



# Highdown Bulletin

w/c 21 October 2024 Week A



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## A MESSAGE FROM MR GRANTHAM



Year 10 took part in their Learning Conference this week. As a follow up to the Course Information Evening earlier this term, they learnt about how to succeed in their GCSEs, the best methods of studying, where to ask for support, and what they should be doing now. They also thought about the benefits of starting to make their own revision flashcards now – one for each lesson in the day, building these up, so they have a ready-made set for when they are preparing for assessments.

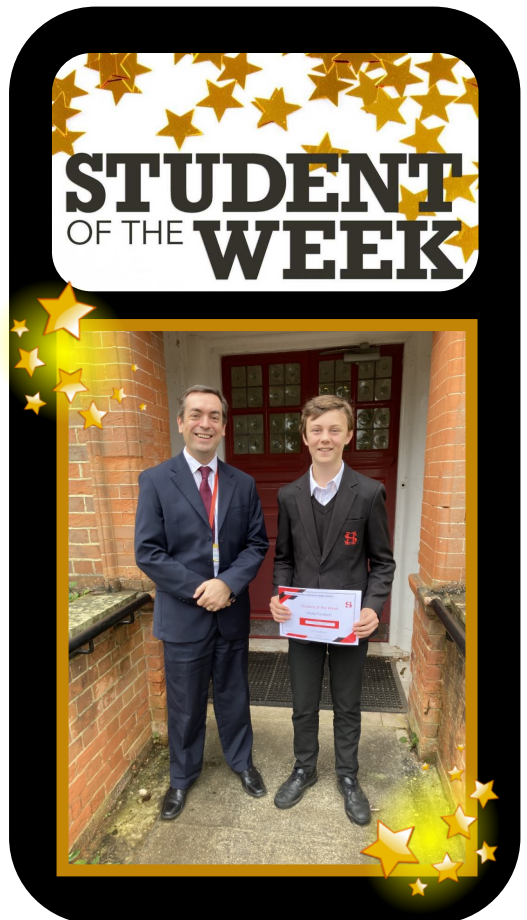
It was with great joy that I attended our annual 'hoisting of the flag' event to celebrate the winning Highdown House for the last academic year. The Caversham Lions achieved the most house points last year, and so, for the second year running, were House Champions, embodying their motto of 'Roaring to Success' and, of course, demonstrating our core values of Aspiration, Respect and Excellence.

Next week is our last week before the half-term break and we look forward to welcoming prospective families for Year 7 intake in September 2025 for tours, to see Highdown in action! Some dates to draw your attention to for early next term include our Sixth Form Subject Fair on 7th November. This is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 students, to speak to subject specialists and student subject ambassadors about the wide range of courses on offer in our Sixth Form, as well as to find out more about our Sixth Form provision overall. On 11th November, we will be dismissing students 20 minutes early, at 2:50pm, to enable staff training as part of an international programme with the Schools, Students and Teachers network.

I am delighted to announce our Student of the Week award this week goes to Harry Turnbull in Year 8. This is in recognition of the leadership qualities he has demonstrated, helping other students in our Reptile Club. Thank you Harry and congratulations!

Wishing all families a lovely weekend.

**Matthew Grantham**  
Headteacher (Acting)





# Highdown Bulletin

## THIS WEEK

<b>Mon 21 Oct</b>	<b>Year 7 to Bring Laptops to School Every Day from Today</b>
<b>Mon 21 Oct</b>	<b>Y8 &amp; 9 Girls Rugby Tournament</b>
<b>Mon 21 Oct</b>	<b>Meet the Headteacher Evening with Laura Mathews for Year 6 Parents—Book <a href="#">HERE</a></b>
<b>Tues 22 Oct</b>	<b>Year 12 Geography Students—Local Study in Reading Town Centre</b>
<b>Tues 22 Oct</b>	<b>Open Morning for Year 6 Parents—Book <a href="#">HERE</a></b>
<b>Tues 22 Oct</b>	<b>Guys &amp; Dolls Theatre Trip</b>
<b>Weds 23 Oct</b>	<b>Open Morning for Year 6 Parents—Book <a href="#">HERE</a></b>
<b>Thurs 24 Oct</b>	<b>Year 10 Trip to National Portrait Gallery</b>
<b>Fri 25 Oct</b>	<b>Open Morning for Year 6 Parents—Book <a href="#">HERE</a></b>
<b>Fri 25 Oct</b>	<b>Year 11–13 Trip to European Gaming Expedition</b>
<b>28 Oct–01 Nov</b>	<b>Half Term</b>

