



The weekly newsletter of

# Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 24 May 2021 Week A

## 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

As of the 17th May, students will not be required to wear a face covering in school. If you're child does not feel comfortable with these changes, it is absolutely fine to carry on using a mask. Keep in mind that if your student comes to school using public transport, they will still need to bring their mask with them.

## Problems with Class Charts

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

## SEND

Please follow this [link to the school website](#) to find out about any SEND information.

Follow us



## School Website Survey

We are currently reviewing our school website and would welcome your views. Please [click here](#) to complete our short survey. We would really appreciate your feedback as it will help us determine the best possible service for you. Please complete by the 28th May.

## HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	118661
Grove	114563
Mapledurham	115741
Rosehill	124536

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2020/21](#)



## Careers Corner

### Virtual Work Experience opportunity with Sky

Come behind the scenes at Sky and see what it's like to work at Europe's biggest entertainment brand. An opportunity to be fast tracked to an in person event at Sky offices when the time is right and safe to do so. If you are interested please [click here](#) to sign up. There are limited spaces so get your name down as soon as you can.

### Studying Engineering at University Insight Webinar

This webinar is taking place on Thursday 27th May, 5pm - 6pm. Meet the NMITE team and ask them questions. Hear more about the financial support available to every student who joins the September 2021 Pioneer Cohort (£4,000 cash bursary for all students, regardless of income). [Click here](#) to sign up to the webinar.

### University & Apprenticeship Virtual Fair

The UK University & Apprenticeship Search virtual fair is taking place on Wednesday 26th May. Students, parents and teachers can register. To sign up for the event or to find out more please [click here](#).

### Virtual University Information evening

As part of our ongoing programme to educate and inspire the next generation of university students, we will be hosting our Virtual University Information Evening on Thursday 27 May between 5pm-6pm aimed at KS4 / KS5 students and their parents. To register, please [click here](#).

## Literacy & Numeracy

### Literacy:

#### Word of the week:

**Telepathy:** The apparent mental communication of thoughts and ideas. E.g. "Reading someone's mind".

Telepathy is an interesting word. "Pathy" is also in the word "Sympathy" and means "feel"

Can you think of other words that contain the word root "Tele"?

Suggestions: Television, Telescope, Telekinesis, Teletext, Telegram, Telephone.

What do these words all have in common? Can you work out what "Tele" usually means?

It comes from Greek and means "far away".

#### Puzzle:

A palindrome is a word or sentence that is the same forwards and backwards.

For example: NOON, or MADAM, or "Do geese see God?"

What is the missing word in these palindromes?

1. A man, a ????, a canal, Panama
2. Some ??? interpret nine memos
3. Too ??? I hid a boot
4. Go deliver a dare ???? dog.

Bonus: Can you invent a nonsense palindrome sentence of your own?

### Numeracy:

Dividing by 2 is nice, the answer is always either a whole number, or it ends in ".5".

Dividing by 5 is also nice, the answer always is either whole, or ends in ".2" or ".4" or ".6" or ".8".

Dividing by 7 seems ugly, the decimals go on and on forever. Try these on a calculator, write down the answers, see if you notice any patterns:

- 42 divided by 7
- 43 divided by 7
- 44 divided by 7
- 45 divided by 7
- 46 divided by 7
- 47 divided by 7
- 48 divided by 7
- 49 divided by 7

Do you notice any patterns?

Try again with a different start number instead of 42.

**\*Answers are at the bottom of page 4\***

## All Years

### Safety awareness campaign to keep children out of danger

With warmer, sunnier days on the horizon, [the NHS has issued a reminder](#) to all families to keep children safe near water and in the home. The East Berkshire CCG produced [a short video clip](#) which can be shared widely to help spread the message. It was produced following increasing concerns about the use of mobile phones and how this can easily distract parents/carers from supervising babies and children.

### Settled Status

Settled is an independent charity providing free and trustworthy information, advice and support in different languages to EU citizens in the UK. 'Settled Status' Charity has contacted the academy to offer help and advice to EU parents. Although parents may have applied as a family for settled status or pre-settled status each child must be registered separately. If you need any further help or advice before the deadline of 30th June, please follow this link: <https://settled.org.uk/en/>

### 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

Dear Year 7,

Well done for all your hard work this half term. With one week to go I wanted to remind you of some changes that will take place when we return. For the first time this year you will finish school at 3.05 which means you will be going home at the normal time. This will allow you to have the full hour of period 5 instead of the cut down version you have been having all year.

Another change will be that most lessons will now be taught in their department classrooms. This means you will spend much less time being taught in your mentor rooms. I think the change of scenery will do you all the world of good. Please look out for your new timetables which will show you the location of your new classrooms.

Finally, several subjects will start to set you in the weeks following half term. This will mean that you will spend more time being taught outside of your mentor group. This is a fantastic way to meet new people and experience new styles of teaching.

Have lovely half terms.

Mr Lester

## Year 8



Year 8 this week have changed rotation in D&T. A huge well done to 8C who were challenged to produce practical outcomes inspired by Jon Burgerman.

## Year 9

Year 9 have conducted themselves incredibly well during mentor period this term. The themes they have been learning have been challenging but students have been engaged, respectful and curious as they study this part of the curriculum.

