



The weekly newsletter of

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 20 September 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 you 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.

Problems with Class Charts

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact hama@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.

Recruitment

We currently have some support staff positions available. Please [follow this link](#) to the school website to find out more information.

Transport to School

Students are permitted to cycle to school when they wear a helmet. Bicycles may be locked into the racks provided. Bicycles are the only device of transport a student may use to travel to school. Scooters, either electric or self-propelled are not permitted on site for any year group.

For Health and Safety reasons, please do not drive onto the school premises to collect or drop off your son/daughter at the start and end of the day.

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	6437
Grove	5670
Mapledurham	5664
Rosehill	7440

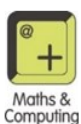
CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Term dates can be found here:

[2021/22](#)

20 Sept	Yr 10 Course information Eve (Virtual)
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Follow us



Careers—Careerpivot

All students at Highdown have access to CareerPilot and will be using it as the main platform for their Careers Development Program. Years 7 and 12 will be creating their accounts this month and all other students should already have accounts. As part of the package, there is a special Parent Zone with up-to-date advice on all aspects of pathway options and careers advice including [apprenticeships](#), [college](#) and [higher education](#). Please explore with your son/daughter at: [Careerpivot](#)

Follow this [link](#) to watch the Careerpivot video which explains what your son/daughter can be doing to manage their career.

Student Zone

The website also includes tools to help you know more about yourself, explore your options and plan your next steps.

- A [job sector quiz](#) to help you decide what is important to you
- A [start with subject](#) tool that will show you where a subject you love could lead
- A [skills profile](#) so you know your skills ready for applications
- Information on lots of [job sectors](#) with 100s of job profiles, showing salary, what's involved, will this job grow etc
- A tool where you can search for [courses and apprenticeships](#)
- Career Tools (you have to register to use this) where you can save your choices, skills and plans as well as create a great report which will move up with you every year.

Parent Zone

The Careerpivot Parent Zone can help you as a parent/carer get answers to the career questions you may want to ask about:

- Choices at age 14, 16 and 18
- Further Education College
- Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Higher Education (including HE provided at local colleges)
- Job sectors and growth
- Funding and support

Access the Parent Zone from the Careerpivot home page or clicking this [link](#).

In 2021-22 we are also excited to be using the Careerpivot Pathway Planner which will help Y11 and Y12 students understand all their options and see how ready they are for their next pathway choice by using a triage tool. The Pathway Planner will help the school target career support to meet the needs of your child.

PTA AGM


The PTA AGM is being held at 7.30pm on Monday 27 September in the school hall for anyone who is interested in joining us or hearing about how the funds you have helped raise have been used to the benefit of the pupils at our school. The PTA plays a vital part in the school community and parents/guardians and staff, as members of the PTA, are invited to support the AGM.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTA committee to represent the Association throughout the current 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 September 2021.



Performing Arts



Performing Arts clubs

Term 1 (Sept-Oct 2021)



<h3>DRAMA</h3> <p>Year 7 / 8 Drama Club Tuesday lunchtime DR2 - 12.30-1pm Miss Bauman</p> <p>Year 10 Director Club Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm DR2 Mrs Lake</p> <p>Year 9 Improvisation Club Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm DR2 Mrs Lake</p> <p>Connections Production TBC Mrs Lake / Mrs Hawkins</p>	<h3>MUSIC</h3> <p>Mon Junior Choir 12.25-1.05 Mu1 (SA)</p> <p>Mon Barbershop 1.25-2.05 Mu3 (HS)</p> <p>Wed 12.25-1.05 Flute Ensemble Mu1 (GB)</p> <p>Wed Funk & Soul 1.25-2.05 Mu3 (HS)</p> <p>Wed 3.05-4.05 Orchestra Mu1 (KR)</p> <p>Wed 3.05-5.05 A level Music Tech Coursework Sessions Mu3 (HS&OP)</p> <p>Thurs 1.25-2.05 Senior Choir Mu1(KR)</p> <p>Th 3.05-4.05 A level Music Tech Coursework Sessions Mu3 (HS&OP)</p>	<h3>DANCE</h3> <p>Junior Dance Company (Yr7, 8 & 9) Tuesdays 3.15-4.15pm DR1 Mrs Hawkins</p> <p>Senior Dance Company (Yr10, 11, 12) Thursdays 3.15-4.15pm DR1 Mrs Hawkins</p>  
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Language Week

