



The weekly newsletter of

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 3 May 2021 Week B

Latest News

Please download our mobile website app to ensure you receive all the latest news. Click this [link](#) for further information.



Recording Lateral Flow Test Results

We have made it easier for to record your child's lateral flow test results with school. This can now be done on Class Charts (parents only).

From the dashboard select the student you wish to record a test for and then on the top banner scroll across to COVID test. Please can you record all future results via Class Charts.

Face Masks

Please could you ensure that your child brings their face covering and a spare into school. It is important that we stick to the current guidelines and make sure everybody is safe. Visitors to school should also wear a mask inside.

Problems with Class Charts

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact office@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Absence Reporting

Please notify us if your son/daughter is unable to attend either online or onsite lessons due to illness or other reason. Please report all absences, preferably via [ParentMail](#) or by telephoning the absence line.

Performing Arts Clubs

Please follow this [link to the school website](#) to find out Performing Arts Clubs.

SEND

Please follow this [link to the school website](#) to find out Reading Families Forum's coffee morning.

Careers

All students in Years 7-13 are setting up accounts on Careerpivot to support their careers learning. Find out how you can support your child [here](#).

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	108517
Grove	105465
Mapledurham	106091
Rosehill	114611

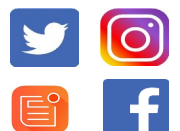
CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2020/21](#)

3 May Bank Holiday

Follow Us



Upgrade Your Vocabulary

This week students have continued to *upgrade their vocabulary* during mentor time by focusing on a range of tier 2 words. Tier 2 words are words which are more complex/sophisticated than every day words and are often written rather than spoken. They occur in different subjects and are essential to reading comprehension.



Year 7 and 8 students:

After their individual reading during Mentor Period, students share and discuss tier 2 words they have read but do not know or understand and/or choose their favourite Tier 2 words. Some of the words from this week include: **befuddled, austere, enlightened, harmoniously, integrity, winced, tax and immaculate.**

Year 9 students:

Each week students are learning 5 new tier 2 words and their meanings (and will have a quick quiz on these the following week). This week's words include are from Latin verb 'frangere' which means 'to break, fracture or shatter': **fractious, fragility, frangible, infraction and fragment.**

Why not ask your son or daughter about the words above – what do they mean? What other words are they linked to? Can they use these words in a sentence?

Year 10 students:

Students are exploring a new idiom each week to develop their understanding of common expressions used within the spoken English language. This week, students have been learning about the idiom '**Feel under the weather**'. Why not ask your son/daughter what this expression means, where it originates from, and the context it might be used in?

The Big Ask Survey

The Big Ask is a national survey being run by the Children's Commissioner for England. It is for children and young people aged 4–17 in England. It is the largest ever survey of children and young people in England and will be used to show the government what children think, and what children need to live happier lives.



This is an opportunity for students to have their say on the things that matter to them. Students can share what their life is like, what they want in the future, and anything that is holding them back.

The survey, which takes 5 to 10 minutes to complete, will not ask for your name, phone number or email, and all responses will be safe and private – they won't be shared with anyone else. There is also the opportunity to miss any questions you don't want to answer.

The link to the survey can be found [here](#) and I would strongly encourage everyone to complete it, to be able to have your say.

There is also a questionnaire for parents/careers to complete via the same link.

Miss Clark, PSHCE Coordinator

Collection of Textiles Work

This message is for the attention of students who studied **Textiles** at GCSE/A level from **2018 to 2020**. Miss Probert has organised your work to be collected. Please collect your work from the Main School Foyer between **Friday 14 May and Friday 21 May, during school hours only. Please note NO WEEKENDS.** You **MUST** bring heavy duty bags to collect your work as we will not be able to supply anything for you to carry it home. Any work that has not been **collected by Friday 21 May** will unfortunately have to be put into refuge as we simply do not have the space to keep hold of it. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea the D&T technician on: anshelbourne@highdown.reading.sch.uk

School Uniform

Our school uniform supplier, SWI, is suffering from delays due to global shortages and the closure of the Suez Canal. See [school website](#) for more information.

