



# HIGHDOWN Bulletin

15 Dec 2025 - Week A



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## This Week



Sat 13 Dec	Train to Teach <u>Virtual Info Event</u> at 10am
Sat 13 Dec	12 Days of Christmas Festive Recipe <u>HERE</u>
Sun 14 Dec	12 Days of Christmas Festive Craft <u>HERE</u>
Tues 16 Dec	Year 7 Christmas Lunch - Pre-ordered
Thurs 18 Dec	Year 12 Oxbridge Information Panel at 5:45pm
Thurs 18 Dec	Presentation Evening 6:30-9pm - by invitation
Fri 19 Dec	Last Day of Term - finish at 12:25pm

**12 Days of Christmas at Highdown**

- Mon 8th: Double Praise Points Week
- Tues 9th: Write a "Thank You" & Senior School Play
- Weds 10th: Senior School Play
- Thurs 11th: GCHQ Christmas Card Challenge
- Fri 12th: Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Fayre
- Sat 13th: Festive Recipe from D&T
- Sun 14th: Christmas Craft from Art
- Mon 15th: Mystery Box Challenge
- Tues 16th: Year 7 Christmas Lunch
- Weds 17th: Year 8&9 Pizza Party & Snail Race
- Thurs 18th: KS4 Mystery Prize Draw
- Fri 19th: Celebration Assembly 12:25 Finish

**HIGHDOWN BREAKFAST Club**

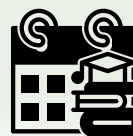
EVERY DAY 8:10-9:00AM

JUICE

EVERYONE WELCOME

AT THE GALLERY

COME AND GET YOUR FUEL FOR SCHOOL



Term Dates



Menus



Clubs

*Christmas*  
**MENU**

*Wednesday 17 December*

**CHRISTMAS TURKEY LUNCH**

£3.00

**WELLINGTON CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
(VEGETARIAN)**

£3.00

**CHRISTMAS CHICKEN BURGER**

£2.85

**TURKEY BAGUETTE WITH STUFFING AND  
CRANBERRY SAUCE**

£2.55

Pasta will also be available

**Thursday 18 December**

Fish and chips

## Entertainment Roving Reporters

### Paddington the Musical



### Tosca - Ksenia, Year 9



I am writing my review and plot about opera "Tosca" that I watched in Royal Opera house in London.

Recently my family and I went to see the opera Tosca. It is a story about an artist named Cavaradossi, who is in love with a famous singer, Tosca. At the beginning of the play, Cavaradossi's friend Angelotti escapes from prison because he was unjustly imprisoned by Scarpia. Cavaradossi tries to hide Angelotti in his house, but Scarpia finds out and puts Cavaradossi in prison. Tosca tries to free Cavaradossi by making a deal with Scarpia, but she is tricked, and Cavaradossi is killed. At the end of the play, Tosca jumps out of the window and kills herself. I loved how they made the decorations in the play, it looked so realistic. While I was watching, I really appreciated how the actors expressed their emotions. The plot was amazing too: tragic and dramatic, but I still really enjoyed it. I recommend watching the opera Tosca if you like melodramatic stories with a sad ending.

Have you got a **Roving Entertainment Reporter** at home? Have they seen a theatrical or musical performance and want to share their thoughts? Students should send their reviews to Mrs Lake: [hsm@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:hsm@highdown.reading.sch.uk)



## Lost Property Collection Deadline!!!

Has your child lost a coat, PE kit, lunchbox, water bottle or school uniform?

Please remind them to visit Student Services by Thursday 18 December. anything left behind after Thursday will be donated to charity.

A reminder to name ALL of your child's items, they are then much more likely to be reunited with their owners.

Thank you.



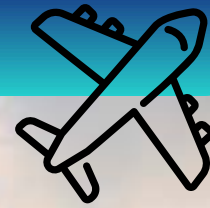
### Cycle, Driving and Drop-Off Safety Reminder

We kindly ask all families to support our ongoing commitment to student safety. If your child cycles to school, please ensure their bike is roadworthy, that they wear a suitable helmet, have lights (front and rear) and have a good understanding of road rules and safety.