## COMING UP

<b>Mon 04 Nov</b>	<b>First Day of Term 2</b>
<b>Thurs 07 Nov</b>	<b>Sixth Form Subject Fair for Year 11—Book <a href="#">HERE</a></b>
<b>Fri 08 Nov</b>	<b>PTA Fireworks Night—book <a href="#">HERE</a></b>
<b>Mon 11 Nov</b>	<b>Early Close for Students—2:50pm</b>
<b>Thurs 14 Nov</b>	<b>Sixth Form Open Morning for non-Highdown Year 11s—book <a href="#">HERE</a></b>



### HOUSE POINTS

<b>Mapledurham</b>	<b>35,691</b>
<b>Grove</b>	<b>37,987</b>
<b>Rosehill</b>	<b>36,641</b>
<b>Caversham</b>	<b>36,926</b>





## **MEET OUR NEW HEADTEACHER AT HIGHDOWN MONDAY 21 OCTOBER @ 6PM**

### **Prospective Parents**

This is an opportunity for you to meet newly appointed Headteacher, Laura Mathews, and hear her vision for Highdown.

It will also be a chance to hear more about our new Trust, GLF.





## Highdowner Book Recommendations

**Highdowner:** Dr Capaldi – Deputy Headteacher and Chemistry Teacher

**What books did you enjoy reading when you were a teenager?**

I enjoyed reading Nancy Drew books by Carolyn Keene and Jane Austin novels

**What books/genre do you like reading now?**

Anything by Maggie O'Farrell, Isabelle Allende, Marilyn Robinson, Carol Shields

**Who is your favourite author or what is your all-time favourite book?**

My favourite book is Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor



## A MESSAGE FROM GLF

*Our Trust, GLF Schools, are conducting Stakeholder Voice surveys this November for pupils, parents and staff.*

*Your children will be taking part in the pupil survey between 18-29 November. Surveys will take place online, in the classroom, facilitated by our staff. Please talk to your children and encourage them to share their honest views when the time comes. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.*

*After half term we will also be sending you a link to a Parent/Carer Survey. We hope you will participate in the survey, share your views and have a say in how our schools support your children. Thank you in advance for your support!*



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Be quick, offer live 18/10/24 - 25/10/24

\*T&Cs: This 20% offer excludes items that are already discounted.



# Highdown Bulletin



*Stars of the Week*

## Year 7

7C Noah Baker  
7D Ben Loar  
7E Rafa Thaxter-Noble  
7F Siobhan Finet  
7G William Hook  
7H Shelly Chan  
7J Zyad Elashwah  
7K Harriet Wilding  
7L Sophia Gill

## Year 8

8C Amha Tilahun  
8D Jobell Jobin  
8E Tom Roach  
8F Louis Seeds  
8G Connie Hassel  
8H Jake Staples  
8J Ava Carrington  
8K Nate Williams  
8L Edward Sampson

## Year 9

9C Usher Sandhu  
9D Leo Turay  
9E Bella Edwards  
9F Henry Nunn  
9G Ava Smith  
9H Hadi Syed  
9J Eliza Rawlinson-winder  
9K Freddie Sheppard  
9L Isla Neal

## Year 10


10C Olivia Baroni  
10D Noah Smith  
10E Balazs Nagy  
10F Aryahi Chavan  
10G Joseph Volker  
10H Asha Chowdhury  
10J Harry Lotery  
10K Max Etherington  
10L Edward Hackett

## Year 11

11C Sean Curtayne  
11D Luke Donnelly  
11E Azaan Hussain  
11F Rosalind Ong  
11G Ed Waters  
11H Thomas Robinson  
11J Cleona Mason  
11K William Callander  
11L Inigo Wrottesley





