

**Welcome to Year 8**  
**Excellence Evening**  
2024



# The Team

- Mrs Bonnett- Head of Achievement
- Miss Holmes - Assistant Head of Achievement
- The Year 8 mentors
- Mr Franks - Assistant Head Teacher and Senior Link for Year 8

- **The STAR Centre** – Beki Boys, Jenner Holder and Jess Lee
- **Safeguarding Officers** – Beckie Boys, Jess Lee, Dr Capaldi and Mrs Flynn.
- **Inclusion** – Mr Clawson (Assistant Head Teacher) and Mrs Arnold (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)





**ASPIRATION**

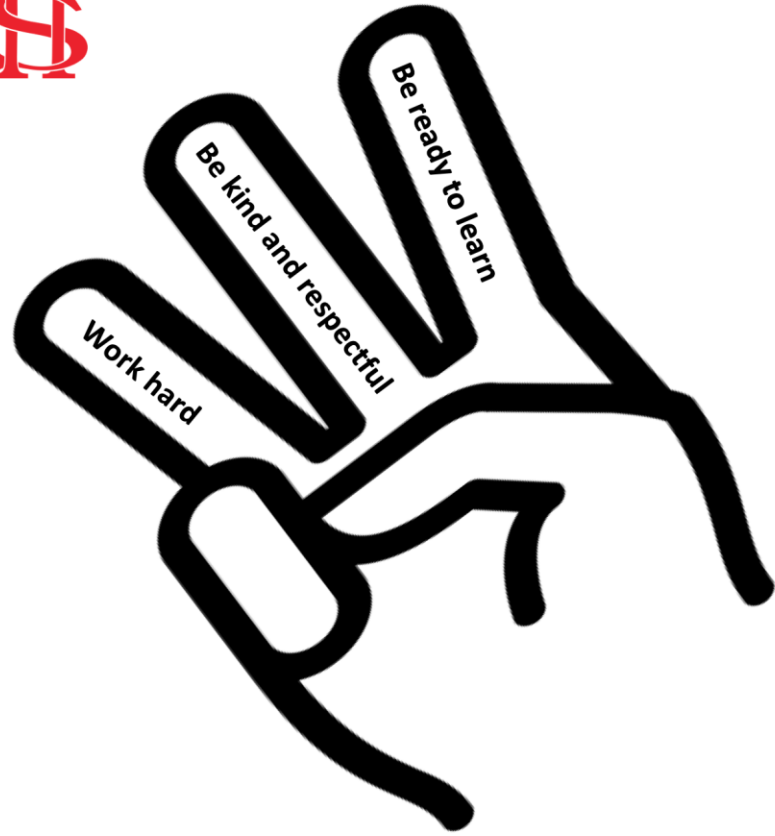


**RESPECT**



**EXCELLENCE**

**weAREhighdown**



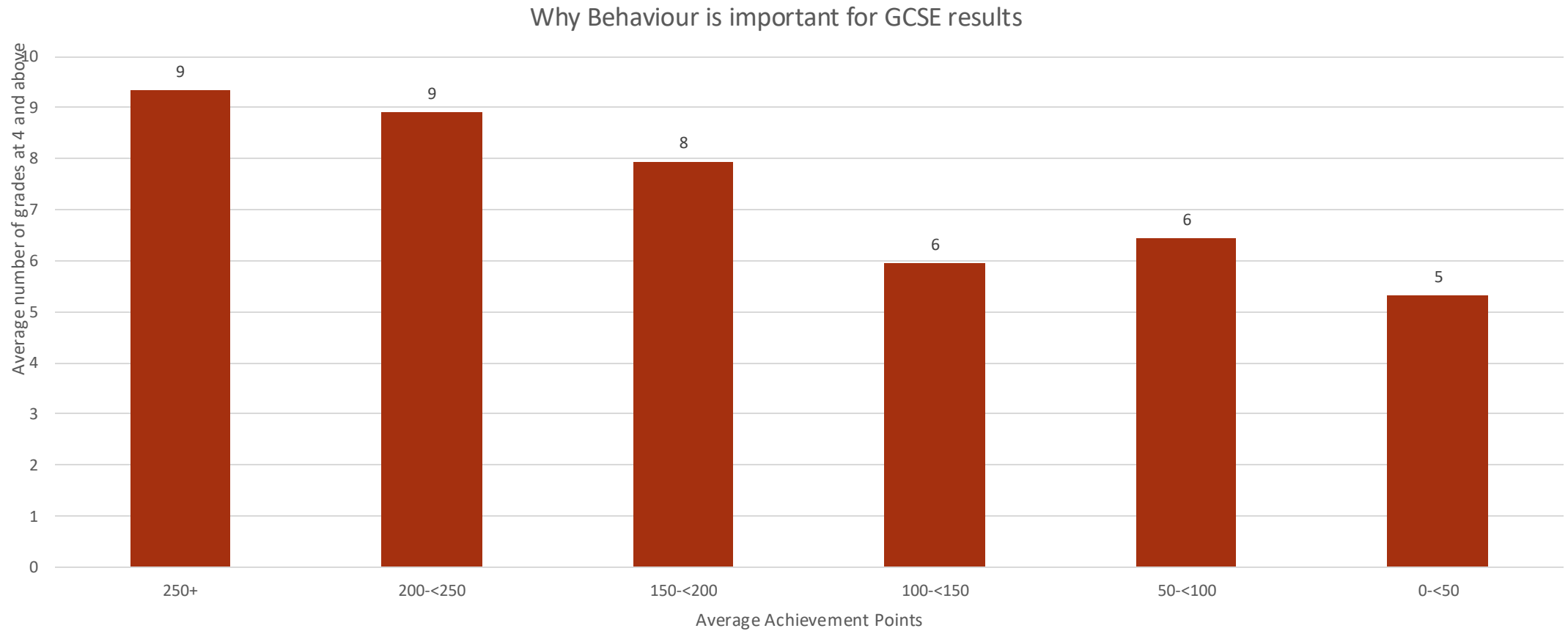
**At Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre, all staff and students aspire to achieve the very highest standards.**