For those driving, please park considerately and use safe areas for drop-off and pick-up. Cars must not enter the school site at the start or end of the day. This rule helps keep our gates, paths and crossing areas safe for all students.

Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe.

## Highdown School Flying Club



**Highdown School Flying Club**

Highdown School is considering launching a School Flying Club in partnership with British Young Pilots (BYP) for January 2026, and would like to gauge interest.

This is a really fabulous co-curricular offering that we are running in collaboration with British Young Pilots (BYP). Students who join the flying club will have a weekly class with a BYP flying instructor where they learn practical flying skills in classroom/desk top simulator as well as theoretical knowledge covering everything from physics & meteorology to navigation & engineering. Each half term, students will have the opportunity to fly a real aircraft and put their skills to the test.

As well as being a fun, adventurous and exciting activity, flying can have a very positive impact on confidence and self-esteem and fosters real world interest in STEM.

Students can sign up and do just a single term but those who choose to stay with the club can progress through the BYP syllabus and pass civilian flying test and exams as they go - for a committed student, it's possible to leave school with a private pilots licence.

We will try to arrange the timetable so that as many students as possible are able to take part, as the club is run by an external BYP flying instructor, there is an extra charge equal to £33 per session (paid at the start of term). Physical flying lessons are optional and booked separately with BYP, they recommend one 30 minute flights per term at £90 each.

Please contact the school directly to register your child's interest in the club. Once sufficient interest has been confirmed, a booking link will be shared with parents to enrol on BYP's booking platform (Envolvy), complete a safety form and secure a place/make payment. The link will also include further details about the club's schedule and other important information.

[WWW.BRITISHYOUNGPILOTS.COM](http://WWW.BRITISHYOUNGPILOTS.COM)  
CONFIDENCE - SELF ESTEEM - INSPIRATION



**HIGHDOWN SCHOOL FLYING CLUB**

Highdown School is considering launching a School Flying Club in partnership with British Young Pilots (BYP) for January 2026, and would like to gauge interest.

- Weekly lesson run by a BYP instructor. Half theory based and half practical flying skills on a flight sim.
- 1 x 30 minute flights in a real aircraft each term.
- Open to years 7 - 13
- Pass civilian pilot exams.
- For motivated club members, the chance to leave school with a civilian pilots license (PPL).
- £33 per session (+ flights at £90 each)

Please contact the school directly to register your child's interest in the club. Once sufficient interest has been confirmed, a booking link will be shared with parents to confirm their child's place. The link will also include further details about the club's schedule and other important information.

[WWW.BRITISHYOUNGPILOTS.COM](http://WWW.BRITISHYOUNGPILOTS.COM)  
CONFIDENCE - SELF ESTEEM - INSPIRATION



Register your interest [HERE](#)

## A Message from SWI School Outfitters

Due to the upcoming Christmas holidays, the final delivery into school for 2025 will be week commencing Monday 15th December.

Weekly deliveries will resume the week commencing Monday 5th January 2026.

All home deliveries will continue as normal throughout the Christmas period.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Are you, or someone you know, interested in a career where no two days are the same and you make a REAL difference every day? If so, have you ever considered teaching? If teaching interests you and you are looking for a provider, then why not consider GLF Initial Teacher Training? We offer:

- high-quality weekly training with primary and secondary expert facilitators,
- strong school-based training with strong and committed mentoring,
- excellent pastoral and wellbeing support,
- thorough commitment to supporting trainees into their first teaching posts

For more information, please visit the GLF Initial Teacher Training website which includes a wealth of information including dates for our upcoming regular Virtual Train to Teach Information events. Do not delay in signing up to a Train to teach information event if you would like to find out more.

**TRAIN TO TEACH**  
LIKE US!

INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS  
GLF TEACHER TRAINING

working with GLF Schools

Twitter LinkedIn Facebook Instagram

## LAUREL PARK NETBALL CLUB

Love netball?  
Come and play with us

We're welcoming new players to join our junior (year 5 - 13) and senior teams - from 18+ upwards.

