**

#### **Culture, Character and Citizenship Next Week**

Year 7: Community and Social Influencers

Year 8: Health (Dental)

Year 9: Consent

Year 10: Fraud

Year 11: Families, Coercion

Year 12: UK Economy

Year 13: Income and Expenditure

#### **Further Mathematics**

It's a record-breaking year for our GCSE Further Mathematicians. Led by Mr Larsen, every Friday from 3.15pm, the lower school study room is transformed into a Further Maths classroom for the more than 50 students who have chosen to take this qualification in the Summer. We have been so impressed by the maturity and commitment that our Year 11s have shown in these lessons and it is a real pleasure to work with them. Thanks also go to Georgie Wilson and Ollie Williams (two of our Y12 Maths Support Tutors) who are volunteering to help in these sessions.



Mr R Larson

#### Year 12

# **National Ciper Challenge**

Congratulations to Madeleine R and Benedek N who placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of hundreds of teams nationally entering this year's Cipher Challenge. The Challenge is organised by Southampton University with support from the professional cryptologists at GCHQ. Teams work on solving weekly, increasingly difficult, challenges throughout the Autumn Term with points being awarded for the speed and accuracy of solutions.

In recognition of this amazing achievement Benedek and Madeleine were invited to Bletchley Park last week for a tour and series of talks. One of the highlights was a talk from a GCHQ scientist who, due to the nature of



his work, had to leave more to the imagination than he could actually describe to the audience. The mystique was only added to by the 'request' not to take any photos of him!

We really want to build on this year's success and whilst Maddie and Benedek will be aiming for a podium finish in this Autumn's challenge, they are also keen to mentor our next cohort of Highdown Cryptologists. Look out for more details in the Summer Term but if you have any questions in the meantime, you can contact Mr Dineley at <a href="widineley@highdown.reading.sch.uk">widineley@highdown.reading.sch.uk</a>

Well done Benedek and Madeleine!

Mr W Dineley

# Library/The Hive

#### During March we are looking at Graphic Novels and Manga recommendations in the Hive

Graphic novels, manga and comic books can be especially appealing to readers who are reluctant to read a more traditional book. They are full of exciting stories and artwork that encourage readers to think creatively and use their imagination.

These books are a great way to strengthen vocabulary, help confidence with reading and build a deeper appreciation for storytelling.

#### Anonymous Noise Vol 1 - Ryoko Fukuyama

Nino Arisugawa, a girl who loves to sing, experiences her first heart-wrenching goodbye when her beloved childhood friend, Momo, moves away. And after Nino befriends Yuzu, a music composer, she experiences another sad parting! Both boys promised Nino that they would find her one day through her singing, so she holds on to that hope and continues to reach out with her voice. Now in high school, Nino serendipitously reunites with Yuzu, but she yearns to see Momo again.



# MacBeth (William Shakespeare) – Robert Deas & Richard Appignanesi

Samurai warriors have reclaimed a future post-nuclear world of mutants in the original manga version of Shakespeare's tale of Skullduggery. The series keeps true to Shakespeare's original text, but is specially abridged for use in the manga, which makes it ideal for students to use as a primer and a way of getting to grips with the themes in Shakespeare's plays.



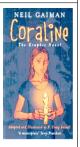
#### Alex Rider, Vol. 1: Point Blanc – Anthony Horowitz

Investigations into the "accidental" deaths of two of the world's most powerful men have revealed just one link: both had a son attending Point Blanc Academy, a school for rebellious rich kids run by the sinister Dr Grief and set high in the French Alps. Armed with a new collection of gadgets, Alex must infiltrate the academy as a pupil and establish the truth about what is really happening there.



#### Coraline - Neil Gaiman

When Coraline moves to a new house she is fascinated by the fact that their house is in fact only half a house. Divided into flats years before, the other flat, it soon becomes clear to Coraline, is not quite as cosy and safe as her own.



