



# Highdown Bulletin

w/c 27 January 2025 Week A



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## A MESSAGE FROM MS. MATHEWS

### *Looking to the future whilst learning from the past*

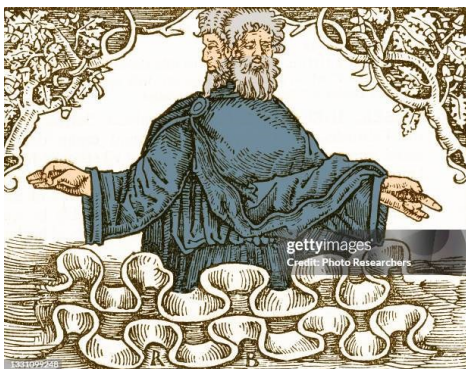
Assemblies this week have been centred around Classical Mythology: how we can learn from the didactic myths and legends of antiquity and reflect on why they are still pertinent to society today.



Janus, the Roman God of change feels like an appropriate start: giving his name to the month of January because of his ability to look back at the previous year, but also look forward into this year. There are a huge number of exciting plans in motion, led by our fantastic student leadership team: including fun runs and the Easter Festival of Rubbish. But equally, we are building on the successes from previous years, next week our A-Level Politics Students have a Q&A with the Earl of Lytton through the House of Lords 'Learn with the Lords Programme' and a record number of students will be taking part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

We've also looked at the myth of Echo and Narcissus, and how important kindness can be, alongside the importance of recognising a world beyond yourself. Narcissus gives his name to the beautiful spring flower, but his is a story of vanity and callousness. I have challenged our students to think about why my focus on uniform and punctuality is less about them as individuals and more about the wider role they play in society. How they can channel their individuality and uniqueness into creating a better society for everyone.

As ever, I welcome feedback about the start of the new school year: please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly through [head@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:head@highdown.reading.sch.uk)



**Ms. L Mathews**  
Headteacher



## HOUSE POINTS

<b>Mapledurham</b>	<b>89,509</b>
<b>Grove</b>	<b>96,716</b>
<b>Rosehill</b>	<b>95,853</b>
<b>Caversham</b>	<b>94,907</b>





## THIS WEEK

<b>Mon 27 Jan</b>	<b>Year 13 MFL Speaking PPEs until Weds</b>
<b>Tues 28 Jan</b>	<b>Y11 D&amp;T Practical Assessment</b>
<b>Weds 29 Jan</b>	<b>Y9-11 Intermediate Maths Challenge</b>
<b>Thurs 30 Jan</b>	<b>Y11 Music Tech Practical</b>
<b>Terms 3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>Open Morning for Years 7-11—more info <a href="#">HERE</a></b>



## School Assemblies

**Assemblies for the Week in the Main Hall with Head of Achievement**

**Theme: Lunar New Year**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Year 11—8:40</b>	<b>Year 10</b>		
<b>Year 7—9:40</b>		<b>Year 9 / 10</b>	<b>Year 7 / 8</b>
<b>Year 12—Barn</b>	<b>Year 13—Barn</b>		

## COMING UP

<b>Tues 28 Jan</b>	<b>Y11 D&amp;T Practical Assessment</b>
<b>Wed 29 Jan</b>	<b>Y9-11 Intermediate Maths Challenge</b>
<b>Tues 04 Feb</b>	<b>Y9 Boxclever Romeo and Juliet Performance/Workshop</b>
<b>Tues 04 Feb</b>	<b>Apprenticeship Awareness Evening for Year 10, 11, 12 &amp; 13</b>
<b>Thur 13 Feb</b>	<b>Trip leaves for Isle of Arran</b>
<b>Mon 17 Feb</b>	<b>Trip returns from Isle of Arran</b>
<b>Fri 14 Feb</b>	<b>Last Day of Half Term</b>
<b>Mon 24 Feb</b>	<b>First Day of Term 4</b>



## HELP THE HIGHDOWN MEDICAL SOCIETY!



Welcome to the Highdown Medical Society, a dynamic platform for students passionate about exploring the fields of medicine, healthcare, and psychological well-being.

Do you know anyone in the healthcare or medical field who could inspire us? We're looking for guest speakers, mentors, or anyone who can share their experiences and knowledge with our group.

If you have any connections or ideas, please let us know—we'd really appreciate your help!

