

# HIGHDOWN SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Frequently Asked Questions, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021



**I am often asked about my personal background in Education and where I see the school going....**

*I have been Headteacher at Highdown for 8 years. A science teacher by trade, my career has seen me lead science departments, been Head of 6<sup>th</sup> form and be Deputy Head at a large West London comprehensive.*

*Highdown has links with other schools and academy trusts that we regards as strategic partners. Our close relationship with GLF schools is likely to see us transferring into this family of schools with all the school-to-school improvements and development opportunities afforded.*

Other Questions

**What is Highdown's approach to setting?**

*In normal circumstances, subject sets in Maths, English and Science come into effect in years 7 & 8 (for science)/ Most other subjects are taught in mentor groups.*

**What is the catchment area?**

*We are obviously proud that Highdown is popular, but this has made some disappointment when there are not spaces. Last year the distance from Highdown was 1.1 miles. It helps to put Highdown as number one choice.*

**Breaktimes**

*We have staggered breaks for older and younger students. We maintain separate fields for play at breaktimes and this is helpful to space out our students.*

**Isn't Highdown too big?**

*1550 students is larger than average as a secondary school, but by no means the largest. The important thing is having the right ratios of teacher to student. So whatever the size of the school, the mentor groups are around 27/28 students. Because of the correct ratios and community spirit, students describe a 'tight-knit' feel within their own year group.*

**What is Highdown's response to bullying?**

*Any school saying there is no bullying is lying. Highdown staff respond swiftly and effectively to instances of bullying. Students know this and can be confident, therefore, in reporting matters. We foster an ethos of respect and community at Highdown, therefore students act responsibly to support each other.*

**Values**

*Our Values of Aspiration, Respect and Excellence are at the heart of all we do. We ARE Highdown!*

**Provision for SEND students**

*Our SENDCo has already held many appointments with families this term. Please contact the school for more information.*