



HIGHDOWN *handbook*

2026-2027

Parent/Carer Edition

"The school of choice for parents in Reading,
where for every child success is **desirable**,
demanded and **achieved**"





Headteacher's Welcome

We are delighted that you have chosen Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre for your child.

Highdown is a place where tradition meets innovation, from the 16th century tythe barn to the state-of-the-art computing facilities, and this rich heritage coupled with our dynamic teachers means that Highdown is a place where pupils achieve more than they thought possible.

It goes without saying that we enjoy the very best in academic standards, with passionate specialist teachers in every department from Mandarin to Further Maths to Textiles. Last summer, 76% of our students passed English and Maths at GCSE and over 21% of A-Levels were graded at A or A*. But our co-curricular offer is where the school comes alive: from our leadership pathways to our international trips, there is something for every student to excel in and to develop their resources, skills and resilience so they can feel confident in embracing their future.

Whilst they are with us, we take great care to make sure students feel they belong. Our mentor groups and thriving house system ensure they build relationships with staff and peers that are healthy and happy. School life is permeated by our core values of **community, aspiration, respect and excellence**.

Highdown's success is rooted in the enthusiasm and pride of our staff. We never take for granted the transformative power of education and this is reflected in our commitment to routine and high quality professional development that is rooted in the most recent academic research.

This handbook should answer any questions you and your child might have about Highdown, and I would urge every family to read it together with their child. There is also a wealth of information on the school website: www.highdown.reading.sch.uk.

Ms L Mathews
Headteacher

Timings of the School Day

School opens for free breakfast 8:15am Students should aim to be on site at 8.35am All gates, except the main front gate, are shut at 8.37am
Morning Line Up 8:37am
Mentor Time Programme 8:40am
Period 1 9:05 - 10:05am
Period 2 10:05 - 11:05am
BREAK
Period 3 11:25am - 12:25pm
Period 4 12:25pm - 1:25pm
LUNCH
Period 5 2:10 - 3:10pm
End of School Day Excellence Club 3:10 - 4:10pm

Term Dates

Term 1: Autumn		
Student Term Starts	Student Term Ends	Holiday Period
Thursday 3rd September 2026 Year 7 only on first day of term	Thursday 22nd October 2026	Friday 23rd October to Monday 1st November 2026
Tuesday 2nd November 2026	Friday 18th December 2026	Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January 2027

Please note: Friday, 4th September 2026 is an INSET day for Years 8 - 11 and Year 13

Term 2: Spring		
Student Term Starts	Student Term Ends	Holiday Period
Monday 4th January 2027	Friday 12th February 2027	Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027
Monday 22nd February 2027	Thursday 25th March 2027	Friday 26th March to Monday 12th April 2027

Term 3: Summer		
Student Term Starts	Student Term Ends	Holiday Period
Tuesday 13th April 2027	Friday 28th May 2027	Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027
Monday 7th June 2027	Wednesday 21st July 2027	Thursday 22nd July 2027 until the start of the next school year

Professional Learning Days (INSET Days)	
Term 1	
Tuesday 1st September 2026 Wednesday 2nd September 2026 Friday 2nd October 2026	
Term 5	
Monday 12th April 2027	
Term 6	
Friday 25th June 2027 Year 5 Day, Sixth Form Unwrapped - Friday 9th July 2027	

Please note: Friday, 9th July 2027 is Year 5 Day and Sixth Form Unwrapped and the Academy will be closed to all students except Year 10



Curriculum

Our rigorous and knowledge rich curriculum promises breadth of subjects and depth within them, equipping Highdown students with the best possible life chances. Each curriculum area is logically sequenced allowing space for mastery of core concepts and effective transitions into GCSE and Sixth Form. Students are aspirational in their learning, with expert teachers delivering content that is both engaging and stretching.

All curriculum maps can be found on the school website. Year 7 students will be routinely tested on the core knowledge from their knowledge organiser.

Assessment and Reporting

Regular, accurate recording of student assessments, progress and achievement is important. This not only supports and directs teacher planning, it also provides students and parents with up to date information about success, strengths and areas for focus and development.

You will receive formal reports regularly throughout the academic year and at least one formal parents' evening where you will meet your child's teachers and key pastoral staff. Should you need to discuss your child's progress outside these points you should contact your child's Head of Achievement in the first instance.