Time/Period	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School					
KS3 Break	Year 9 Book Club Mrs Robinson HIVE			Year 8 Book Club Mrs Robinson HIVE	Year 7 Book Club Mrs Robinson HIVE
Lunch	Barbershop Group Mr Santer Mu3	Reptile Club - Dr Love, S7	Funk & Soul Group Mr Santer Mu3		KS3 Women in Stem DT8 Maddie (From Oct)
	Ukulele Club Mr Parker Mu2		KS4 Photography GCSE Drop in Miss Woron- kowicz A4	KS4 Photography GCSE Drop in Miss Woronkowicz A4	Reptile Club - Dr Love, S7
	Computing Club with Maddie and Beni CR4		String Ensemble - all years Mrs Reid MU1	Reptile Club - Dr Love, S7	Quiz Club, Mr Hutchinson and Mr Fasham, M3
			Drama Club Y8 Week A Y7 Week B Dr1 Miss Holmes		Junior Choir KS3 Mrs Lester MU1
		Shuffle Club with Miss Druce, H18, space for Years 7 & 8 to hang out and play games	Shuffle Club with Miss Druce, H18, space for Year 9 to hang out and play games	Senior Choir Mrs Reid MU1	
	KS4 Art & Graphics GCSE Drop-in	KS4 Art & Graphics GCSE Drop-in	KS4 Art & Graphics GCSE Drop-in	KS4 Art & Graphics GCSE Drop-in	KS4 Art & Graphics GCSE Drop-in
After School - 4:15pm		KS4 GCSE Photography Drop-in Miss Woron- kowicz A4	KS4 GCSE Photography Drop-in Miss Woron- kowicz A4	KS4 GCSE Photog- raphy Drop-in Miss Woronkowicz A4	
		Whole School Produc- tion Mrs Lake - DR2	KS3 Art Club - (A3/A2)	KS4/KS5 Film Club Miss Baker Mr Hutchinson E6	
		Physics A Level Revi- sion and homework - S5	Orchestra - all years 3.10-3.50pm Mrs Reid MU1	Knit and Natter DT3 Miss Lobo	
		Excellence Club CR1 Lisa Pattison	Excellence Club CR1 Lisa Pattison	Excellence Club CR1 Lisa Pattison	
		Sparx Club M5 Miss McDowell and Mr Hutchinson	Y12 Music Technology coursework session Mr Santer Mu3	History Club H16 Mr Scobey, all KS3 wel- come - starting after Oct half term	
			KS3 Textiles Club Miss Brown DT4 Runs November and December only	Highdown Dance Company DR1 Mrs Hawkins (Jan-July)	
				Y13 Music Technol- ogy coursework session Mr Santer Mu3	

**[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SEE THE PE CLUBS TIMETABLE OR CHECK OUT THE LATEST EDITION OF SPORTING SPOTLIGHT, SENT WEEKLY VIA CLASS CHARTS](#)**







**FILM CLUB**  
[ SNACKS PROVIDED ]

03 OCT 3:15 PM



**MIYAZAKI'S SPIRITED AWAY**

E6 Thursday after school with Miss Baker and Mr Hutchinson. This week we will be showing Spirited Away. Open to years 10/11/12/13

**SHUFFLE LUNCH TIME CLUBS**

**WHEN**  
12.25PM - 1.00PM  
YEAR 7+8  
TUESDAYS  
YEAR 9  
WEDNESDAYS

**WHERE**  
H18

ICEBREAKER CHALLENGES - FUN  
DISCUSSIONS - SAFE SPACE TO HANG OUT - ALL WELCOME



**Highdown Quiz Club**

Starting Friday 11th October at LUNCHTIME in M3  
Year 7 - 10

This year we will start competing against other schools so will be selecting a Year 9/10 mixed team.

Laptops are useful. Wikipedia is king.

Mr Hutchinson and Mr Fasham

HUTCHINSON

FASHAM

**MATHS SUPPORT**

**Spark Club**  
Tuesday After School  
All Years - Room M5

**Yr 11 Revision**  
Wednesday After School  
Year 11 - Room M3/M4

**A-Level Help Session**  
Thursday Lunchtime  
Years 12 & 13 - Room M7

**ASTROPHYSICS CLUB**

Starting; Thursday 17th October and running for five weeks

Room: M5

Years: 9, 10 & 12



In a galaxy far far away, in the not too distant future, Mr Hutchinson & Mr Verebelyi are launching Astrophysics Club.

Y9 and Y10: Junior Astrophysics Challenge preparation

Yr 12: Astrophysics Challenge



**FRIENDS OF  
HIGHDOWN SCHOOL**

# 2024 FIREWORKS EVENT

**FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER**  
DOORS OPEN 6PM  
FIREWORKS 7.30PM

**FAMILY TICKET: £25**  
**ADULTS: £10**  
**CHILDREN 3-18YRS: £5**  
TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE

VENUE: HIGHDOWN SCHOOL, SURLY ROW, EMMER GREEN  
RG4 8LX

TO BOOK VISIT  
[WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/HIGHDOWN](http://WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/HIGHDOWN)

- HOT DRINKS
- HOT FOOD VENDORS
- BAR
- REFRESHMENTS
- MUSIC
- FANTASTIC FIREWORKS FOR ALL THE FAMILY TO ENJOY!

PLEASE NOTE ON SITE PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED



Highdown Fireworks Evening  
[signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com)



We need  
helpers on the  
refreshments, gate &  
marshals for the  
fireworks event—sign  
up here!!

