



Highdown Newsletter

July 2024



Follow us

HEAD OF SCHOOL ROUND UP



Well... here we are! The last day of academic year 2023-24. This week, we held our annual Literary Festival for Key Stage 3, with visiting authors, literary escape rooms, and a chance to celebrate the joy of reading.

What a year it's been – beyond all the creative, challenging and innovative lessons, we've had...visits to London, Oxford, Birmingham, Wales, Iceland, China, amongst other locations. We've had extra-curricular clubs galore from chess to sports to reptile club! There have been many performances and productions such as the recent Dance Show, music recitals, and Little Shop of Horrors. We've had visiting speakers and performances in English, with Shakespeare and poetry sessions. And the list goes on! Thank you to all our staff for their work this year, making a difference day in day out, whether in the classroom or in our pastoral care teams. Thank you also to all our staff who work so hard supporting staff, students and the operation of the school. Thank you to parents/carers too for working with us and for your support through the year. And, of course, a big thank you to our amazing students.

It has been an honour to be Highdown's Head of School for the past two years and I look forward to leading the school as Acting Headteacher next term. We look forward to celebrating the successes and achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, collecting their final results next month, and to welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 students on Tuesday 3rd September with the rest of the school starting on Wednesday 4th September.

To finish, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rachel Cave for her incredible leadership of, and service to, Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre over the past 11 years. We will miss her very much but wish her all the very best in her new role as Chief Education Officer.

Wishing all families a lovely weekend.

M A Grantham
Head of School



GOOD BYE, MISS CAVE AND THANK YOU



HIGHDOWN LITERARY FESTIVAL 2024

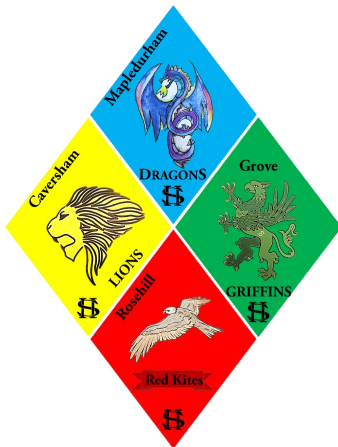




HOUSE RESULTS

Congratulations to Caversham House for clinching the House Cup for a second year running!!!

House	Total points
Caversham	168603
Grove	166684
Rosehill	163452
Mapledurham	160948



**HIGHDOWN SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE**



2024 Reading Challenge Winners



40 Book Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who entered the 40 book challenge this year:

Alice (Year 7)
 Emily (Year 7)
 Greta (Year 7)
 Alex (Year 7)
 Sreeya (Year 8)
 Sophia (Year 9)



There is a prize for each of the entrants ready for collection from the Hive!

October Reading Challenge Winner
Saida (Year 7)

December Reading Challenge Winner
Emily (Year 7)

February Reading Challenge Winner
Jessica (Year 7)

March Reading Challenge Winner
Lucille (Year 7)

May Reading Challenge Winner
Greta (Year 7)

Well done to the half-termly challenge prize winners





YEAR 7

On the 3rd of June all year 7s received a bespoke History careers lesson delivered by Reading University. This 'Rubbish History' session showed students what can be learnt from what people throw away and helped them understand how the skills they were using could be relevant in the workplace. The students' showed great enthusiasm for the session, with the Reading University staff remarking on the engagement the students show.

Mr Lester
History Teacher



Mr Davison celebrated Year 7 this term for their dedication to attending Sparx Maths Club every Friday after school by getting them pizza.

What an amazing group of Year 7s!

Mrs Bonnet
Head of Achievement, Year 7



Stars of the Week

7C	Julio Narcis
7D	Carli Zinzani
7E	Florence Thomas
7F	Connie Upton
7G	Rose Higley
7H	James Carran
7J	Thomas Riddington
7K	Romeo Delgado Rosa
7L	Lottie Leach



Year 8

TABLE TENNIS CHAMPION

Year 8 student, Theo has been busy this year! He won the U13 Boys doubles in table tennis at the National U10-U13 Championships in June. In this season, Theo also won a silver in U15 Boys Doubles at the National Cadet Championship in May. He finished top 8 in U13 at the World Table Tennis Youth Contender in Bulgaria in March. He and his clubmates also won Junior British League Division 7 in February. Well done Theo, you are an inspiration!!