At Highdown we know that a strong foundation of knowledge supports excellent outcomes. This is reinforced through low stakes testing in every lesson and is also monitored through our formal assessment plan. Year 7 core knowledge tests are given at the end of each half term. Students can prepare for these using their knowledge organisers which they will receive on their first day in Year 7, but will also be available online over the summer holidays, should you wish to view them in advance.

Homework and Learning to Learn

Home learning is a vital part of students' academic and personal development. The purpose of homework is to:

- develop and embed effective learning and study habits
- consolidate learning of class work and prepare for future learning with retrieval quizzes

Students will be set up to 30 minutes per week per subject, although some of the home learning might take the form of longer term projects. Students should also regularly review their Knowledge Organisers using the 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' study skill.



A Highdown High Performance Learner

- **Resilient**, independent and highly motivated to learn.
- **Confident** and asks **enquiring** questions to extend their learning.
- Always **self-regulates** and meets all **deadlines** set for classwork and homework and regularly attempts challenge tasks.
- Exceptionally **hard working**, which is shown in their outstanding level of effort and commitment.
- Demonstrates a wide range of clear **communication** skills.
- Regularly **practises** to improve skills and knowledge and shows resilience and determination in challenging tasks.
- Demonstrates excellent **metacognition** with clear and effective responses to feedback and is able to learn effectively from their mistakes.
- **Takes risks** in their learning and is **open minded** to try out new ideas.
- Promotes the learning of others and shows exceptional **collaborative** skills.
- Quality of work in books is exceptional with exemplary pride in **presentation**.

Uniform Standards & Expectations

Black hijab in the Winter/
Spring term and black
or white hijab in the
Summer term - no other
head wear permitted

White shirt
tucked in

School blazer with
logo

Plain black tailored
trousers or shorts,
not jogging bottoms

Plain black
polishable shoes,
not trainer style
shoes

Highdown jumper
or cardigan is
optional

Plain black pleated
skirt or black tailored
trousers

Black, white or grey
socks. No white socks
over black tights



The school will not bypass uniform expectations as a result of receiving a note from a parent/carer explaining uniform discrepancies. Exceptions may be considered when notes are supported by a letter from a medical professional.

The school has spare plimsolls and uniform to ensure no child misses learning for wearing incorrect uniform.

PE Uniform

PE KIT	
COMPULSORY from official suppliers	• Red polo shirt with school logo • Black shorts with school logo
OPTIONAL from official suppliers	• Plain black tracksuit bottoms with or without school logo • Sports hoodie with school logo • Multisport top with school logo (boys only)
TO BE PURCHASED ELSEWHERE	• Trainers – suitable for sport, not fashionwear • Red knee high sports socks
OTHER KIT WHEN REQUIRED	• Swimming costume and towel • Football boots • Shin pads (football, rugby and hockey) • Mouth guard (rugby and hockey)



Jewellery and Personal Appearance

Most jewellery is not permitted for safety reasons. The following provides clarity on our expectations:

- 1 small stud in either one or both earlobes
- Other piercings, such as a nose stud, are not permitted
- The covering of piercings with plasters is not permitted
- Rings and bracelets are not allowed to be worn
- Students are encouraged to wear a watch, but smart watches are not permitted
- Make-up may be worn but should be minimal and natural in colour
- Nail extensions or any non-neutral nail varnish are not permitted

Students unable or refusing to remove any of the above items will be taken out of routine until they comply with these expectations

- Extreme hairstyles are not permitted (this includes lines, patterns and unnatural colours)

Our supplier for uniform is SWI - www.swischoolwear.co.uk / 01928 752610



Rewards

The true value of your child's aspiration, respect and excellence will be realised as they achieve successful next steps and future contentment and prosperity. But we know it is important to both value and recognise students for positive behaviour, progress and success throughout their school career.

House Points

Across the school, in lessons and outside of them, students will receive praise points, which are shared with parents and carers through the Class Charts app.

In addition to praise points, we celebrate student successes with postcards home, letters of praise, phone calls home, termly celebration assemblies, Friday 3 Award, Excellence Evening and hot chocolate with the Headteacher.