**In each lesson, to consistently maintain these standards, there are 3 very straightforward and reasonable expectations all students should follow – 'The Highdown Way'.**

*#weAREhighdown*



# Why behaviour is important



**It's Who We ARE**

# Inclusion Charter

## At Highdown we:

1. **Challenge** discriminatory language when we hear it.
2. **Educate** ourselves on issues we're unfamiliar with.
3. **Report** discrimination we witness in school.
4. **Celebrate** and respect our differences.
5. Respectfully **discuss** matters that are important to us.
6. Are **proud** of being part of a diverse and inclusive community
7. **Respect** everyone's boundaries and personal space.
8. **Consider** the impact our language has on others.
9. **Respect** everyone's identity.
10. **Carry** these Highdown values into the wider community.



Aspiration  
Respect  
Excellence



NO  
PHONE  
SCHOOL

# What do we mean by keeping each other safe online?

Please support our  
BYOD Acceptable Use  
Agreement. [BYOD  
Acceptable Use](#)

**Appendix 1: Personal Laptop Acceptable Use Agreement**

**HS HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE**  
**PERSONAL LAPTOP ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT 2022-23**

I understand that I must use my laptop and school ICT systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the ICT systems and other users.

- I understand the academy is not responsible for loss of, or damage to, my laptop.
- My laptop is covered by adequate insurance, including third party.
- I understand my laptop must have up-to-date anti-virus software installed and active.
- I will ensure my laptop has adequate protection from damage, e.g. a case.
- I will only use my laptop in lessons when directed, or in agreement with, the class teacher.
- I understand my laptop should be protected by appropriate security, e.g. password or PINcode.
- I will not share my username or password, nor will I try to use any other person's username and password.
- I will not permit others to use my laptop whilst at school.
- I will not disclose or share personal information about myself or others when online.
- I will ensure my laptop is fully charged for the start of the school day.
- I will not leave my laptop unattended at any time, unless in my locker or in locked PE changing rooms.
- I understand I am bringing my laptop to school to support my learning. I will only use it for personal or recreational use at break or lunchtime, and only in accordance with the acceptable use and behaviour policies.
- I understand the school ICT systems are intended for educational use and I will not use the system for online gaming, online gambling, internet shopping, or accessing social networking sites. I will not use the system to download very large files that might take up internet capacity and prevent other users from being able to carry out their work.
- I will not bring into school any content that is offensive, age inappropriate or illegal. I understand that, if I do, I will be required to remove the content. I also understand that misuse of the internet could be in breach of civil and criminal laws and I may be held responsible.
- I understand that the academy will monitor my use of its ICT systems, email and digital communications.
- I will not download software or inappropriate material from any connectable device in school. At school, I will only access the internet via the school wifi network and not by any other means.
- I will not try to use any programs or software that might allow me to bypass the filtering/security systems in place to prevent access to inappropriate or harmful material.
- I will not open any attachments to emails, unless I know and trust the person/organisation who sent the email, due to the risk of the attachment containing viruses or other harmful programs.
- I understand that my laptop account and any system misuse from my laptop is my responsibility.
- I will respect other's work and property and will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files, without their knowledge and/or permission.
- I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others. I will not use strong, aggressive or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions.
- I will not take or distribute recordings or images of anyone without their permission.
- I understand that the school has the right to take action if I am involved in incidents of inappropriate behaviour when I am out of school and where they involve any membership of the school community, e.g. cyber-bullying, use of images or personal information.
- I understand that if I fail to comply with this agreement, I may be subject to disciplinary action, and in the event of illegal activities, involvement of the police.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mentor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Laptop make/model: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and agree to the terms set out above.