Mrs Taylor

Head of Achievement for Year 8



Stars of the Week

9C	Kobe Pattison
9D	Luke Bloxam
9E	Alpamys Kudaibergen
9F	Aryahi Chavan
9G	Katla Baldursdottir
9H	John Vasilikos
9J	Rafael Andrade
9K	Evie Johnson
9L	Eadie Hackett
Miss Robinson	Ila Namaseevayum



Year 9

Mentor Students of the Term

9C	Oscar McQuillan	Eliska McKenna
9D	Vedant Jeiman	Leah Fothergill
9E	Mo Bernard	Cressida King
9F	Eddy Gianni	Alice Elsbey
9G	Conor Allen	Libby Hasell
9H	Jack Shannon	Lucy Watts
9J	Lewis Bridge	Soraya Hyman Straker
9K	Sam Beauchamp	Charlotte Mackie
9L	Isla Neal	Harrison Sturk



Year 10

CAREERS DAY

On Friday the 24th May, a group of Year 10 boys visited Reading University for a careers day. Students took part in two activities, one focused on selling a product and the other focusing on the music industry. The students also discussed the merits of going to university and had a tour of the campus. The students were a credit to Highdown during their time on the university campus.

Mr Lester

Head of Achievement, Year 10



BIOLOGY PHOTOGRAPHY

Osayd, Keane and Max in Year 10 caught some fantastic images of water fleas and their activity during their biology lesson this term. You can clearly see their digestive system and light sensitive spots. Well done on some amazing images caught.

The class found the higher the level of oestrogen the greater the activity of the water fleas. We shall be sending our results to The Environment Agency as water fleas are such an important consumer in freshwater food chains and their activity and growth have significant effects on fish and biodiversity in our rivers.

Dr Love

Biology Teacher



STUDENT LEADER LITTER PICK

During the last week of term, a group of Highdown student leaders and members of staff carried out a litter pick with Keep Caversham Tidy in the woods at the back of the school. Keep Caversham Tidy remarked on how nice it was to work with the students, and we will look to organise more litter picks in the future.





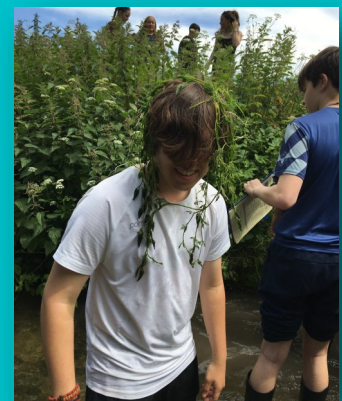
Year 10



Year 10 geographers enjoyed their fieldtrips to the River Wye in Bucks this term.

Blue skies, sunshine, soggy socks, and smiles was the order of the week. Here is a selection of photos from one of the trips for you to enjoy.

Mrs Archibald
Geography Teacher





Year 11





ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

Well done to the eleven Highdown year 12 chemists who took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's schools' analyst competition at Queen Anne's School. The competition involved a scenario where the students adopted the roles of food standards agency chemists investigating a dubious sweetshop and competed in teams of two or three to analyse real samples using titrations, chromatography and a volumetric analysis to see which team got the most accurate results. The students showed great dedication and focus in order to carry out a long sequence of challenging chemistry techniques and calculations as accurately as possible which gave them great experience of laboratory work.

All the students should be proud of representing our school so well, but a special mention to Scarlett Mendham, Max Prins-Mills and Marina Salas Lopez de Haro who achieved the most accurate results.



Mr Kemp
Science Teacher



CAMBRIDGE UNI CHALLENGE

Georgie in Year 12 has won a prestigious award from Homerton College, Cambridge University for the most original submission to their recent biology challenge. They said:

"The judges were very impressed by the level of creativity, effort and attention to detail that Georgina (Highdown School) had invested in her entry. Georgina created a set of 'Top Trump'-style trading cards to explain the amazing biology behind some of the organisms in her local area. Rating organisms on characteristics such as their global spread, phylogenetic relatedness to humans and 'incredibleness', players of her game would have learnt about parasitic mistletoes and the cunning habits of predatory oyster mushrooms. Well done Georgina!"

Dr Love
Science Teacher



have a cool
SUMMER



PERFORMING ARTS



What a year 2023/4 has been for Highdown Performing Arts!!!