Caversham
Lions



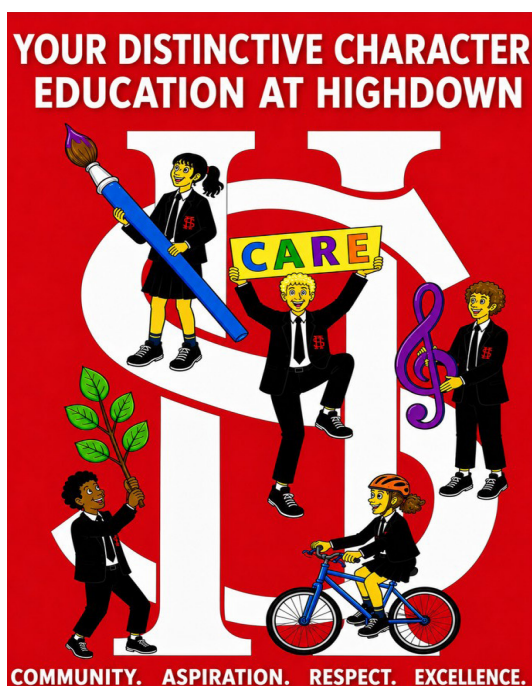
Grove
Griffins



Mapledurham
Dragons



Rosehill Red
Kites



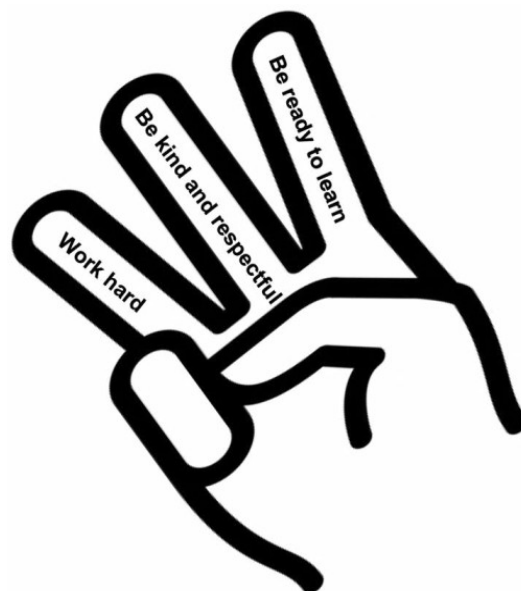
The CARE Programme

The CARE programme is designed to celebrate your child's engagement with co-curricular opportunities at Highdown. Across the academic year we are challenging you to complete as many of the activities from the following lists as possible. Once you have completed 20 challenges you will be awarded with a physical bronze badge. You will receive a silver badge for 30 challenges and a gold badge for 40.

Consequences

Students are encouraged, supported and rewarded for displaying and developing our core values but equally if students make poor choices contrary to the Highdown Way, they will receive advice, guidance and an appropriate sanction to enable them to understand and reflect on their behaviours and choices.

Parents/carers will receive notifications via Class Charts should their child be required to attend a **same day detention of 25 or 50 minutes**.



Incorrect Behaviour = C1	Consequence = Verbal Warning	Staff Action
1st warning for off task behaviour - Unkind language - No/incomplete homework - Uniform infringemen - Forgot Yondr pouch	Student remedial action: - Concentrate on/improve homework - Do not say unkind things - Attend Excellence Club - e.g. Hand over jewellery - Phone handed to mentor	Staff member action and log on Class Charts: - Quietly address student in private - Hand jewellery to office - Student collects phone at the end of the day from reception
Incorrect Behaviour = C2	Consequence = 25 min detention	Staff Action
2nd warning for off task behaviour - Lacking equipment - Misuse of school resources - Lateness (between 5-10 mins) - Poor behaviour at social time - Refusing to hand in jewellery	Student remedial action: - Concentrate on/improve work - Pack school bag the night before - Do not swear - Be punctual/improve timekeeping - Adhere to social time rules - Hand over jewellery	Staff member action and log on Class Charts: See student in detention for restorative meeting
Incorrect Behaviour = C3	Consequence = 50 min detention	Staff Action
3rd warning for off task behaviour (withdrawal) - Vandalism - Verbal abuse towards a peer - Truancy (over 10 mins) - Out of bounds at social time (incl. leaving site) - Bystander to/inciting a negative event - Sharing toilets - Bringing the school into disrepute - Refusing to place phone in Yondr pouch	Student remedial action: - Attend withdrawal lesson and focus on classwork - Respect school/student property - Come to school/attend lessons - Stick to designated social spaces - If you see a negative event move on/report - Only use toilets individually	Staff member action and log on Class Charts: - See student in detention for restorative meeting - Call home explaining why C3 awarded - Adjust seating plan - Bag search when students found sharing a toilet - Phone is confiscated and collected by parent/carers from reception

