



Highdown Bulletin

w/c 03 February 2025 Week B



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A MESSAGE FROM MS. MATHEWS

There is a well-known rhyme: '30 days have September, April, June and November...' but it is January that can often feel like the longest month. Well now, officially we've reached the end of January and the end of my first full month as Headteacher at Highdown School.

Highdown is a school that never sits back or retreats into the comfort and laziness that winter can sometimes bring. Indeed it feels more alive than ever. This week, 127 students had the day off timetable to prepare for their upcoming Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions. A record number, and testament to the ambition of both the teachers and the students. Throughout the day they looked at route planning, team building and kit management. The sun even graced us with its, brief, presence.

This week has also seen the final offers from Oxford and Cambridge University and we are beyond proud of our three students who have received offers to study Law and PPE at Oxford University, and Natural Sciences at Cambridge University. This is hugely impressive, but what was most inspiring was the humility and excitement with which they talked about their offers.

On Thursday we were lucky enough to host Naomi Dickinson, an investment specialist from Bluestone Finance, who is mentoring our two Year 12 Economics teams in the prestigious GAIN (Girls Are INvestors) Challenge.

We are looking forward to February with National Careers Week next week, and the term rounding off with the fantastic 'Our House' school production.

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

Ms. L Mathews
Headteacher



HOUSE POINTS

Mapledurham	95,514
Grove	102,862
Rosehill	101,992
Caversham	100,662



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Highdown Bulletin

THIS WEEK

Tue 04 Feb	Year 10 online NHS Apprenticeship Presentation
Tues 04 Feb	Apprenticeship Awareness Evening 6-7.30pm
Tues 04 Feb	Year 9 Boxclever Romeo and Juliet Performance/Workshop
Thurs 07 Feb	Auditions for 2025 Highdown Dance Company DR1—3:15-5PM
Fri 07 Feb	Year 7 Online Presentation—Into to Apprenticeships by Reading College
Fri 07 Feb	Year 9 online NHS Apprenticeship Presentation



School Assemblies

Assemblies for the Week in the Main Hall with Mr Franks

Theme: LGBTQ+ History Month

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 12 & 13	Year 11	Year 9 / 10	Year 7 / 8

COMING UP

11-13 Feb	School Production of 'Our House' Buy Tickets HERE
Thurs 13 Feb	Trip leaves for Isle of Arran
Fri 14 Feb	Last Day of Term
Mon 17 Feb	Trip returns from Isle of Arran
Mon 24 Feb	Back to School



QUIZTASTIC



The Highdown Quiz team had a match on Tuesday against Loreto Grammar School from Manchester.

A line-up spanning Year 7 to Year 10: Ingrid Girjoaba (Year 7), Alice Rosewell (Year 8), Lottie Borgeaud (Year 10) and George Busby (Year 10). A nail-biting final result finishing 42-41 to Loreto. A one point defeat but achieving our second close-loss bonus point.

Congrats to everyone especially the three debutants including Ingrid who agreed to play for us with about five minutes warning.

HIGHDOWN SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE
PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS



OUR HOUSE
IT MUST BE LOVE
RG4
THE MADNESS MUSICAL

11TH - 13TH FEBRUARY 2025
7PM START
MAIN SCHOOL HALL

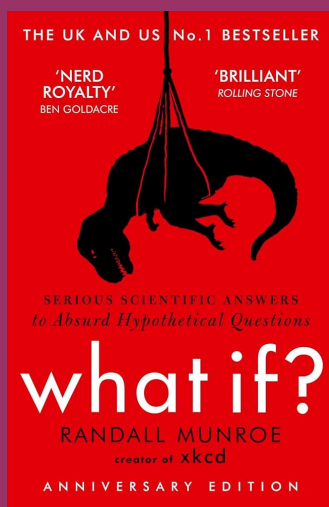
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED VIA TICKETSOURCE - ADULT - £8.50 &
CHILD/STUDENT/OVER 60S - £5.50
CHECK OUT CLASS CHARTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Purchase Tickets

For 'Our House'

[HERE](#)

Student Book Recommendation—Chosen for you, by you!



What If? by Randall Munroe is a non-fiction book in which the author uses science and mathematics to answer somewhat absurd questions sent to him by readers of his webcomic, XKCD. The book was published in 2014, but Munroe has been scientifically answering unusual questions sent in by readers of XKCD on his blog What If? since 2012. A sequel to the book, titled What If? 2, was released on September 13, 2022. These books stimulate curiosity in the readers by encouraging them to think critically even about seemingly foolish things and thoughts.

Example questions from the blog What If?:
'If every country's airspace extended up forever, which country would own the largest percentage of the galaxy at any given time?'