- Blood Brothers Theatre Trip
- Rock Concert
- Year 10 Drama Frantic Assembly Workshop
- Year 11 Music recital
- Year 11 Songwriting workshop
- Senior School play - Locked Inn
- Peter Pan Goes Wrong Theatre Trip
- Wellington College trip to see Les Misérables
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Fayre
- Little Shop of Horrors
- Year 13 Music Recital
- KS4/KS5 Lunchtime concerts
- Wicked! Dance Company Theatre Trip
- KS3 Concert
- Hamilton Theatre Trip
- Little Shop of Horrors Theatre Trip
- House Drama Competition

Year 7

Elizaveta Kovtunovich
Betsey Bramley
Rebecca Ray
Charis Salisbury
Enya Gallagher
Jess Kingham

Year 8

Conor Allen
Freya Williams
Sienna Ellmer
Zoe Krecek
Rhiannon Evans
James Taylor
Stephanie Cooper
Marley Ifill
Rachel Pine

Year 9

Ellie Chan
Edward McCrum Tredinnick
Emma Kelsall
Kaya Bell
Rohan Hinds
Alfie Brown
Lucy Sampson
Bella De Jode
Maya Mieczkowska Ma
Callie Wenham

Year 10

Tilly Allen
Helen Argyropoulou
Darby Buck

Year 11

Joey Burke

Congratulations to our new Performing Arts Ambassadors!



PERFORMING ARTS



On Friday 12th July 2024, the Highdown Dance Company showed off their amazing talent and skills in this year's show, Kaleidoscope. The students had auditioned in January 2024 to be part of this year's Dance Company.

The show was choreographed by Mrs Hawkins, Director of Highdown Dance Company, and the Dance Captains Harriet Ranson, Maisie Smith, Darby Buck and Emma Kelsall. Each of the Dance Captains took on a year group dance to choreograph as well as performing in their own solos. Students in the company were able to bring their own styles and skills and choreograph their own duets and trios to be performed in the show.

The Dance Captains and Mrs Hawkins decided on four dancer awards this year and they were: - Inspirational Dancer Award that went to Ava Smith, Year 8, Above & Beyond Award that went to Freya Williams, Year 8, Role Model Award went to Tilly Allen, Year 10 and the Rising Star Award that went to Grace Toomey in Year 7. Sienna Ellmer was also nominated and has accepted the leadership role of Dance Captain for the Dance Company 2025.

We also had to sadly say goodbye to James Bridge, our wonderful lighting student technician and Harriet Ranson who has been a part of Highdown Dance Company as Dance Captain since she joined the school in Year 7. Both students are off to university in September to follow their career aspirations and will be greatly missed in the Performing Arts family.

This year's Highdown Dance Company were Florence Thomas, Grace Toomey, Smruti Gadre, Ava Smith, Libby Hasell, Flora Eaton, Alice Gomm, Sienna Ellmer, Freya Williams, Maisy Hawkins, Liana Zeneli, Bella De Jode, Ameera Onile-ere, Lucy Foulkes, Grace Ranson, Tilly Allen, Belle Lunderberg, Emma Kelsall, Maisie Smith, Darby Buck & Harriet Ranson.



Mrs Hawkins
Drama & Dance Teacher



THANK YOU



Thank you to the PTA for supporting the Performing Arts department, we really value your donations, as they have allowed us to produce more professional performances for our students and community. Thank you to Wellington College Arts Grant as well for your generous donation to our production of Little Shop of Horrors this year. Finally, thank you to everyone in the Highdown Community who has contributed to our department with donations, time and attending performances; we are very grateful.

From all the Performing Arts team, we wish all Highdowners a very happy, healthy and wonderful summer holiday and we can't wait to welcome you back in September with another full programme of events to get involved in!





PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Despite the rather wet weather, this year's Sports Day was a great success. The field events and 1500m took place on the Monday with the remaining track events postponed to the Thursday. All those that took part did a fantastic job, getting lots of points for their Houses. A list of all winners is below.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Girls Shot	Enya Gallagher	Marley Ifill	Madison Elton	Jemima West
Boys Shot	Denzel Kejang	Muayard Mohammed	Joseph Volker	Magnus Gunning
Girls Javelin	Hayley Roberts	Isabelle Lee	Aishah Browne	Lilac Ivey-Michie
Boys Javelin	Thomas Riddington	Harrison Sturk	Matej Cvetkov	Campbell Grant
Girls Long Jump	Ksenia Grobova	Margot Smith	Tabby Bradbury	Alice Critchfield
Boys Long Jump	Daniel Drury	Adam Pazi	Bailey Lamden	Jingru Goma
Boys Triple Jump			Harry Davies	
Girls High Jump	Tala Istatiah	Erin Ford	Mia Gallagher	
Boys High Jumo	Ayman Gomma	Felix Laver	Samuel Franklin	Muhammadu Sy
Girls 100m	Leila Negro-Halpin	Margot Smith	Mia Gallagher	Sophie Allen
Boys 100m	Didi Goma	Adam Pazi	Joshua Allen	David Sarkodie
Girls 200m	Enya Gallagher	Charlotte Mackie	Greti Gal-Stefan	Sophie Allen
Boys 200m	Nate Hooper	Lucas Bell	Euan Boarder	George Hathaway
Girls 300m			Katie Tsui	Aisha Alizada
Boys 400m			Matteo Ballofatto	Charlie Harvey
Girls 800m	Elodie Gamm	Hagne Chiu	Isabelle Heaven	Ruby Riddington
Boys 800m	Jude McEwan	Jacob Martin	Daniel Rogers	Milo Nanayakkara
Girls 1500m	Bea Culetto	Emily Appleby	Sian Shannon	Holly Curtayne
Boys 1500m	Tommy Briggs	Dylan Fallon	Max Etherington	Luca McDonald
Girls Relay	Grove	Caversham	Rosehill	Grove
Boys Relay	Caversham	Rosehill	Caversham	Grove
Mixed Relay	Grove	Rosehill	Caversham	Caversham