Looking ahead into term 6, we will start to ensure students are GCSE ready. We will look at learning how to learn, being able to work with others, focusing on key skills and much more.

Please can I remind everyone about our uniform policy and ensuring that students are dressed in the correct attire. We want students to feel part of the Highdown Community and to wear their uniform with pride.

Mr Burnell

## Year 10

**Motivation**

You may not always feel like studying, but thinking about how it will help with your goals can motivate you.

**Knowing Why You're Working Hard Can Motivate You**

- 1) Think about **why** you want to be successful in your GCSEs. It may be:
  - to prepare yourself for what you're doing **next year** e.g. going to **sixth form** or **college**
  - to help you one day get your **dream job**
  - to **prove to yourself** and others **that** you can do it
- 2) Be **positive** about what you can achieve in the time you have.
- 3) Focus on **your goals** and **don't compare** yourself to other people. This can help keep you **positive** in a tough year.

**Five Top Tips For Staying Motivated**

1. Set **small targets** with rewards (see p.8).
2. Remind yourself of your **long-term goals**.
3. Plan a **big treat** for after your assessments.
4. Use a **topic planner** so you can see the progress you've made.
5. If you're **dreading** a particular topic, start with some **easier topics first**.

**Don't Waste Valuable Time**

- 1) With all that's going on in the world, you might feel **overwhelmed** — but it's important to not **put off** things that need doing and to **make the most** of your working time.
- 2) Here are **some things** you can do to **help**:
  - **Turn off** your **phone**, **Netflix** and other distractions.
  - Give yourself **regular breaks** — it'll help you keep **focused** when you're working.
  - Break up your work into **small chunks** so it's not one endless slog.
  - **Start** with something **small** — this will ease you into focusing on your work.

**You can't say "I can't" without saying "I can"...**

If you ever find yourself completely unmotivated, try doing something short and active that can clear your mind. I'm a big fan of kitchen dance parties, running around the block in 80s sportswear and mastering the worm.

The chick takes the biscuit...

### Be GCSE ready - Give yourself the best possible chance of success:

You may not always feel like studying but thinking about how it will help with your goals can motivate you.

Read this advice together to support GCSE success.

### The biggest determinant of our success is the effort we are willing to commit to it"

This week we will be sending 10 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 Edward Kelsall for gaining the most amount of praise points in a week (38). Well done 10E for being awarded the most praise points in a week in our year group (406).

### Answers for the Literacy & Numeracy

#### Answer:

- 1) plan
- 2) men
- 3) bad
- 4) vile

#### Answer:

The pattern is that the decimal digits will always be "142857" repeating, but the digits start at a different place each time.



## Year 11

As we enter the final week of APTs I wanted to say a massive well done to the year 11s for the way they have, and continue, to conduct themselves during their APTs. The final week's timetable is below. As always, please do check with your teachers in case of any changes.

<b>Monday</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> May			<b>Option A</b> Computing, i-media		<b>Option c</b> History
<b>Tuesday</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> May		<b>Y Band</b> Ethics	Design & Technology, Food Studies		
<b>Wednesday</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Option A</b> Spanish, French, Chinese	<b>X Band</b> Set 1 Chemistry	<b>Option B</b> Business Studies, Music	<b>Y Band</b> Set 1 Chemistry	<b>X Band</b> Ethics
<b>Thursday</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>X &amp; Y Band</b> Set 2-4 Science Skills	<b>Option C</b> Business Studies, Music Technology, PE	<b>Option B</b> Spanish	<b>X Band</b> Maths	<b>Y Band</b> Maths
<b>Friday</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>X &amp; Y Band</b> Set 1 Biology				

## Year 12

Please click the link to the [school website](#) to find your PPE timetables for the Summer 2021 exams. Individual timetables will be issued on Monday and students should check these for their venue, seat numbers and clash resolutions.

## Stars of the Week

### Year 7

7C Tom Barrs  
7D Marley Parsell  
7E Dylan Wilson  
7F Isla Piercy  
7G Olivia Mann  
7H Freyja Baldursdottir  
7J Ethan Bishop  
7K Isabel Butcher  
7L Milo Nanayakkara

### Year 8

8C Yan Ho Chu  
8D Christie Cheng  
8E Isla Reynolds  
8F Ollie England  
8G Jake NG  
8H Paulina Miskofova  
8J Finley Crabb  
8K Valentina Robinson  
8L Ruby Drew  
8M Renae Ifill

### Year 9

9C Ritaj Idris  
9D Matthew Rex  
9E Miriam White/Thomas Lotery  
9F Theo Allen  
9G Max Prins-Mills  
9H Bella Uygur  
9J August Buchan  
9K Maciek Wiercinski  
9L Miles Escott

### Year 10

10C Ximena Baena Moreno  
10D Maisey Dawes  
10E Esme Vulger  
10F Jacob Locke  
10G Amelie Whittle  
10H Eva Missanga, Mariama Dibba  
10J Panos Kotsiopoulos  
10K Charley Ledger  
10L Nathan Man

### Year 11

11C Trinity Conradie  
11D Nicole Wright  
11E Frankie De Joux  
11F Ella Boswell  
11G Scarlett Taplin  
11H Zaara Bajwa  
11J Kostas Vasilakos  
11K Karima Siddiqui