



The weekly newsletter of Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



EXCELLENCE

w/c 29 April 2024 Week A

HOUSE POINTS

Mapledurham	124,434
Grove	123,986
Rosehill	124,997
Caversham	127,456



On Monday afternoon we were delighted to welcome Julian Drinkall, the CEO of GLF, back to our school to meet with staff, together with one of the secondary headteachers in this family of schools. Being part of GLF is a really exciting opportunity for Highdown school, supporting our continued journey of improvement and development. It is a real honour and privilege to be leading Highdown's transition into GLF in the Autumn terms, as Acting Headteacher, and I look forward to working with staff, students, and families in this capacity.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 5

Mon 29 April—Fri 03 May	Year 10 PPEs Commence Year 11 MFL Speaking Exams
Mon 29 April—Thurs 02 May	Year 9 Assessment Week
Mon 29 & Tues 30 April	Year 11 Photography and Textiles Exams
Tues 30 April	Hamilton Theatre Trip
Weds 01— Thurs 02 May	Year 11 Art and Art Graphics Exams
Thurs 02 May	Year 11 English Speaking and Listening Exam

Earlier in the week, over 80 Year 7 and 8 students participated in the annual national Junior Maths Challenge event. Congratulations to all of them and we look forward to hearing of their achievements and successes in this challenge very soon.

As mentioned last week, it is a busy time for examination. Our Year 10 students have started their first GCSE Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) this week and have approached these with determination, zeal, and the focus needed to ensure the experience and assessment are as meaningful as possible.

Good luck to our Sixth Form students, and staff, who are involved in our Big Sleep Out this weekend. The aim is to build a sense of understanding and empathy with the challenges experienced by rough sleepers across the UK every night. All monies raised will be donated to Reading's dedicated homeless charity, Launchpad Reading.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Matthew 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



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 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](#)



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM DR CAPALDI

Complaints from Tesco Express and Budgens

Disappointingly, we have received a number of complaints from nearby retailers about our students stealing sweets and food. Students are reminded that the managers of these shops routinely check CCTV footage and report thefts to the police. School will then work with our police colleagues to identify the students responsible and take the necessary next steps. If students are stealing food because of hardship and hunger, please contact me or Mr Clawson (Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion)) so that we can support.

Whilst we are very concerned about students bringing the school into disrepute, we must warn our students that the police are taking their personal involvement seriously which may lead to arrest and charges being brought. Students with criminal records will limit their own life chances and may risk their school place.

Dr S L Capaldi

Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

YEAR 8

8E'S FANTASTIC FAVELAS

Year 8 have been studying the challenges and opportunities of **mega city growth**. This includes a specific focus on the growth and challenges of informal settlements - cities within cities. Students were set the task of creating their own interpretation of a slum development or home, based on what they have learnt about Brazil's largest slum - or 'favela' in Rochinia, Rio de Janeiro. Their work is on display in the geography department and it is outstanding. This task also demonstrates cross curricular links with the Arts and English.

Well done to all the participants!



SIXTH FORM

the big sleep out

Our wonderful sixth-form students are raising money for LaunchPad charity by taking part and organising a Big Sleep Out. This Big Sleep Out will take place on school site and will involve students spending the night outside in order to raise money for local charity, LaunchPad.

To make a donation please use this link

[HERE](#)

MUSIC RECITAL

On Thursday 18th April, our A level music students took part in our recital evening. It was lovely to share the evening with all of our wonderful students but especially to celebrate the achievements of our Year 13 students, who will be leaving us this summer to continue their studies at University. We wish Raven and Alex the very best of luck for the future.



Interested in the Veterinary profession?

Royal Veterinary are holding their open day at their Hawkshead campus on the 11th May.

The day will offer a multitude of activities throughout the day, such as campus tours, behind the scenes access to hospital facilities, the chance to undertake hands-on clinical skills, learn about student life from passionate and approachable Student Ambassadors, rare access to Boltons Park Farm and accommodation viewings. For more information please use [this link](#).

RVC Royal
Veterinary
College
University of London

SMASHING RESULT

Congratulations to Josh Church, Eddy Leach, Balazs Nagy and Sam Weller for winning all their tennis matches against the Oratory!

Josh won 6-0

Eddy won 6-0

Balazs won 6-1

Sam won 6-1

They also won both their doubles games 6-1 and 6-4.

Huge congratulations and keep up the amazing work!



HENLEY CRICKET CLUB

SUMMER CRICKET

FRIDAY EVENING
U9 AND U11 6.00PM TO 7.15PM
U13 AND U15 6.30PM TO 8PM
FROM 19TH APRIL
ALL STARS FROM MID-MAY 5PM TO 6PM

SATURDAY MORNING
GIRLS CRICKET 9AM-10.30AM
FROM 20TH APRIL

SUNDAY MORNING
U7 & U8 10AM-11.15AM
FROM 21ST APRIL

BAR OPEN, BBQ ON!

