



w/c 14 September 2020 Week A

Lost Property

Due to current guidelines we have made some changes in how lost property is dealt with in the school office. Any face coverings and water bottles will be disposed of as clinical waste. Any other lost property will be held for 72hrs before a member of staff can sort through the lost property and begin returning it to the students.

ParentMail

We wish to apologise for any problems you may be experiencing with ParentMail. We are working with them to resolve the issues.

Vehicle Access

Due to the current situation, student and staff safety is paramount. We are therefore asking that parents and carers do not come onto the school site unless prior arrangement has been

Uniform

Well done and thank you to all the students who have returned for a fresh start in perfect uniform. Certainly, the majority of our students are getting it right with just a few pushing the boundaries. From Monday 14 September we will be reinstating our C1(uniform) sanction. Please refer to our uniform guidance. In addition, please could I remind parents and students that we do not want to see facial piercings, unnatural hair colours, jeans and non-school hoodies at any time at Highdown. Many thanks for your support on this.

Headteacher's Letter

Please follow link: [Letters Home](#)

HOUSE POINTS:

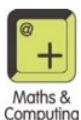
Caversham:	3142
Grove:	2662
Mapledurham:	2774
Rosehill:	3165

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2020/21](#)

14 Sept	Yr 12 Welcome to 6th Form (virtual)
16 Sept	Yr 9 Excellence Eve (virtual)
18 Sept	School Photographer Yr 7/Yr 9/ Yr 11 only



Careers Corner

We were sad to say farewell to Lyn Kenward who had supported Careers Advice and Guidance for many years. Our new advisers are Katharine Gallagher and Rebecca Dean - further information about their roles in next week's newsletter.

We want to encourage our students to undertake as much high quality live and virtual work experience as possible and will advertise opportunities in Careers Corner and on Class Charts each week. This week we want you to be aware of some upcoming opportunities for Year 12.

Applications for Cisco Pathway to Your Future virtual work experience 26-30 October 2020, for young people in Year 12, are now open. Apply here: <http://www.s4snextgen.org/Opportunities/View/id/790>. For further details speak to Mr Stephenson, Ms Stevens or Dr Capaldi.

Also for Year 12, on Thursday 17 September, Mr Loveday will be dialling into a national Zoom call with the Engineering Development Trust (EDT) to discuss how their exciting extracurricular courses will be run this year.

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy

Below are some word squares.

The same words are vertical and horizontal.

m	a	t
a	p	e
t	e	n

M	I	N	D
I	D	E	A
N	E	A	T
D	A	T	A

Use the words: POTS, TACO, SLOT and one more word (that has a "V" in it) to make a word square.

Bonus challenge: Make a word square of your own.

Numeracy

4 people are at a party, everyone shakes hands with each other once. How many handshakes were there?

Bonus challenge: In another party there were 104 handshakes. How many people were there?

Is there a quick way to work out the number of handshakes for any number of people?

Answers

Literacy: P O T S
 O V A L
 T A C O
 S L O T

Numeracy:

- 6 handshakes
- 14 people
- Multiply the number of people by the number that is one smaller, then half your answer



Annual General Meeting—Monday 28 September at 7.30pm

The PTA plays a vital part in the school community and all parents/guardians and staff, as members of the PTA, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the pupils at our school.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTA Committee to represent the Association throughout the forthcoming academic year. Nominations should be sent in advance of the AGM for existing committee members willing to stand for re-election and for anyone wishing to stand as a Committee Member for the first time.

Please email any nominations or queries to highdown_pta@outlook.com by Friday 25 September 2020.

Please note we will confirm nearer the time if the AGM will be held at school or on an online platform, based on the COVID-19 advice at that time.

Library Resource

Free Trial - Complete Issues

The Learning Resource Centre is looking into whether to acquire Complete Issues which is an online resource providing relevant articles and statistics for your research in a quick and easy way. You can either use the handy topics in the main menu (see picture) to explore these more widely, or search for a specific topic you want to know more about. Information from this site will serve as an excellent reference for your studies and assignments (just make sure to check and evaluate the date of your chosen information!) or as further reading.

So please try the trial this September, using the login information below. Full details of Complete Issues can be found at https://carelpres.uk/complete_issues.

Login at <https://www.completeissues.co.uk/login>

Username – **Highdown**

Password – **trial**

The trial will expire on 4th October 2020. If we decide to subscribe to this service information about a new login will be sent out.

Unfortunately, Complete Issues does not come with a user statistics service, so if you would like to help out your school librarian by sharing your opinion or review after you've trialled it, feel free to email her on renilsson@highdown.reading.sch.uk.

Year 7

MidYIS Tests

Year 7 will be taking their MidYIS tests during one of their ICT lessons. Details below show when they will occur:

Friday 18 September

7F Period 4 in CR3
7G Period 4 in CR1
7H Period 4 in CR2

Wednesday 23 September

7C Period 1 in CR1
7D Period 1 in CR3
7E Period 1 in CR6

Friday 25 September

7J Period 5 in CR3
7K Period 5 in CR6
7L Period 5 in CR2

Year 8

**It's Okay,
Buddy**

Miss Probert would like to say a huge WELL DONE to Year 8 for their excellent transition back into school this week. I know that this week many of us were faced with a range of emotions but together we rose to the challenge and together we can continue to achieve excellence.

Miss Probert would like to say a special thank you to the Year 8 Buddies that have also been lending a hand to our new Year 7 students. – You have been doing a fantastic job in demonstrating the Highdown values!! I am so looking forward to what this year holds for us as a year group. Keep up the great work!

Year 9

Mentor Stars of the Week

Well done and congratulations to the students listed below. Students will receive a P3 achievement point.

9C Mya Namaseevayum
9D Elijah Davids
9E Callum Gilbert
9F Sean Gallantry
9G Kayo Dos Santos
9H Natalie Benham
9J Olivia Hussey

Year 10

It has been lovely to welcome students back into year 10 and what a great start they have made. I have had nothing but positive feedback from teachers about students working hard in lessons and being attentive to the learning. Well done yr. 10. You have gone from being sublime to stupendous.

As you know we have the highest expectations of students where everyone no matter their starting point is expected to work as hard as they can and behave as well as they can without qualification. In year 10 we are all of us together on the Highdown Learning and Development Journey. We are on the path to GCSE success.

Mentors have been talking to their students about how following the Highdown Way will ensure success. They have also been talking to students about our year 10 expectations and a day in the life of a year 10 student – see below. Please read together at home and support your children to follow the advice and together we can help them to be successful in their studies.



Complete all classwork to the best of your ability



If you are struggling, go and see your teacher sooner rather than later



Complete all homework to the best of your ability



Ongoing revision/self quizzing



Good attendance



Organisation



Checking Class Charts regularly

Sixth Form

Russell Group Virtual Experience

Please follow the link below to register your interest in a virtual university experience which is taking place on 7 October. <https://russellgroup.vfairs.com/en>

Absence Reporting

Please report all absences on a daily basis **before 9.05 am**
By telephone: 0118 901 5823 or by ParentMail