A Phone-Free School

Highdown is committed to being a phone-free school. This includes all types of phone, (smart and 'brick') wearable technology such as smart watches, (these should not be in school at all) and earphones.

We understand that parents/carers may want their children to have a phone for the journey to and from school. Therefore, we use Yondr pouches. These pouches allow students to lock their phones and earphones away (turned off) so that they cannot be used during the school day. Students put the pouches in their bags and therefore retain possession of their belongings. Smart watches should be left at home. At the end of the school day students unlock their pouches at one of our unlocking stations. They will take their pouch home ready to be used the following day.



If a mobile phone, earphones or smart watches are seen out during the day, the student will be required to hand them over immediately to the member of staff. The device will then be placed in a named envelope, and a parent or carer will be required to collect the device at the end of the day. Failure to hand over the device will be classed as an act of defiance and the student will be taken out of routine and parents contacted.



Where Can Students Go For Support?

If something is troubling your child at school, there are lots of people who can help them.

Your Child's Mentor

Your child's mentor is the first person to go to if your child is having problems. They are the people that know your child best, and this helps them arrange the best support. Your child meets with them every morning, and they will be pleased to see your child at break, lunch or after school if you need them.

Head of Achievement

Your child's Head and Assistant Heads of Achievement make sure that all the students in the year group are doing their very best in lessons. They work with mentors to make sure students have the support they need to achieve their potential.

Safeguarding Team

The Safeguarding Team can help your child if they are being harmed by someone (in or out of school) or are at risk of being harmed. You can email the safeguarding team at safeguarding@highdown-reading.sch.uk or you can use the wellbeing function on Class Charts.

Year 7 Mentors

Mentor Group	Mentor	Email address
7C	Miss Ivey	Alvey1@glfschool.org
7D	Mr Patten	APatten1@glfschools.org
7E	Miss Jiang	HJiang1@glfschools.org
7F	Miss Peller	EPeller1@glfschools.org
7G	Mr Egwuagu	UEgwuagu1@glfschools.org
7H	Mrs Munton	JMunton1@glfschools.org
7J	Miss Piper	LPiper1@glfschools.org
7K	Mrs Huang	WHuang1@glfschools.org
7L	Mrs Talukdar	STalukdar1@glfschools.org

Heads of Achievement for Year 7



Miss Pearce

Head of Achievement



Mrs Lovelock

Assistant Head of Achievement

Safeguarding Team



Mrs Boys

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Dr Capaldi

Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Birru

Lead Behaviour Advocate



Ms Smith

Attendance Officer



Miss Woronkovic

Designated Teacher

Attendance & Absence

At Highdown School, we believe that being in school regularly is key to helping every young person feel confident, supported, and able to achieve their best. Good attendance is closely linked to stronger academic progress, as students benefit from consistent teaching, structured routines, and opportunities to build understanding over time.

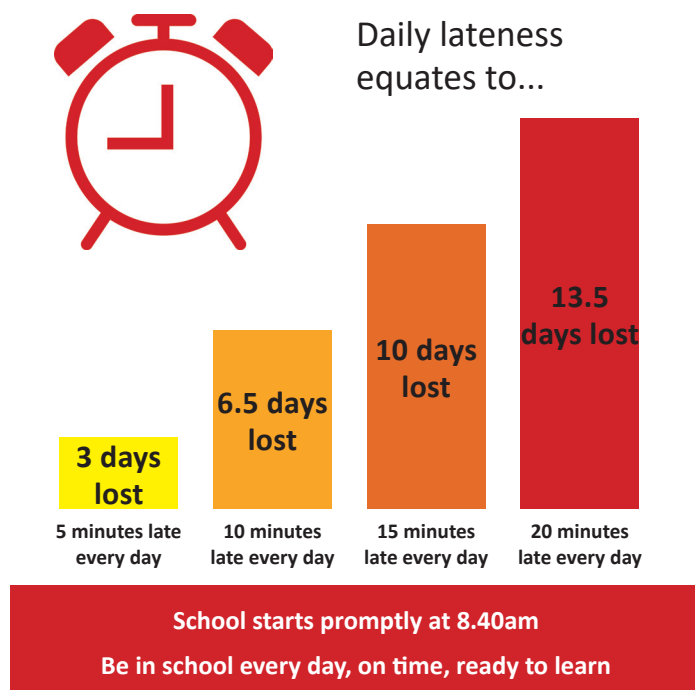
Research consistently shows that students with higher attendance achieve better outcomes, while missing even a small amount of school can impact learning and confidence.