Join us to explore the latest advancements in medicine and participate in hands-on activities.

Please contact Mrs Rule @ [hmd@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:hmd@highdown.reading.sch.uk)



## HIGHDOWN VE DAY

### MUSEUM



This week you will have received an email from Ms Duncan, curriculum leader for history, politics and sociology, sharing the exciting news that we will be creating a VE Day Museum, here at Highdown.

This is to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the second world war in Europe and will be made up of memories, family stories and artifacts donated and loaned by Highdown families.

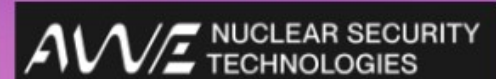
We will be opening the museum for students, families and members of the wider community to visit and so hope that lots of you will share your families wartime stories.



## APPRENTICESHIP AWARENESS EVENING 4 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 18.00-19.30



- Come along and speak with local companies about local opportunities and find out about the apprenticeships they offer.
- Listen to an "ASK" Talk (Apprenticeship Skills and Knowledge) to find out more.
- Start thinking about your future.
- For more information contact [careers@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:careers@highdown.reading.sch.uk)




**THE GALLERY**  
8.15-8.40 EVERYDAY

# Breakfast Club!

**School Fuel for Everyone**

CEREAL, TOAST, JUICE AND MORE



**HIGHDOWN SCHOOL ARE LOOKING FOR LOCAL EMPLOYERS TO ATTEND OUR APPRENTICESHIP EVENING**

**FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 10, 11, 12 & 13**  
**TUESDAY 04 FEBRUARY**  
SET UP FROM 5PM  
EVENT 6PM-7:30PM

Register to attend our Apprenticeship Awareness Evening and speak to our students in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13. An opportunity to meet upcoming talent, get your company name out into the community and to give something back!

**COME AND BE A PART OF SOMETHING GREAT AND INSPIRE THE APPRENTICES OF TOMORROW!**

**REGISTER NOW**



**FILM CLUB**  
[ SNACKS PROVIDED ]

03 OCT 3:15 PM



**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**

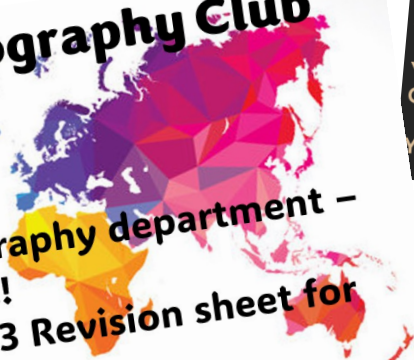
**MEDICAL SOCIETY**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Room: S5

**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

**GCSE Geography Club**

Day: Tuesday  
Time: 3.10pm  
Location: Geography department - check schedule!  
Take away - A3 Revision sheet for each topic!



**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





Time/ Period	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
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 Mad- die (From Oct)
	Ukulele Club Mr Parker Mu2		KS4 Photography GCSE Drop in Miss Woronkowicz A4	KS4 Photography GCSE Drop in Miss Woron- kowicz 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, safe space for Years 7 & 8 to hang out and play games	Shuffle Club with Miss Druce, H18, safe 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
			Medical Society in S5 everyone welcome		
After School - 4:14pm		KS4 GCSE Photog- raphy Drop-in Miss Woronkowicz A4	KS4 GCSE Photog- raphy Drop-in Miss Woronkowicz A4	KS4 GCSE Photography Drop-in Miss Woron- kowicz A4	
		Whole School Pro- duction	KS3 Art Club - (A3/A2)	KS4/KS5 Film Club Miss Baker Mr Hutchinson	
		Physics A Level Revi- sion and homework - S5	Orchestra - all years 3.10-3.50pm Mrs Reid MU1	Knit and Natter - (Miss Lobo - DT3)	
		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 No- vember and Decem- ber only	Highdown Dance Com- pany DR1 Mrs Hawkins (Jan-July)	
				Y13 Music Technology coursework session Mr Santer Mu3	