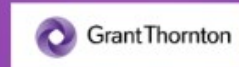
'Did WWII last longer than the total length of movies about WWII? For that matter, which war has the highest movie time: war time ratio?'

Ivan Soliin
Year 10

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






THE GALLERY
8.15-8.40 EVERYDAY

Breakfast Club!

School Fuel for Everyone


CEREAL, TOAST, JUICE AND MORE

HIGHDOWN DANCE COMPANY

AUDITIONS

for the 2025 Company

Open to
Years 7-13



THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY
2025 - 3.15- 5PM

Location: DR1 - Bring PE Kit/dance kit to change into. Any questions see or email Mrs Hawkins.



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

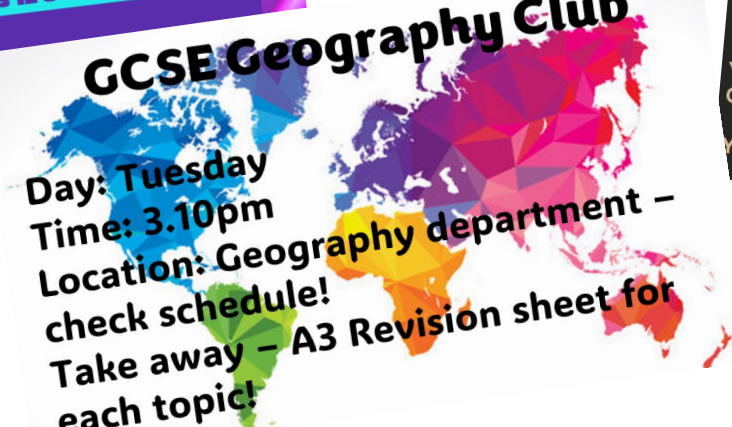
MEDICAL SOCIETY
WEDNESDAY
Room: S5

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

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

[HERE](#)



Year 7

- 7C Maria Busby
- 7D Holly Evans
- 7E Kayde Tutin
- 7F Holly Evans
- 7G William Hook
- 7H Akshit Shrivastava
- 7J Jude Newman
- 7K Finley Webb
- 7L Ollie Griffin

Year 8

- 8C Alex Stannard
- 8D Tom Hughes
- 8E Millie Johnson
- 8F Mak Mubieidin
- 8G Milena Janik
- 8H Iryna Pariichuk
- 8J Jenisha Jerinus
- 8K Ella Hemsworth-Fowler
- 8L Zoe Eighteen



Stars of the Week

Year 9

- 9C Tom Clark
- 9D Leah Fothergill
- 9E Molly Whiteway
- 9F Eddy Gianni
- 9G Oliver Cook
- 9H Alfie Prouse
- 9J Dylan Fallon
- 9K Faris Bushnaq
- 9L Lucas Bell

Year 10

- 10C Georgie Barnbrook
- 10D Katie Tsui
- 10E Isaac Higham
- 10F Sophia May
- 10G Brooke Dimmock
- 10H Mehreen Ali
- 10J Ila Namaseevayum
- 10K Daniel Rogers
- 10L Jakub Fiddes





New Books in the Hive this month!

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

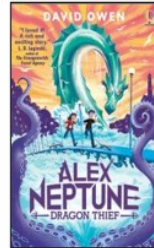
Call Down the Hawk - Maggie Stiefvater

The mesmerizing story of those who can bring parts of their dreams into reality and those who will stop at nothing to destroy them. A spin off of Maggie's successful series Raven Cycle



Alex Neptune Dragon Thief - David Owen

A story with humour, friendship, and mythical adventure, which includes a message about the importance of looking after our oceans.



Code Name Kingfisher - Liz Kessler

A powerful historical fiction story about the Dutch Resistance during WW2.



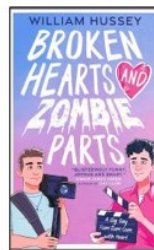
The Sad Ghost Club 3 - Lize Meddings

Book 3 in the heart-warming series about friendship, compassion and finding your kindred spirits.



Broken Hearts and Zombie Parts - William Hussey

A gay YA romance about body image, self-acceptance and falling in love.



Young Adult Read Divine Rivals - Rebecca Ross

A gripping read with twists! Another brilliant book for all goths.



Highdowner Book Recommendations

Highdowner: Mr Dineley – Maths Teacher

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

Science fiction, Adventure and Comedy

What books/genre do you like reading now?

I still enjoy reading science fiction for the escapism and entertainment and also History of Science and maths books for interest

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

I enjoy reading books by Iain M Banks and Bill Bryson