We also recognise that attendance can be more difficult for some students. A student is considered persistently absent if their attendance falls below 90%, meaning they miss the equivalent of one day every two weeks. Students whose attendance drops below 50% are classified as severely absent, which can have a significant and lasting impact on both attainment and wellbeing.

For some students attending school can feel particularly challenging. We are committed to working in partnership with families to understand any barriers and to provide the support needed so every student feels safe, included, and able to succeed.

We ask all students and families to work in partnership with us to ensure regular attendance. Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school every day and arrives on time.

Why does punctuality matter?



Why does attendance matter?



Reporting Absence

If your child is unable to attend school, it is essential that you inform the school on the first day of absence. All absences must be reported via the **Class Charts app**, clearly stating the reason for absence. This helps us to ensure your child is safe and to provide appropriate support where needed.



Promoting Attendance

Promoting positive attendance and recognising personal achievements, improvements, and individual goals are central to strengthening each pupil's sense of belonging within our school community. At Highdown School, we celebrate both consistency and progress, recognising that every pupil's journey is unique. This may include a wide range of opportunities, from small, meaningful rewards—such as praise points, treats from our Gallery—to larger celebrations, including reward trips and off-site experiences.

Alongside whole-school recognition systems, pupils receive personalised praise for their effort and improvement and are encouraged to set and review their own attendance and personal development goals. Through this supportive approach, we aim to build confidence, motivation, and a shared commitment to being present, engaged, and successful.

Medical Appointments

Medical and dental appointments should be arranged outside of school hours. If this is unavoidable, evidence of the appointment (such as a letter, text message, or appointment card) must be provided to support the absence.

Term-Time Absence

In line with government guidance, the school will not authorise leave during term time for family holidays. Taking a child out of school during term time can have a significant impact on their education. Unauthorised absence may result in a fixed penalty notice issued by the Local Authority.

Child Illness

We recognise that children pick up illnesses from time to time and it can sometimes be difficult to decide if they are well enough for school or if they should remain at home. To support this when deciding whether to send a child home or how to advise parents, please see a quick-reference guide below:

Should a child be kept off school?	Yes, until...	No, but inform us of...
	• Vomiting and Diarrhoea bug (return after 48 hours from last episode, but after 24 hrs if an isolated episode e.g travel sickness) • Flu-like temperature (until they no longer have a high temperature) • Impetigo (until sores have crusted over and healed) • Measles (4 days after the rash appeared) • Mumps (5 days after the swelling started) • Scabies (until they've had their first treatment) • Scarlet Fever (24 hours after they start taking antibiotics)	• Cough • Sore throat (keep off school if accompanied by a high temperature) • Earache • Head lice • Glandular fever • Tonsilitis • Conjunctivitis • Cold sores

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Highdown School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment. All academies have a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 (and 2004 amendment) to assist Social Service Departments acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of child abuse. Safeguarding and child protection is everyone's responsibility.