## NEW PE TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before School</b>				7.45am – Running Club with Mr Colvin	
<b>Lunch Time</b>	<b>Y9 FITNESS CLUB</b> with Mr Patten (Fitness Suite)  <b>Y7, 8 &amp; 9 BOYS BASKETBALL CLUB</b> with Mr Thompson (Gym)	<b>Y 9, 10 &amp; 11 GIRLS BADMINTON CLUB</b> with Mrs Sadler (Gym)  <b>NETBALL SHOOTING CLUB</b> with Miss Clark (Netball Courts)	<b>Y10 &amp; 11 FITNESS CLUB</b> with Mr Colvin (Fitness Suite)  Yr 10 & 11 Basketball Club with Miss Warne (Gym)	<b>Y9, 10 &amp; 11 GIRLS FITNESS CLUB</b> with Miss Clark (Fitness Suite)  Yr 7, 8 & 9 Girls Basketball Club with Miss Boswell (Gym)	<b>BADMINTON CLUB</b> with Mr Colvin (Gym)
<b>After School</b>		<b>Y11 GIRLS NETBALL CLUB</b> with Miss Clark  <b>Y9 GIRLS NETBALL</b> with Miss Boswell  <b>Y10 BOYS FOOTBALL</b> with Mr Thompson	<b>Y8 GIRLS NETBALL</b> with Miss Clark	<b>Y10 GIRLS NETBALL</b> with Mrs Sadler  <b>Y7 GIRLS NETBALL</b> with Miss Warne  <b>Y9 BOYS FOOTBALL</b> with Mr Patten  <b>Y7 BOYS FOOTBALL</b> with Mr Gordon	
<b>League Fixture Nights</b>		<b>Y10 GIRLS NETBALL</b> (Before Half Term)  <b>Y7 GIRLS NETBALL</b> (After Half Term)  <b>Y7 BOYS FOOTBALL</b> (After Half Term)  <b>Y9 BOYS FOOTBALL</b> (After Half Term)	<b>Y8 GIRLS NETBALL</b> (After Half Term)  <b>Y10 BOYS FOOTBALL</b> (After Half Term)	<b>Y11 GIRLS NETBALL</b> (Before Half Term)  <b>Y9 GIRLS NETBALL</b> (After Half Term)  <b>Y8 BOYS FOOTBALL</b> (After Half Term)  <b>Y11 BOYS FOOTBALL</b> (After Half Term)	

To catch up on all sporting news, please see Sporting Spotlight on the website school

[HERE](#)



## Year 7

7C Edward Smyth  
7D Annabel Smith  
7E Macie Moran  
7F Alfie Hatton  
7G Ellie Maybury  
7H Lillie Newbury  
7J Xavier Macleod  
7K TBC  
7L TBC

## Year 9

9C Arabella Fairbairn  
9D Milo Mandry  
9E Sheron Sunny  
9F Emily Appleby  
9G Munahid Mohamed  
9H Lily Jackson  
9J Lula Deasy  
9K Xav Carter  
9L Lewis Smith

## Year 8

8C Jane Adeyeba  
8D Indi Holland  
8E Hannah Grenz  
8F Imogen Packer  
8G Grace Hilden  
8H Ava Graham  
8J Jacob He  
8K Evie Webster  
8L Zoe Eighteen

## Year 11

11C Kara Taylor  
11D Elsie Vugler  
11E Dylan Wilson  
11F Ruby Rogers  
11G Ruby Cook  
11H Roshni Taylor  
11J Oisin Thorne  
11K Felix Taylor  
11L Grace Ranson



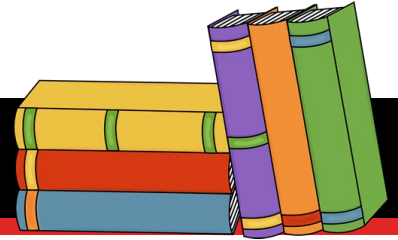
## *Stars of the Week*

## Year 10

10C Ueja Rukoro  
10D Aaryan Desour  
10E Lola Wilde  
10F Libby Hutchins  
10G Medi Weatherall  
10H Louis Briggs  
10J Hannah Drury  
10K Max Etherington  
10L Samuel Boughton







## Book suggestions either based in China or by authors with Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean heritage to read over the Lunar New Year <https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/library>



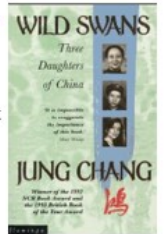
**The Hand the Eye and the Heart – Zoe Marriott**  
Based on the story of Mulan. The fate of an Empire rests on Zhi's shoulders. But to win, they must first decide where their loyalty, and their heart, truly belongs.