Signed (student): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (parent/carer): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Laptop Acceptable Use Agreement/2022-23

HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE  
BYOD POLICY/SEPTEMBER 2022


5



# We Wear Our Uniform With Pride



# Attendance and Punctuality


 **Highdown School and Sixth Form**  
Why does attendance matter?

Your attendance is excellent!	0 days	0 lessons missed	100%
	1 day	5 lessons missed	99%
Well done! You're on the right path.	3 days	15 lessons missed	98%
	1 week	25 lessons missed	97%
	1.5 weeks	35 lessons missed	96%
We're worried You're at risk of persistent absence	2 weeks	50 lessons missed	94%
	2.5 weeks	65 lessons missed	93%
	3 weeks	75 lessons missed	92%
Persistent absence	3.5 weeks	90 lessons missed	90%

If your attendance is less than 90% this has a serious impact on your education.

Your education is important – don't miss out!

[Young Minds - School Anxiety and Refusal](#)

 **Highdown School and Sixth Form**  
Why does punctuality matter?



[NHS Advice - is my child too ill for school?](#)



Highdown School and Sixth Form  
Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

**Per Parent, Per Child**

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.  
For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

**5 consecutive days of term time leave**

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days.  
10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period  
Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

**First Offence**

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

**£160 per parent, per child** paid within 28 days.  
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

**Second Offence (within 3 years)**

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:  
**£160 per parent, per child** paid within 28 days.

**Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)**

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Please don't  
book holiday  
in term time



Please be on  
time!  
Arriving after  
9:05 a.m. is  
coded the  
same as a  
whole morning  
of  
unauthorised  
absence



# Supporting our Students

## ClassCharts

- Behaviour Breakdown
- Home Learning
- Student Passport
- Student Wellbeing

Positive Negative Wellbeing SEN Safeguarding Notes

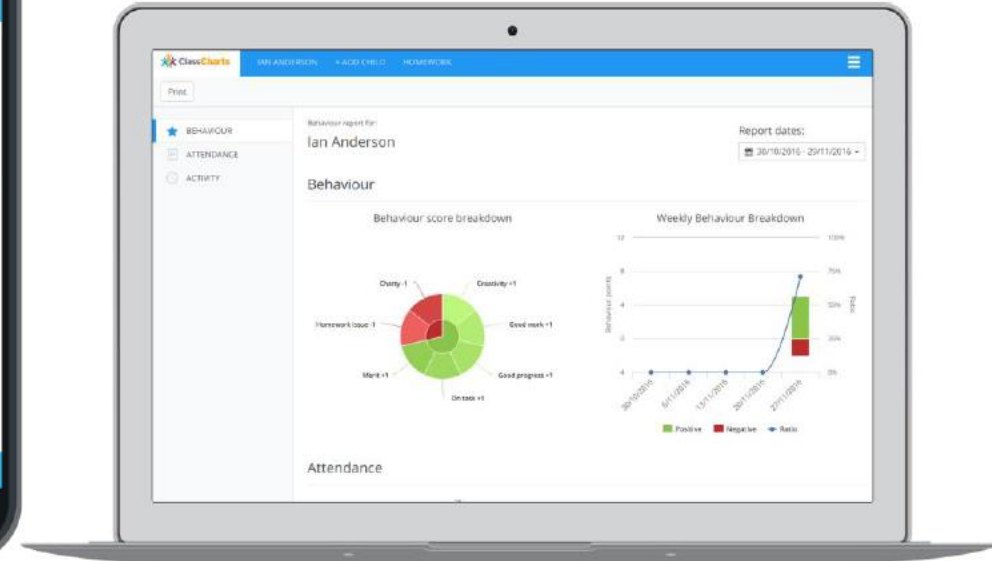
How is this pupil feeling?

Very unhappy Not great OK Happy Fantastic!

[Hide history](#)

OVERVIEW  
Click an emotion to filter

No entries to display.