Children cannot learn effectively unless they feel happy, safe and secure. At Highdown School we will ensure that:

- appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare
- all staff are aware of their statutory responsibilities with respect to safeguarding
- staff are properly trained in recognising and reporting safeguarding issues

If you have any safeguarding and/or child protection concerns, you should contact the school's Child Protection Team on dso@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Dr S Capaldi

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads - Mrs R Boys and Miss A Woronkowicz



Supporting Families

We can support families in a range of ways, with the support below made available to families who qualify for Pupil Premium. We understand that circumstances can change for families, and at any time. Please contact our Finance Department or your child's Head of Achievement for further information about how we may be able to help with:

- Subsidised or fully funded school trips
- Uniform vouchers to support the purchase of compulsory items of uniform
- An essential stationery pack, including scientific calculator
- Subsidised or fully funded enrichment activities
- Menstrual hygiene products
- Daily Breakfast Club available to all students in the Gallery from 8:15am
- Free School Meal (if you qualify for free school meals)

School Meals

The Gallery is operated by Aspens Catering service. Aspens staff prepare an excellent variety of food every day, including vegetarian options, cooked using fresh ingredients in our own kitchen.

We discuss menu choices with parents and students and ensure that all meals are tasty and healthy. Students do not need to bring money to school - parents transfer money into their son/daughter's account using 'ParentMail' and all students can make purchases using a biometric fingerprint reader.

Students who bring their own food can eat their packed lunches in the Gallery or at the picnic tables around the school campus.

Further information about Aspens, including sample menus, are available on our school website.



Free School Meals

Some students may be eligible for free school meals. Checking your child is eligible is straightforward and can be done by completing the form on the school website: www.highdown.reading.sch.uk, by contacting the school office on 0118 901 5800 or by emailing: office@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Travelling to/from School

Highdown students are expected to demonstrate our values on the way to and from school, whether walking, cycling or using public transport.

Students cycling to the academy must wear a cycle helmet and obey the highway code at all times. As parents we request you ensure your child's bike is roadworthy and they have the necessary safety equipment, including a good quality lock. All bikes must be locked in our secure cages or cycle rack located outside PE. Scooters or electric scooters are not permitted on site.

Students who are driven to the academy must be dropped off safely, away from marked yellow zig-zags. It is illegal to stop on these, even for a short period. Students with mobility difficulties or visual impairments may be dropped off in the school car park. The roads around the academy are narrow and congested and we urge parents to arrange to pick their son/daughter up away from the immediate vicinity of the academy. Please be courteous when parking near our neighbours' homes.

Communication

Working with the school, parents/carers have a vital role in helping maximise their child's success, achievements and personal development during their time at Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre. We provide regular information through our communication channels, as outlined below.



Class Charts

Online platform for information and homework

- Download the Class Charts Parent app from Apple Store or Google Play Store
- The school will provide new parents/carers with an 'access code' to log in and connect to their child in the first week of September



ParentMail

Our payment platform for meals, trips, event tickets and activities

- You will receive an email from ParentMail IRIS once your child is on roll at Highdown (this sometimes does not arrive on the first day, so we request that your child brings a packed lunch for the first week of school)
- Once the email arrives, please follow the instructions and you will be linked to the system and able to access the payment facility.

Communication Channels

- Parent/Carer's first point of contact should be their child's mentor or Head of Achievement for pastoral care and support matters, or the relevant Curriculum Leader for subject-based queries.
- Key contacts can be found on our school website -<https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/key-contacts>
- Parent/Carers should report their child's absence from school via Class Charts app.
- Parent/Carers can also contact us at office@highdown.reading.sch.uk.
- **Class Charts:** This app provides real-time information about your child's behaviour (recording House Points and notifying you of Consequence Points, and related same-day after-school detentions). Homework is set through Class Charts, enabling families to monitor home learning and completion of this work. Class Charts is also used to report attendance and for parents/carers to notify the school of their child's absence. The school uses the 'Announcements' feature of Class Charts to share information, for example our regular newsletter, information about trips and events, and reminders about home learning.
- **Email:** School email is used to communicate with parents/carers for a variety of reasons, for example by individual class teachers/mentor, information about trips, assessment reports, and letters. It is essential that the school has your current contact details, including email address, and that you inform us of any changes to your contact details as soon as possible.
- **Newsletters:** The school's weekly newsletter is shared through Class Charts, summarising recent events and achievements, as well as informing families of upcoming dates/events of interest.
- **Social Media:** We use a range of social media apps to promote events and celebrate achievements, including Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.
- **School Cloud (Learning Review Evenings):** The school holds Learning Review Evenings each year where you can discuss your child's progress with their class teachers. These are held virtually through the School Cloud platform.