Whether you're looking for a new club for yourself or your daughter, are returning after a break, keen to develop your skills further, are back from university, or you simply want to play more.

With teams across Division 1 to Division 4 in the Reading and Bracknell District Leagues and Berkshire Prem League, as well as the Berkshire Junior League, there's an opportunity for every player to join a team.

If you enjoy competitive, friendly netball and want to play regularly, we'd love to hear from you.

**Why Laurel Park?**

- Make new friends and be part of a team.
- Weekly structured, quality training.
- Play competitive matches across local leagues.
- Develop your skills, fitness and love of netball.

**Interested? Contact us below!**

Seniors: [enquiries@laurelparknetball.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@laurelparknetball.co.uk)  
Juniors: [juniors@laurelparknetball.co.uk](mailto:juniors@laurelparknetball.co.uk)  
Website: [www.laurelparknetball.co.uk](http://www.laurelparknetball.co.uk)

## ARTISTS & MAKERS FAIR

SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 10AM - 4PM

Get ready for the festive season by browsing unique gifts & stocking fillers handmade by local creatives!

- ✓ Handmade gifts
- ✓ Delicious cakes
- ✓ Tea & coffee
- ✓ Dog friendly

Caversham Methodist Church,  
Gosbrook Road, RG4 8EB



**Teen PPP** **Positive parenting programme**

**Weds 14 January - Weds 18 March 2026** **9.30-11.30am**

**Hartland High School, 125 Hartland Road, Reading RG2 8AF**

- ★ Is your child aged 11-19 years old?
- ★ Do you want to support your child when they show distressing behaviour?
- ★ Do you want to help your teenager make positive choices?

Join our evidence-based flexible parenting programme. The group aims to strengthen your relationship with your teenager, promote your teen's development and equip you to help them recognise and avoid risky situations.

The programme is delivered in nine two-hour weekly group sessions on Wednesdays, term-time only.

To enquire or book your place, please contact: [parenting@reading.gov.uk](mailto:parenting@reading.gov.uk) or call **0118 937 4858**

**Adult Dyslexia Centre**  
ADVISING • DEVELOPING • CONNECTING

**Understanding Dyslexia and Dyscalculia**  
An online course for parents, carers and teachers of dyslexic children

Our popular online course is starting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
3 sessions on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 - 9.00 pm

The course will give an understanding of dyslexia and dyscalculia, including many strategies for supporting your child in their learning.

Places limited so that the course can be interactive. Plenty of time for questions.  
All sessions delivered by experienced professionals.

January 7<sup>th</sup> - Understanding your child with dyslexia - Katrina Cochrane  
January 14<sup>th</sup> - Reading and Spelling strategies - Donna Stevenson  
January 21<sup>st</sup> - Maths and dyscalculia - Amanda Keen

The fee is £60 for all 3 sessions.

To reserve a place on this course email [courses@adc.org.uk](mailto:courses@adc.org.uk) or Tel: **07774 846657**

Website - [www.adc.org.uk](http://www.adc.org.uk)

**Scouts**  
89th Reading (Milestone Wood)

**CHRISTMAS POST**  
45p a card

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers will deliver your cards by hand across Caversham and Emmer Green (but not south of the river or to Sunning Common, Hobbess Field or Ibbotson Green)

Post your cards at:

- Budgeas (Emmer Green)
- Caversham Library
- Coop (Hensley Road)
- Woodcote Wine Stores
- Ebn's Cafe (at Playhatch Garden Centre)
- Bounce Park & Emmer Green doctors surgeries
- St Andrew's, St Barnabas, St John's and St Peter's churches
- Cobbeek Rd & Highmead Rd Methodist churches

STARTS SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOV  
LAST POSTING DATE THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DEC

Thanks to support, and much assistance, get together in our local group to visit the International grounds (M113 to Slough in 2024)

**The Bounce Park Reading**

**School's out. Huge inflatable is in!**  
River Academy Open School Holidays  
[www.thebouncepark.com/reading](http://www.thebouncepark.com/reading)