ALL STARS CRICKET

Download the Pitchero app to get started

CLUB HOUSE OPEN FOR DRINKS & FOOD

HenleyCCJuniors@gmail.com
 www.henleycricketclub.co.uk
 in association with **PERFORMANCE CRICKET**

PE Extra Curricular Clubs for the Summer Term

Please see below the timetable for the PE department's Extra Curricular Clubs for the summer term. As always, PE clubs are open to everyone, the more the merrier. It doesn't matter if you have not attended before as new faces are always welcome—just come to the PE changing rooms on the day of your chosen club(s). School teams for fixtures this term in Athletics, Tennis, Rounders and Cricket will be picked from those attending extra-curricular clubs.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch Time	Yr 9, 10 & 11 Girls Fitness Suite - VCL		Yr 7 & 8 Girls Badminton - RSA	Basketball – AG	Yr 9, 10 & 11 Boys Fitness Suite – ADP Boys Badminton - LP
After School		Yr 11 GCSE PEP Coursework & Revision (CR7) – LP All years Girls Athletics Training – VCL & RSA	All years Cricket Training – AG & TB All years Rounders Training – VCL & RSA	All years Boys Athletics Training – ADP & STC All years Tennis Training - STO	



Stars of the Week

Year 7

7C - Imogen Pett
7D - Jake Johnstone
7E - Alex Schofield
7F - Harry Rapley
7G - Elizabeth Green
7H - Jake Staples
7J - Saida Rahman
7K - Matilda Cupido
7L—John Paudel

Year 8

8C - Mia Evans
8D - Neki Sharipova
8E - Mo Bernard
8F -Emily Appleby
8G -Charlotte Burgess
8H -Hadi Syed
8J -Zohar Ryan
8K -Amelia Rogers
8L -Flora Eaton

Year 11

11C - Harlem Glassford
11D - Alice Opoku
11E - Harry Littlewood
11F - Natalie Hung
11G - Jake Ng
11H -Katie Wilson
11J - Omar Altounji
11K - Ruby Tiwana
11L - Ruby Drew
11M - Alfie Gill



Navigating Exam Season

Reminder about top tips for helping your child succeed in their learning.

As we are in exam season for many year groups, here are some tips to help your child succeed.

You may have already seen the top tips to helping your child on the school website:

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

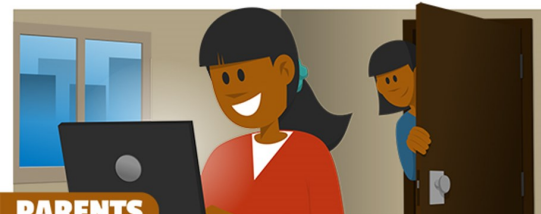
I recommend you also look at The Essential Revision Guide:

<https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1996&type=pdf>

In addition to this, here is a short video specifically designed for parents and carers, informing them about retrieval practices and how the science of learning can help improve progress in your child. Teachers use these techniques in school but you can enhance that by using them at home too.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-TaSzYmx8>

We hope you find this information useful.



PARENTS

7 WAYS TO MAINTAIN STUDENT LEARNING

by @inner_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk

- 1 Quizzes** – getting students to answer questions is one of the best ways to learn.
- 2 Little and often** – this is far more effective than cramming it all in one go.
- 3 Mindmaps** – if making a mindmap, be sure to combine both pictures and words as this accelerates learning.
- 4 Get them to teach the material to someone else** – this helps the brain categorise, organise and focus.
- 5 Ensure they eat breakfast** – this aids concentration over the course of the day.
- 6 Ensure they get plenty of sleep** – sleep improves mood, memory, concentration and learning.
- 7 Get them to 'explain why'** – getting them to tell you why something is the case, known as 'elaborative interrogation', is an effective memory booster.

Navigating Exam Season

Study in the North

Webinar & live Q&A

3rd June 2024

17.30-18.30

Register for Zoom link



Considering moving somewhere new for uni? This session is run by students and staff from a range of Northern Universities, designed for students who do not know the area. Discover the huge range of opportunities and benefits that come from studying in the region:



TESCO LAUNCH STRONGER STARTS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

Tesco have recently announced the launch of their new Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeship programme, as part of their commitment to help young people achieve a stronger start in life.

Stronger Starts is one of the few apprenticeship programmes that doesn't require any qualifications or experience as entry requirements.

After completing the programme, apprentices gain a Level 2 National Standard in Retail, which is the equivalent of 5 GCSE passes.

The programme opens for applications on **24th June 2024**.

[LEARN ABOUT THE PROGRAMME](#)

[HERE](#)

The following prestigious authors are celebrating their birthdays this week. You can find some of their books in the Hive or as audio and ebooks on the ePlatform system:

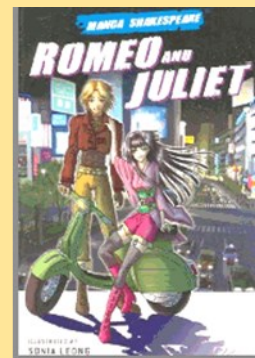
William Shakespeare – 24 April
Terry Pratchett – 28 April
Harper Lee – 28 April

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

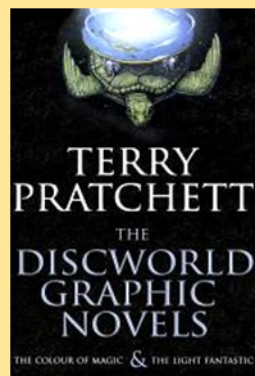
<https://highdown.eplatform.co/>



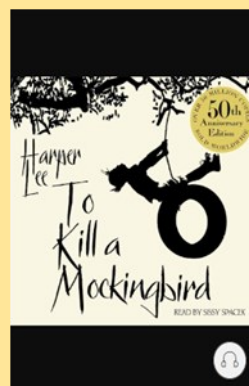
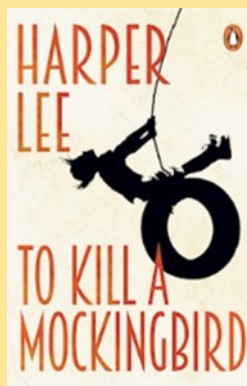
Want to read **Shakespeare** but not sure it's for you? Try it as a graphic novel or audiobook!



Terry Pratchett's Discworld Series and more are available as traditional books, graphic novels, audiobooks or ebooks.



The Sixth Form Recommended read is **Harper Lee's** To Kill a Mockingbird which is available from the Hive or as an audiobook or ebook.



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

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

Senior Leisure Attendant

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

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