To celebrate European Day of Languages on 26 September, students will be celebrating Languages Week from Monday 20 at Highdown.

Students will have the opportunity to complete activities during mentor time, to try food from different countries in the canteen all week and to take part in a competition, with prizes up for grabs!

Key Stage 3 students are also invited to try some exciting one-off clubs during lunchtime next week:

- Tuesday lunchtime - traditional Chinese dancing with Mrs Huang in L3
- Wednesday lunchtime - Chinese lantern making with Ms Marshall in L4
- Thursday lunchtime - Spanish flamenco with Miss Dominguez in L1
- Friday lunchtime - beginner sign language with Miss Hurst in L5

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy

I do love the holidays... who am I?

**You will know that I am coming
From the jingle of my bell,
But exactly who I am is not an easy thing to tell.**

**Children, they adore me
for they find me jolly,
but I do not see them when the halls are decked with
holly.**

**My job often leaves me frozen,
I am a man that all should know,
But I do not do business in times of sleet or ice or snow.**

**I travel much on business,
But no reindeer haul me around,
I do all my traveling firmly on the ground.**

**I love the time of Christmas,
But that's not my vocational season,
And I assure that is because of a sound economic reason.**

Numeracy

Can you solve this problem?

How many people is "two pairs of twins twice?"

Year 7

Year 7 have settled in really well to life at Highdown and there have been many positive comments from Highdown staff, which is great. I have been really pleased to see the number of P points that have been awarded so far and the buzz that is in the year 7 lessons, which is also lovely to see. Whilst it can be challenging to settle into secondary school they have done brilliantly already, demonstrating great resilience. I have been really impressed with their commitment to excellence. I would also strongly recommend that all parents sign up for Class Charts, if not done so already, so that you are able to praise your child for their fantastic start.

Just as a reminder if you have any questions or concerns to contact your child's mentor as the first point of contact, you should have all received a letter from your child's mentor already welcoming them to Highdown.

Year 8

Well done on an excellent start to term. I have been really impressed with the effort and dedication I have seen in your lessons. Please accept my apologies for the delay in getting the Year 8 Excellence Evening video out to you last week. Just in case you haven't seen it is still available to watch here: <https://www.loom.com/share/587d74d8598c480883cc78d214184960>.

I would also be grateful if you could fill in a short evaluation after watching the video which can be found here: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ayU9EVqymUaKdjDv2tH8N-82Oq4zwndlgaZLDQ_uIA5URFA1SjhEWDY0VzcxT0YyQktLMk1LVEE5OS4u

I look forward to celebrating success with you this year.

Year 10

Year 10 students have been working hard in Maths this week on 'number lines and combined inequalities'

Year 11

On Monday our assembly theme was **“The Best That You Can Be: Choose to succeed”** - Before the weekend I had planned the assembly and decided on what I was going to say. And then Saturday evening came and something quite extraordinary happened in the 2021 US Open women’s Final. Eighteen-year-old Emma Raducanu became the first British woman to win a Grand Slam singles final since 1977 following a stunning victory in New York. Astonishing, ridiculous, meteoric, unbelievable. Take your pick – but no word can ever really sum up what Raducanu achieved. Two weeks before the final she had a flight booked back to the UK, just in case she did not get through the qualifying rounds. Seventeen days later she lifted the trophy in front of a rapturous crowd. No one could have seen this coming, not the ease with which Raducanu would brush her opponents aside, or the calmness with which she would approach every match. Just three months before the stunning victory Raducanu withdrew from her fourth-round Wimbledon clash after suffering breathing difficulties and dizziness. She said of this – “I think Wimbledon was an extremely positive experience. I learnt so much just about my game, and what it takes to perform at the top. It’s definitely shown me how much work I need to do physically.” She went on....“I think it’s a great learning experience for me going forwards and hopefully next time I will be better prepared.”...and then Saturday night came.