Year 7

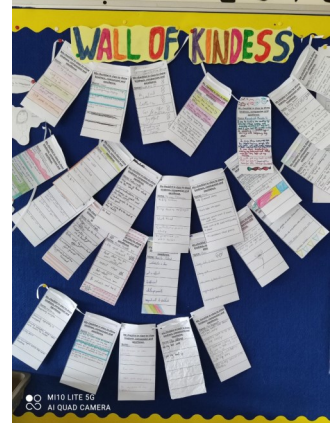
Art Competition

This is Roshni T 7H's entry for the environmental art competition for Art for Research Reading.



Year 8

8J have been doing some work on what it means to be kind and have created this beautiful display showcasing their work. They have all made commitments regarding things they can do every day to show kindness.



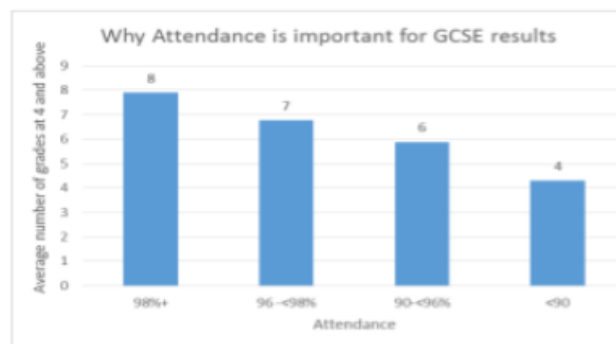
Year 10

Absence matters and you can help

Attendance is a serious matter and we aim for 100% attendance. Anything less than 96% attendance is worrying as it impacts negatively on progress. The less students attend school the more difficult it becomes to make progress. Students who attend school on a regular basis and are offered access to high-quality teaching and learning opportunities will usually leave school with qualifications and access to greater employment opportunities. The links between attendance and achievement are strong, and high levels of attendance at school should be a right of each student.

The graph demonstrates the link between attendance rates and the number of grade 4s and above gained at GCSE level. Missing school means a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances.

Parents and carers can have a big effect on attendance and we appreciate your support.



“The biggest determinant of our success is the effort we are willing to commit to it”

This week we will be sending five achievement notifications home to our Year 10 students who have received 25 or more praise points in a week. Please talk to your children about their success and celebrate it with them too.

Well Done

Well done to Evie Fearn 10F for gaining the most amount of praise points in a week (43). Well done 10E for being awarded the most praise points in a week in our year group (480).

Year 11

We have seen yet another successful week of APTs completed by the year 11s, both in school and virtually. Well done to everyone for showing such resilience and continuing to show your teachers how amazing you all are.

Next week's APT timetable is below for reference, but don't forget to double check with your teachers in case of any last-minute changes.

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
Tuesday 4th May		Option B Geography Business Studies	Design & Technology, Food Studies, Drama		X Band Ethics
Wednesday 5th May		X Band Chemistry	Y Band Chemistry	Option A History, Spanish,	Y Band Ethics
Thursday 6th May	Option B History, Spanish, Music, Music Technology			Option C Geography, History Music	
Friday 7th May	X Band Language Paper 1, Question 4	Band Y Maths	Y Band Language Paper 1, Question 4 Band X Maths	X & Y Band Physics	

Stars of the Week

Year 7

7C Sean Curtayne
7D Ella Matthews
7E Aubin Smith
7F Therene Kejang
7G Erin Powell
7H Aoibh Denney
7J Jaden Rock
7K Freya Carte
7L Grace Ranson

Year 8

8C James Koroma
8D Devante Nembhard
8E Isabel McHugh
8F Ava Wood
8G Faye Fergus
8H Carolina Negrao
8J Luke Gough
8K Erin Roberts
8L Thomas Turner
8M

Year 9

9C Mya Namaseevayum
9D Ny-Anneka Lovelock
9E Beth Smith
9F Eva Waters
9G Kimberley Tappern
9H Shaleen Saghira
9J Arthur King
9K Millie Edwards
9L Renee Robinson

Year 10

10C Will Drury
10D Jodie Lowe
10E Charlee Potter
10F Alfie Clarke
10G Sam England
10H Freya Wright
10J Joey Hinks
10K Finlay Buck
10L Elman Li

Year 11

11C
11D Megan Mather
11E Linh Le
11F Ellie Long
11G Lidia Janik
11H Jacob Ellis
11J Kehara Weerakkody
11K Simone Carta

HOA Stars of the Week

7H Aoibh Denney
7J Jaden Rock