# eBooks and Audiobooks are available to all Highdowners at:

https://highdown.eplatform.co/

All you need is your Highdown log-in

#### eBook - Graphic Novel

#### In Odd We Trust - Holly Bourne

The first graphic novel from Dean Koontz, featuring the famously well-loved character of Odd Thomas. Nineteen-year-old Odd Thomas, a young fry cook from Pico Mundo, California, can see the dead. Beautifully drawn by Australian artist Queenie Chan, this graphic novel tells the story of Odd's race to solve the murder of a young boy whose killer appears to be stalking a second child. With the help of his beautiful girlfriend Stormy, his friend Police Chief Porter and the ghost of Elvis Presley, Odd must find the killer before he strikes again.



#### eBook – Manga

#### Boys Don't Cry - Malorie Blackman

In Boys Don't Cry, bestselling author Malorie Blackman explores the unchartered territory of teenage fatherhood. You're waiting for the postman - he's bringing your A level results. University, a career as a journalist - a glittering future lies ahead. But when the doorbell rings it's your old girlfriend; and she's carrying a baby. Your baby. You're happy to look after it, just for an hour or two. But then she doesn't come back - and your future suddenly looks very different.



#### **Careers Corner**

#### Jaguar Land Rover—Apprenticeships at JLR

JLR Insight Webinar

When: 12 March 2024

Time: 6.30-7.15pm

Online event

#### Register here

Are you looking for a degree apprenticeship? JLR might be the place for you!

Come along to our webinar to hear about the schemes on offer, how to make your application successful and life at the global car brand!

Be at the heart of automotive innovation and technology whilst enhancing your skills and experience for the future. Whether you are interested in product design, manufacturing, automotive engineering or digital and technological solutions, start your career at JLR.

**Apply here** 

## **Liverpool John Moores University**

Free Revision Masterclass with Liverpool John Moores University

When: 26 March 2024

Time: 6.30-7.15pm

#### Register here

Have you got GCSE's or A-Level Exams on the horizon?

Liverpool John Moores University are here to help!

Come along to our insight webinar where you'll learn the most effective revision techniques, how to create a revision schedule and how to manage your mental health during the exam period.

# Do you Enjoy Maths - Could an actuarial career be for you?

We have a series of three webinars ranging from What Is An Actuarial Career And Where Could Maths Take You? To Application Skills Masterclasses with all the tips on

how to ace interviews and pass numerical reasoning tests.

Register below and we will send you more details soon.

#### Register here





and Faculty

of Actuaries



#### **Careers Corner**

Parent Webinar: *Year 12 options*Wednesday, 13 March 2024 at 6:00pm

Register here: Parent Webinar: Year 12 Options | Adviza

A webinar for Parents/Carers and Students to have the opportunity to discuss routes into Higher Education and alternatives to university. The webinar will be recorded and become available on the <a href="Past Webinars">Past Webinars</a> page so it can be viewed again at a later date. Run by our qualified careers advisers via Zoom.

**What will be covered**: A great opportunity to understand the routes into Higher Education, personal statements, apprenticeships, gap year opportunities and how to access the resources and information to make the right decision for your son/daughter.

#### What you will get out of it:

- A great opportunity to discuss your queries with a trained careers guidance practitioner.
- An understanding of various routes, things to consider when making decisions.
- A list of useful websites for further information, tips and hints.

## <u>Visit from a Podiatric Surgeon to Science Department</u>

We are excited to be hosting a talk from Steve Kriss on Podiatry and Podiatric Surgery as a career option in DT8 at 3.15pm on Friday, 15 March.

Steve will be joined by Julie who is a GP and Community Liaison for the hospital. The talk will be about 30 minutes allowing for questions.

Any interested students are free to join us.

Further information from Tania IJaz or Aisha Saidykhan in the medical society after school in S5 every Thursday.

#### **Careers Corner**

### **Dixon Wilson Tax Apprenticeship Scheme**



Dixon Wilson are looking for you to be a part of the Private Client Tax Team and earn while you learn!