Book Fireworks

[HERE](#)



**QUIZ  
TIME!**

**Thank you to everyone who has bought a ticket for tonight's quiz, we have now SOLD OUT and there will not be tickets for sale on the door.**

**Thank you for this amazing support!!**





# Highdown Bulletin

## MAINS From £2.75

*Week Two* 9<sup>th</sup> Sept, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, 18<sup>th</sup> Nov, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Mexican Chili Beef Con Carne with Steamed Rice and Sour Cream (Mk)	<b>BURGER BAR</b> Quarter Pounder Beef Burger in a Sesame Bun (G,So) or Spicy Chicken Burger in a Sesame Bun (G,So,Mu)	<b>ASIAN FLAVOURS</b> Crispy Asian Sweet Chili Chicken (G,So,F) or Szechuan Spiced Pork with Ginger Noodles (G,So,F) Tofu and Mushroom Mapo Stir Fry (G,So,Mu)	Slow Cooked Beef Lasagne Topped with Mozzarella (G,Mk,E) Chef Salad Coleslaw (E) Batra Focaccia Fingers (G)	<b>FISH &amp; CHIP SHOP</b> Battered Fish Fillet (G,F) Cheese and Onion Paste (G,So,Mk) "Chip Butty" (G,So,Mk) Jumbo Sausage (G,So) Fish Fingers (G,F)
Nachos Sweetcorn and Peppers	Falafel Burger in a Sesame Bun (G,Se) Add Mayonnaise (E) Shredded iceberg Ketchup Sweetcorn BBQ Beans (Su,So,G,Ce) Baked Potato Wedge	Shredded Asian Slaw (Su,So,Se) Egg Noodles (G,F) Coriander Steamed Rice Spring Rolls (G,So,Mk,E,Ce)	Mediterranean Vegetable Lasagne Topped with Mozzarella (G,Mk,E) Chef Salad Coleslaw (E) Batra Focaccia Fingers (G)	Oven Baked Chips Garden Peas Baked Bean Chunky Tartare Sauce (Su,F) Ketchup and Lemon

*Meal Deal*  
Check out what's on offer today, available for free school meals!

## GLOBAL EATS From £2.35

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Love Joes Tandoori Chicken with Mango Chutney (G,Mk,E) and Green Coriander Chutney (Mk)	Cauliflower Kerala Curry with Steamed Rice (G)	Pulled Pork in a Bun with Chipotle Slaw (G,So,Se,Mu,Lu,F)	Fiery Jerk Chicken Burger with Pineapple Salsa (G,Su,Se)	Fish and Chip Shop

## DESSERTS

Selection of home bakes, flapjacks, cookies, sponges, jelly and fruit pots  
From £1.15

**Daily Pasta Bar**  
Slow Cooked Beef Bolognese (G)  
Tomato and Basil (G)  
Mac 'n' Cheese (G,Mk)  
Served with Home baked Garlic Bread (G,So,Mk) Cheese (Mk)  
From £2.35, extras from £0.55

### ALLERGENS

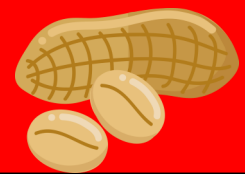
*we're always gluten free!*

Ce = Celery	Mo = Molluscs
Cr = Crustacean	Mu = Mustard
E = Eggs	N = Nuts
F = Fish	Se = Sesame Seeds
G = Cereals containing Gluten	Sa = Soya
L = Lupin	Su = Sulphur Dioxide
Mk = Milk	

Speak to one of our chefs if you have any allergies.



Please be aware that we have students in school with severe peanut allergies so being mindful of this when making packed lunches would be very helpful. A reminder that peanuts can be found in chocolate spreads, cereal bars, satay and curry sauces.



## COMPETITION TIME

# Is it Food?

**CREATE A HYPER-REALISTIC MODEL OF FOOD - AN INGREDIENT OR A FINISHED RECIPE - USING ANYTHING BUT FOOD!**  
Papier mache, clay, knitting, crochet, felted.... it's up to you!

**DEADLINE - END OF TERM 2 (20.12.24)**

**Hand your entries to the D&T department for your chance to win food related prizes!**

## Coffee Morning

### With Parenting Special Children

For families of children with special needs in Reading who speak different community languages

Come and find out about our services & how we can support you  
When: 23rd October 2024, Wednesday 10am – 11.30am  
Where: Dee Space Comm Hall, Thurso close, Tilehurst, Reading G30 4YH  
We can arrange volunteers who speak a variety of languages. Please contact us if this will be helpful.

Refreshments will be served.  
Please call or email to confirm your attendance or if you have any questions:  
Zobia Kalim - 07557 102623  
[zobia@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk](mailto:zobia@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk)  
Mamuna Naz - 07462  
571722 [Mamuna.naz@reading.gov.uk](mailto:Mamuna.naz@reading.gov.uk)

[Click here for Activities in Reading during October Half Term](#)