Parents Evenings, Welcome Evenings and Events

The personal development and academic progress of your child is extremely important and throughout the academic year parents are invited and expected to attend parents' evening and other events to review their child's academic progress, achievement and development as a young person. During these events parents are provided with information about their child's engagement, progress and achievement in their academic studies, attendance, general behaviour and contribution to and demonstration of the school values. Many of these events take place virtually to support parents to attend.

Co-curricular Opportunities

Through a wide range of high-quality opportunities, we aim to nurture well-rounded individuals who are prepared to thrive and flourish in a dynamic and interconnected world. Our co-curricular programme complements academic excellence through fostering teamwork, creativity and resilience, and promotes positive contributions to our community.

Pillar	Examples of Activities	
Academic Excellence	• Book Clubs • Literary Festival • Sparx Club • Excellence Club • History Club • Medical Society • Quiz Club	
Creative and Performing Arts	• Art/Photography Clubs • Productions • Theatre Trips • Orchestra/Choirs/Bands • Dance Company • Music Recitals	
Sports and Physical Activity	• Sports Clubs • Team Sports Competitions • Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze, Silver and Gold)	
Leadership and Personal Development	• Student Leaders • Buddies • Rhos y Gwaliau Activity Week • Sixth Form Peer Mentoring • Reptile Club	
Community and Citizenship	• World Challenge • Residential Visits (France, Spain, China, Malaysia) • Primary School Outreach	
Wellbeing and Mindfulness	• Knit and Natter Club • Shuffle Club • Star Centre	
Careers and Future Pathways	• Work Experience • Careers and Apprenticeship Fairs • Aim High Programme (Sixth Form) • Careers Trips and Visits	

Careers

At Highdown we are proud of the strong careers programme that we have established. We are committed to providing an inclusive careers programme which provides all students with the knowledge and employability skills they will need to be successful in the ever-evolving world of work. Students will receive personalised, well-informed advice and guidance which helps support decision making and planning for next steps.

Highdown's career programme includes the following:

- Regular use of Career Pilot application, including skills profile, pathway planners and job quizzes
- Access to careers information and College and University prospectus' in the Hive
- Careers Fair and Apprenticeship Awareness Evening
- Presentations and talks by outside speakers – either from local/national companies, colleges and universities, Highdown alumni
- Workshops delivered by external partners – mock interviews, CV writing, university financial awareness
- Visits to local colleges, universities and workplaces
- Meetings with Careers Adviser (from Year 10)



Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

During KS3, the key focus is to raise awareness of different career paths and the types of employment available, locally, nationally and globally. Students learn how to research up-to-date career information and how to access impartial face-to-face and digital careers information, advice and guidance services.

Year 7s will start exploring Career Pilot. They will also take part in the activity My School is a Workplace - looking at non-teaching jobs within the school.

Industry Links

Highdown has developed successful relationships with a number of providers to support students in a wide variety of activities. These vary from volunteers who provide support at Careers Fairs, offering work shadowing opportunities, getting involved in interview preparation work, and coming in to talk to students about careers in their industries. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with companies such as Signet Recruitment, AWE, Syngenta, Grant Thornton and Johnson Matthey to name a few. We have a great relationship with Activate Learning who ensure our students are supported in accessing courses that are not available as part of Highdown's post 16 provision. As well as working with local colleges we work closely with local universities such as University of Reading and Bucks New Uni, who arrange taster days on their site as well as workshops in school.



Music

In addition to the music curriculum, students can select from a range of instrumental and vocal tuition. Music lessons are either one-to-one or in small groups and are provided by independent peripatetic music teachers. Payment for lessons is made via the academy and rates vary. If you would like your son/daughter to have music tuition, please contact the school. Students in receipt of free school meals are eligible for discounted music lessons. Please get in touch with Mr Santer, hasanter@highdown.reading.sch.uk, for information. There are also opportunities for students to take part in a range of music clubs, for example choir, band from scratch, music technology, as well as the opportunity to take part in concerts and shows throughout the year.



Contact Us

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre
Surley Row, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8LR

Telephone: 0118 901 5800

Website: www.highdown.reading.sch.uk

To report a student absent:
Please use **Class Charts** app

Connect with Us



emmergreen



highdownschool



**Highdown School and
Sixth Form Centre**