Add note (optional)

Timestamp:

3/9/2020 12:23

Tracker:

-- none --

Save

[Hide history](#)










# Year 8 Mentor Timetable



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Reading –</b> Listening to mentors reading to you</p> 	<p><b>Newsletter</b> Mentor group standings, messages and positive achievements</p>  <p><b>Reading –</b> Listening to mentors reading to you</p> 	<p><b>Vertical Mentor House Groups</b></p>	<p><b>Vespa -</b> Vision Effect Systems Practice Attitude</p> 	<p><b>Assembly –</b> Weekly assembly in the main hall</p> 



## My Personal Excellence Plan

*Look at all your feedback and answer the following questions:*

What's Working Well?	
Learning in school and at home	
Progress in subjects	
Personal development	
Conduct	

What do I want to improve? What will better look like?	
1	
2	
3	

Three habits I need for success	
1	
2	
3	

Who will help me? Do I need any other support?	
1	

# Changes to the House System 2024-25



*Team Charlie*

Relieving the needs of children living with brain tumours

*mind*



**Berkshire  
Vision**

Supporting The  
Visually Impaired

The **PL**Edge



# Quick Mindset Quiz

Strongly  
agree=1

Agree= 2

Mostly agree  
= 3

Mostly  
disagree = 4

Disagree = 5

Strongly  
disagree = 6

Your intelligence is something very basic that you can't change much

You can learn new things but you can't really change how intelligent you are

You have a certain amount of intelligence, and you can't really do much to change it.

Now add up your score and divide the total by 3 to get your mean.



# Quick Mindset Quiz Results

- If you scored 1 or 2 then you believe that intelligence is fixed and there is little, we can do about it.
- If you scored 5 or 6 then you believe that we can work to improve our intelligence.
- If you scored 3 or 4 then you haven't quite decided yet so let's hope these lessons will persuade you to have a GROWTH mindset!



## VESPA Mindset



### Vision

May resent setting goals and targets  
Unlikely to set goals for themselves  
Has no real purpose

Likes setting goals and targets  
Often sets personal bests to measure themselves against  
Has a clear purpose in life

### Effort

Avoids hard work  
Compares effort to other low effort pupils  
Easily distracted

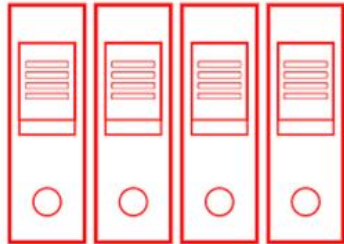
Knows what hard work looks like  
Surrounds themselves with other hard-working pupils  
Totally focused when working



### Systems

Has completely disorganised books and notes  
Has no record of tasks or homework  
Works reactively in response to crisis

Has organised books and notes  
Records homework in planner or diary  
Plans their work appropriately



### Practice

Relies on reading notes and highlighters for revision  
Most of their time is spent on work they already know  
Avoids feedback

Uses a range of techniques when revising  
Looks for opportunities to work outside of their comfort zone  
Always seeking feedback on performance



### Attitude

Believes that intelligence is fixed  
Responds poorly to feedback  
Low levels of self-control  
Lacks confidence

Believes that if you work hard you can improve your ability  
Believes feedback will make them better  
Stays calm in high stakes situations  
High levels of self belief



# What Can You Do to Support Success at Home?

- Discuss and Set Clear Goals (Vision)
- Promote Healthy Habits (Effort)
- Teach Time Management and Planning (Systems)
- Encourage Regular Practice (Practice)
- Foster a Growth Mindset (Attitude)
- Provide a Supportive Environment (Attitude)
- Open Communication (Attitude)
- Seek Additional Support When Necessary (Attitude)
- Celebrate Achievements (Attitude)

# Careers and Pathways Information, Advice and Guidance



My name is Lorna Glass.

Lorna has been a professional Careers Adviser in excess of 30 years. This has involved working with to support a range of clients in Schools, Colleges, Jobcentres ..... even Prisons.

Currently supporting students from Year 7 – Year 13 in Berkshire Schools Everyone can aspire to achieve their goal it's just the journey that might be different and that's where I can help you plan your journey.

**DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO - Not everyone does !!! Let's talk and consider options.**

**WHAT ROUTE TO TAKE- Let's talk and begin planning what route is best for you.**

Lorna can be found in the Hive and is contacted via [careers@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:careers@highdown.reading.sch.uk) or by speaking to Mrs Robinson. Please also contact our Careers Assistant, Mrs Robinson, for support with accessing work experience and for information about our Careers events. Mrs Robinson can be found in the school library.

adviza  
ASSISTED OUTGOERS

Adviza

Your Careers Guidance  
Appointment



# Important Dates

DATE	EVENT
18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Learning Conference: Science of Learning
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Report issued to parents/carers
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Reports issued to parents/carers
<b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Learning review meetings</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Junior Maths Challenge
2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> June	Assessment week
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Rhos-y-Gwaliau Trip
8 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports issued to parents/carers
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Highdown Literacy festival