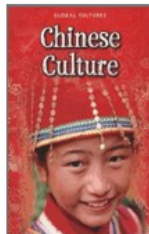
**Chinese Cinderella: The Mystery of the Song Dynasty Painting - Adeline Yen Mah**  
Following a fall in the Shanghai market, Chinese Cinderella is whisked away to Grandma Wu's house to recover. As she lapses in and out of consciousness, she is haunted by vivid dreams that seem strange - yet somehow familiar - to her. A tale of slavery and friendship, wealth, poverty and an arranged marriage begins, as Chinese Cinderella recalls a life lived centuries before. But is it real, or all in her imagination?



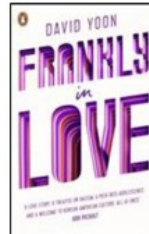
**20th Century Classic/6th Form Read**  
**Wild Swans – Jung Chang**  
Through the lives of three generations of women, this book tells the story of 20th-century China. A rich and compelling story.



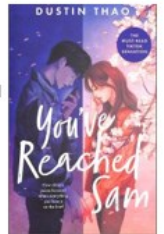
**Chinese Culture**  
A book covering a vast array of subjects on Chinese culture - from fine arts to ceremonies, and from legends to the culture's global influence.



**Young Adult Read**  
**Frankly in Love – David Yoon**  
Frank Li is caught between his parents' expectations and his own Californian life. Frank's parents emigrated from Korea, and have pretty much one big rule for Frank - he must date only Korean girls. But Frank has fallen for Brit, who is smart, beautiful and white.



**Young Adult Read**  
**You've Reached Sam – Dustin Thao**  
A heartbreaking story of love and loss. How do you move forward when everything you love is on the line?



## Highdowner Book Recommendations

**Highdowner:** Mr Crosby – IT Network Manager

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

Enid Blyton - Famous Five and others, J.R.R. Tolkien - Hobbit & Lord of the Rings, Alistair MacLean, Roald Dahl, Arthur C. Clarke - Dolphin Island, James Herbert

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

I enjoy horror books and books based on war, particularly authors such as Chris Ryan, Andy McNab, James Herbert and Stephen King

### Who is your favourite author or what is your all time favourite book?

My favourite author is James Herbert and his trilogy - The Rats, Lair & Domain





## Student Book Recommendation Chosen for you, by you!



WINNER OF THE 2014 CILIP CARNEGIE MEDAL

### THE BUNKER DIARY KEVIN BROOKS

I THOUGHT  
HE WAS  
BLIND.  
THAT'S HOW  
HE GOT ME.



## The Bunker Diary

We read the bunker diary, by Kevin Brooks in English in year 8 which was very annoying because I couldn't wait to read more of it in between lessons. The story starts with a young protagonist named Linus who encounters a 'blind man' trying to get his suitcase into his van. Linus felt that he had to help the man so he went up to him and put the suitcase in the back of the van; but before he knew it, the 'blind man' had chloroformed Linus and he was now unconscious. When Linus woke up, he was in a "low ceilinged rectangular building made entirely of white-washed concrete". He would soon be joined by 5 other victims who would proceed to get tortured by the 'blind man' until they all eventually die.

**\*SPOILER ALERT\*** The novel ends brilliantly: Linus appears to die mid-sentence because the diary ends abruptly. This is my favourite book because it is full of mystery and always keeps you wanting to read more.

Daniel  
Year 10



This week we had Basingstoke College of Technology in to speak to a group of Year 10 and 11 students about the opportunities available to them in the construction industry.

It was a really useful session where the group learnt about what the construction industry involves, what the opportunities are in construction and pathways into the industry, including what BCOT can offer in regards to post-16 education.

Don't forget that we have our **Apprenticeship Awareness Evening on Tuesday 04 February for Years 10-13!!**

# HIGHDOWN SCHOOL

## OPEN MORNING TOUR

**Friday 31 January at 9am**

**Booking essential**

Following a number of enquiries we are hosting an additional open morning for students in Years 7-11.

Come and meet Headteacher, Laura Mathews, explore our fantastic facilities set across our 28 acre site and look into the calm and purposeful classrooms on a tour of our school.



## WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

### **New drop-in group to:**

Connect with other parents, talk about mental health challenges & feel supported

Parents of any age children welcome

**24th February & 24th March - 10am to 11.30am**  
**Weller Centre, 110 Amersham Road, Caversham**

Email us: [compassopportunities@reading.gov.uk](mailto:compassopportunities@reading.gov.uk)





# Highdown Bulletin

## CYBER PROTECT WEBINARS



### The Digital Dilemma: Keeping Children Safe Online

January 23rd, 28th, 30th  
February 3rd, 6th, 10th, 12th, 13th

TICKETS ONLINE:  
Eventbrite: Police - South East Cyber

### FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

run by Police Cyber Protect teams

Hints and tips to secure your family online, covering cyber risks and scams in:

Gaming Social Media Email

### TO BOOK YOUR SPACE:

Click [here](#), scan the QR code or search online for "eventbrite police southeast cyber"



DON'T LET IT BE **GAME OVER**  
**LEVEL UP** YOUR ONLINE SECURITY



Tilehurst Panthers

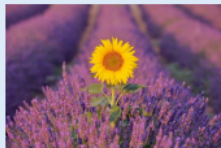
# GIRLS FOOTBALL



We're recruiting for our U14s team **School year 9**

If your daughter is interested then please get in touch to arrange a free taster session.

Contact: [egerring@outlook.com](mailto:egerring@outlook.com)



## Parent Carer Meeting

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE PARENT CARERS FROM THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS TO ATTEND A JOINT MEETING:

Christ the King RC School, Geoffrey Field Infants & Geoffrey Field Junior Schools, Green Park Village Academy, New Christ Church CE School, The Palmer Academy, The Ridgeway Primary School, Whitley Park Primary School

WHERE: Whitley Park Primary & Nursery School, Brixham Rd, RG2 7RB

WHEN: Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, 9.30 - 10.30am

Refreshments provided!

Your voice is vital to the success of the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project and we will invite all parents and carers to take part.

The project aims to strengthen relationships and help shape SEND support in your school for all neurodivergent students.

We really want to know what matters to you!

Cathy Dearlove & Joanna Bains

School Group Coordinators

Email: [cathy@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk](mailto:cathy@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk) or [joanna@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk](mailto:joanna@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk)



## Mental Health coffee mornings in READING SCHOOLS 2024/25

Come and learn about mental health in a relaxed and informal setting. Understand how mental health might affect your child and learn practical tools to help you support your child through any mental health difficulties they may experience, whether short or long-term.

These informal coffee mornings are run by Amanda Mavunga, Reading MHST CAMHS Senior Clinician at BFFC. Amanda will deliver a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions. You can attend any session, even if your child does not attend the hosting school.



YOU MAY ATTEND ANY OF THESE SESSIONS AT ANY SCHOOL **SPRING TERM**

DATE/TIME	SUBJECT	SCHOOL
13 Jan 2025, 9.15-11.15am	ADHD	Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School
17 Jan 2025, 9.15-11.15am	Managing behaviour (limited to 20 spaces)	E P Collier Primary School (no parking)
22 Jan 2025, 1-3pm	Anxiety	Churchend Primary Academy
30 Jan 2025, 1-3pm	Self-harm and suicidality (limited to 15 spaces)	Geoffrey Field Junior School
3 Feb 2025, 9.15-11.15am	Low mood and depression	St Anne's Catholic Primary School
7 Feb 2025, 9.15-11.15am	Understanding Berkshire CAMHS and neurodiversity service processes (limited to 20 spaces)	Wilson Primary School
<b>CANCELLED</b>		
12 Feb 2025, 1-3pm	Anxiety	The Heights Primary School
24 Feb 2025, 1-3pm	Sleep	Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School
6 March 2025, 9.15-11.15am	Autism and anxiety (limited to 15 spaces)	Oxford Road Community School
12 March 2025, 1-3pm	Body image and eating disorders	New Town Primary School
17 March 2025, 1-3pm	Anxiety (limited to 20 spaces)	Wilson Primary School
28 March 2025, 9.15-11.15am	Low mood and depression	Churchend Primary Academy
2 April 2025, 1-3pm	The impact of social media on mental health	Caversham Park Primary School
4 April 2025, 9.15-11.15am	Managing behaviour (limited to 15 spaces)	Geoffrey Field Junior School