Monday 17th June saw Highdown celebrating National Sports Week with various challenges being set over the week. These challenges well attended and it was great to see so many students getting involved. Well done to all the winners of the different challenges.

We also asked for students to share pictures of them taking part in sport outside of school. It was lovely to receive so many photos of students taking part in so many different sporting activities.





GREAT GET TOGETHER



What a day the Great Get Together was!! The whole school coming together and celebrating this year's theme of "Culture". We had more stalls than was possible to visit in one afternoon, including foods, games and customs from all over the world and everybody's favourite, the staff house tug-o-war! Our Highdown celebration then opened its doors to the community with a lovely afternoon of food, shopping, charity and dance in our walled garden. A lovely day.





RABBLE THEATRE

Come and join the RABBLE!

Would you like your child to:

- Build their confidence
- Have fun
- Take graded qualifications
- Find their voice
- Improve their self belief
- Earn UCAS points



LAMDA Acting & Public Speaking at Highdown

Wednesdays, 3.15 - 4.15pm

Classes starting this September - Get in touch at lamda@rabbletheatre.com to reserve your child's space now!




READING RFC GIRLS RUGBY

FREE TRIAL SESSIONS Years 6 to 13

Girls aged 10 to 17 come and try rugby

Wednesday evenings
24th July to 4th September

The aim of our young players is to enjoy exercise, build some physical confidence and make new friends. From an early stage, youth rugby players are encouraged to adopt the TREDs rugby union values: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

Contact Director of Youth Rugby
Simon Neate
sjovr@readingrffc.co.uk
07787 517 705

Check the club website for further information:
READINGRUGBY.CLUB



Reading Rugby Football Club - admin@readingrffc.co.uk - readingrugby.club

TRY RUGBY WITH US!
Visit findrugby.com

Reading Rugby Football Club
Holme Park
Sonning
RG4 6ST





CHARITY OPEN DAY

Lifting Spirits & Building Futures

IN MEMORY OF OLLY STEPHENS

31st August 2024 1000am until late

Family Fun Day

- Have a go fishing events for juniors
- Mega raffle and auction open to all

Bouncy castle, face painting and loads more

Waterside Pub
Fairwater Drive, Woodley
RG5 3EZ

About Our Charity Event

In January 2021 Ollly Stephens was murdered after being lured to meet someone he met online. Ollly was a member of our fishing club and we are now raising money for charities who help to tackle knife crime.

JOIN US

Visit Our Website
southlakeangling.co.uk

Reading Canoe Club Summer Camps 2024

Reading Canoe Club are running Beginner and Development Summer Camps in Kayaking.

Camps are aimed at 10-16 year olds and will run in small groups, maximum of 10 participants to build confidence and skill.

Beginners will be a week of fun, learning to kayak on the River Thames and exploring the different disciplines canoeing has to offer. The cost for the 5 days, including all equipment is £100.

Camp will run on the following dates:

- 5th August to 9th August
- Camp will be 5 days (Monday - Friday) and participants can choose to come either:
- Morning Session - 10am to 12 noon
 - OR
 - Afternoon Session 1pm to 3pm

Development will be building on the beginners week, developing skills and technique, and progressing into faster racing boats. The cost for the 4 days, including all equipment is £140.

Camp will on the following dates:

- 12th August to 15th August
- Camp will be 4 days and run 10am to 2pm

There are a limited number of spaces, sign up now to avoid disappointment.

Spaces for both camps will be allocated on a first come first served basis. To sign up, please scan the QR code or email coaching@reading-canoe.org.uk

Website: reading-canoe.org.uk/

Reading Canoe Club, The Warren, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 7TH