There are so many themes to pick from Raducanu’s Grand Slam win – the importance of building resilience, learning from your mistakes, dreaming big, staying focused, staying calm whilst under extreme pressure and mental strength. But for all the follow your dreams, work hard and you can achieve anything, never let anyone say you can’t, one of the most important take home messages of Emma Raducanu’s story that I wanted to impress on my year group is that Raducanu had a plan B.

Despite quickly rising through the youth competitions and disappearing off for tournaments, her head teacher explained she never slacked off with her studies. Sometimes Emma did early morning tennis sessions and would be in school for 8.45am, then she would be back in the courts as soon as school had finished. That made it very easy for her to keep up to speed with both her tennis and her schoolwork. Not only was she demonstrating **the best that she can be** and **choosing to succeed** in her tennis, but she applied this learning mindset to her school studies too. Emma Raducanu understood the importance of having a plan B. If the tennis did not work out for her then she a fallback position – A good crop of GCSE and post sixteen qualifications. She gave herself options and widened her choices. Be like Emma – **be the best that you can be: chose to succeed**

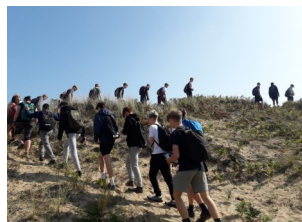
“The biggest determinant of our success is the effort we are willing to commit to it”

Well done to Evie Fearn for gaining the most amount of praise points in a week (25).

Well done 11F for being awarded the most praise points in a week in our year group (331).

Sixth Form

Year 13 have been to Pembrokeshire collecting the data for their Geography coursework. They have also managed to enjoy the glorious Welsh sunshine.



Sixth Form

Year 12 - Autumn sittings for GCSEs - <https://forms.office.com/r/Dw2e5es4WM>

Any students in Year 12 wishing to try and improve grades obtained in Summer 2021 may register

The deadline date for this is 30th September

Year 13 - University Admission Test registration form - <https://forms.office.com/r/DSPijxLZj>

The deadline date for this is 28th September

Literacy & Numeracy Answers

Numeracy

8. If you thought the answer was 16, you are not alone. But a twin is only one person, a pair of twins is just two. Two pairs of twins equal four. Twice that is eight.

Literacy

Stars of the Week

Year 7

7C Farida Youssef
7D Brooke Elton
7E Nathan Salisbury
7F Betty Nowicki-Wallace
7G Tanaya Coultress
7H Lottie Borgeaud
7J Evie Grayston
7K Lily Gander
7L Mariella Williams

Year 8

8C Isaac Ford
8D Luke Donnelly
8E Belle Lundberg
8F
8G Tom Smith
8H Arran Morris
8J Lucas Jones
8K Jensen Ellmer
8L Lucas Wavell

Year 8 HOA Starts of the Week

8G Tom Smith
8H Arran Morris

Year 10

10C Sophie Psarra
10D Maisie Smith
10E Callum Gilbert
10F Sean Gallantry
10G Alex Collie
10H Benedek Nagy
10J Ione Forsyth-Hayden
10K Luan Fouche
10L Jack Gutsell

Year 11

11C Aisha Saidykhan
11D Jodie Lowe
11E Evie Mendham
11F Nathan Sonnenfeld
11G Elina Samoylenko
11H Thomas Foster
11J Panos Kotsiopoulos
11K Louisa Hayes
11L Abigail Brown

HAPPY WEEKEND