The Tax Apprenticeship Scheme is a fully-funded apprenticeship where you will study towards the highest-level tax qualification in the UK. Based in their London office, gain a Level 7 qualification, a competitive salary and be a part of their international team.

# **Apply today!**

Deloitte

Deloitte Brightstart Apprenticeship - Business and Finance Technology

When: 27 March 2024

**Audit - England** 

**Apply here** 

**Marsh McLennan** 

**Guy Carpenter Apprenticeship Programme London** 

**Birmingham** 

**Norwich** 

**Essex** 



**Basingstoke College of Technology** are holding a Student Support Evening, on Wednesday, 20 March at 5-6.30pm, for those who have made an application this year and will require some extra support whilst studying there.

The team will be there to discuss EHCPs, exam arrangements, transition work, counselling, in-classroom support, additional needs and 1:1 support. The event will run on a drop-in basis, please book an arrival time via the ticket system on the BCoT website to allow staff enough time to speak with everyone. Bookings can be made here: https://www.bcot.ac.uk/news-and-events/2024/03/student-support-evening/

# **Stars of the Week**

Year 7		Year 8		Year 10	
7C	Dexter Mitchell	8C	Sam Donaldson	10C	Kara Taylor
7D	Elizaveta Kovtunovich	8D	Lucy Mitchell	10D	Ben Attwood-Brown
7E	Destiny Knight	8E	Mollie Whiteway	10E	Ayman Adam
7F	Ethan Lunnon	8F	Emily Mackie	10F	Rachel Blencowe
7G	Jack Perona	8G	Katie Cheng	10G	Harley Bell
7H	James Carran	8H	Istabraq Soud	10H	Thomas Robinson
<b>7</b> J	Lottie Kelemen	8J	Lula Deasy	10J	Benjamin Amos
7K	Taylor Smith	8K	Amelia Rogers	10K	Rachel Wise
7L	Nate Redrup-Kempen	8L	Lucas Bell	10L	Conrad Packer

#### Year 11

- 11C Jack Baker-Smith
- 11D Isaac Davis
- 11E Alfie Makepeace
- 11F Natalie Hung
- 11G Callum Davidson
- 11H Jemima Harmsworth
- 11J Thivyan Sutharsan
- 11K Petra Bartusz
- 11L Hope Hussain
- 11M Harry Johnson

#### **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.

#### **Teacher of Sociology**

# Main Scale, Full time. Required for September 2024

We are seeking to appoint a well-qualified, innovative and enthusiastic Teacher of Sociology to join an established Humanities team in a well-resourced, successful department. Government and Politics is taught at A-Level and is a popular subject. Sociology is also taught within the department.

Closing date: Applications considered on receipt.

Full details can be accessed on our website.

# <u>Teacher of Maths - Key Stage</u> <u>Leader</u>

#### Main Scale, Full / Part time + TLR 2.2 Required for September 2024

We are seeking a well qualified, innovative and enthusiastic Key Stage Leader to join our successful Maths department. You will have a passion for Maths, a proven track record in producing excellent subject results and student outcomes, the ability to demonstrate excellent leadership and management skills and a commitment to raising achievement. The Maths department strives to stay at the forefront of research to support the upward trend in results.

Closing date: Applications considered on receipt.

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our website.

# **Teacher of Music - Temporary**

#### Main Scale, Full / Part time Temporary role until July 2024

This is an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic and well-qualified teacher of Music to join a lively and expanding music department, which forms part of the Performing Arts Department. The department benefits from excellent facilities. Music and Music Technology are popular options at GCSE. 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.

#### **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.

# <u>Teacher of Economics (within</u> <u>Maths Department)</u>

# Salary: Main Scale/Full time/Part time. Required for September 2024

We are looking for an outstanding, passionate and dynamic practitioner to teach A-Level Economics as part of our highly successful and well-resourced Maths and Economics department. We welcome applications from ECTs, for whom we have a superb induction programme.

Closing date: Applications considered on receipt

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our <u>website</u>.