



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

13th September 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Saturday 14 th September	World First Aid Day
Monday 16 th September	Timetable week A Year 6 Open Week for parents of pupils who are applying for secondary school places for the next academic year who would like a guided tour of our school. Please contact Reception to book an appointment.
Wednesday 18 th September	Year 11 Mindset Workshop
Thursday 19 th September	Year 10 Mindset Workshop
Friday 20 th September	Year 11 Achieve Conference
Monday 23 rd September	Timetable week B Full Governing Body Meeting 5:30pm to 8:00pm
Tuesday 24 th September	Year 11 Post 16 Curriculum Evening 5:30pm to 6:30pm
Wednesday 25 th September	Year 8 and Year 9 Supporting Your Daughter with her Learning Evening 5:00 to 6:30pm
Thursday 26 th September	European Day of Modern Languages
Monday 30 th September	Timetable week A
Tuesday 1 st October	The Big Draw (all October) Black History Month (all October)
Saturday 5 th October	World Teacher's Day

Notices

Thought for the Week – *“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”* Franklin D. Roosevelt (d.1945)

Sunday 15th September is International Day of Democracy, established by the United Nations. This year it is an opportunity to reflect that democracy is about people. The UN explain that “Democracy is built on inclusion, equal treatment and participation”.

In school this week pupils have been considering what is democracy, the UK democracy system and different forms of government around the world. Please encourage further discussion on this theme.

PE Lessons – Parents are reminded that pupils are expected to wear our school PE kit for PE lessons. If your daughter does not have school PE kit, this should be purchased from our uniform suppliers. Please contact your daughter's PE teacher if there are any concerns.



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For health and safety reasons, pupils cannot wear jewellery in PE lessons. All jewellery must be removed. If your daughter has recently had her ears pierced, or wears a nose stud, and she is unable to remove her studs, please provide her with plasters in order for them to be covered in lessons.

Attendance and Punctuality – At Hodge Hill Girls' School, we are committed to encouraging pupils to attend school on a daily basis. Attending school regularly helps to raise achievement and attainment and pupils have shown enthusiasm for learning since they returned to school last week.

Pupils are expected to arrive into school from 8.25am registration which takes place at 8.35am. Those who arrive after 8.35am will receive a late mark.

Absent school days and lessons missed can affect your child's attendance and learning as demonstrated in the table below:

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Equals this number of weeks absent	Equals this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

Planners and Timetables – Pupils will now have their planner and timetable, please help your daughter to have the correct equipment for all lessons and ensure that clothing items are labelled. Your daughter should have noted the name of her form tutor and Pastoral Manager. They should be your first point of contact at school.

Open Week – Thank you to all the pupils who helped at our Open Evening.

In addition to our Open Evening, we are holding an Open Week starting on 16th September that provides the opportunity to tour our school during a normal school day. Please ensure that appointments are booked with reception.

Year 11 – On Pastoral Day, Year 11 pupils attended a workshop by MADE exams on spaced learning, a revision technique that by regularly repeating short bursts of revision provides effective preparation for examinations. The Year 11 mock start after half term on 4th November, which is just 7 weeks away. Now is an ideal time to using spaced learning to prepare for these exams alongside GCSE Pod, Tassomai, Hegarty Maths, BBC Bitesize, textbooks, personal notes etc.

World First Aid Day – Saturday 14th September is World First Aid Day, which aims to raise awareness of how first aid can save lives in everyday and crisis situations. The British Red Cross has developed an app that will allow you to learn simple first aid skills at a time to suit yourself and keep your knowledge refreshed. With this app you are only two taps away from learning how to help someone in a first aid emergency. More information and to download the app is on [this link](#).

Post 16 Curriculum Evening – Tuesday 24th September, this is an excellent opportunity for Year 11 and their parents to come and gain information on the various options available for September 2020. We will have a number of guests from 6th form schools, colleges and training providers who will give advice and information on Post 16 courses and apprenticeships. A letter will be distributed to pupils and available on the school website on Monday. Information on some of the local college and sixth form open events is at the end of this Bulletin.

Year 8 and Year 9 Supporting Your Daughter with her Learning Evening – On Wednesday 25th September, parents and careers are invited to this workshop that will focus on ways in which parents/carers can support their daughter with school work and revision at home, as well as exploring areas such as mindset and goal setting which pupils and parents may find help to encourage improvements in learning, both within and beyond the classroom. A copy of the parent/carer letter is available on [this link](#).

Tassomai –The Science Faculty are using the Tassomai software programme as homework for all pupils this year. This is an app that generates exam questions tailored to the pupil's individual needs and to support her learning. Please ensure your daughter has registered her account and is completing tasks daily.

The app can be downloaded onto a smart phone, tablet or computer. Full instructions for pupils are available on the Pupil Portal, which pupils can easily log into by using the Office 365 link at the top of our school website. (www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk)

We urge you to monitor their usage regularly to support better progress in Science. You daughter can speak to her Science teacher or Dr Malik if there are any problems.

GCSE Pod – GCSE Pod is an excellent resource that is available for our pupils to use in support of their homework, to help pupils with current and future topics they are studying and to refresh their knowledge of topics that they have studied as they to prepare for assessments and examinations.

Please can parents of our new Year 7 pupils encourage their daughter to activate her GCSE Pod accounts and parents of our Year 10 pupils encourage their daughters to explore the pods available for their GCSE subjects so that they can build their understanding of the courses that have started.

There is lots of useful advice for parents to help support their daughter with her use of GCSE pod and also the development of good study skills in the [GCSE Pod Parents section](#).

Information update - Please provide the school with any changes to personal details, emergency contacts and medical information.

Digital Leaders – Next week during Monday and Friday lunch times, our Digital Leaders will be available in the Upper iLZ to help Year 7 pupils with their use of school technology.

Digital Leaders are pupils with a desire to help others and an interest in technology. As a Digital Leader, pupils will gain confidence, develop communication skills and experience with technology. It also enhances college and apprenticeship applications. Pupils are welcome to apply to join our team of Digital Leaders. To apply they should complete the short application form on the Pupil Portal.

Youth Ambassador Opportunity with Childnet – An opportunity for pupils who are passionate about making the internet a better place; want to speak out about online issues that affect themselves and others their age; want to make sure young people's views are heard. All interested pupils are invited to applying to become a Childnet Youth Ambassador. More information is available on [this link](#).

Spare Uniform – We are collecting spare uniform, PE kit and training shoes that we can use in emergencies. If you have any items of uniform that are either too small or that you no longer require please donate them to the Pastoral Office.

2019/2020 Term Dates – Please note the term dates for the next school year and ensure that any holidays are booked during the school holidays.

	Autumn Term 2019	Spring Term 2020	Summer Term 2020
Term Starts	Wednesday 4 th September 2019	Monday 6 th January 2020	Monday 20 th April 2020
Half Term	Monday 28 th October 2019 to Friday 1 st November 2019	Monday 17 th February 2020 to Friday 21 st February 2020	Monday 25 th May 2020 to Friday 29 th May 2020
Term Ends	Friday 20 th December 2019	Friday 3 rd April 2020	Monday 20 th July 2020

Value Voice Crew – The Value Voice Crew is a team of pupils that work together to promote and encourage reflection on a different value each month. This month they have selected 'Respect'. Throughout September there will be Form Group discussions, quizzes and other activities within school. Click on the following links to view the [poster](#) and also to download a [game](#) that can be played with family and friends. Please encourage your daughter to reflect on the value of 'Respect', including respecting yourself and others.

Extra-Curricular Activities – We have been busy planning a number of exciting extra-curricular learning opportunities and clubs. More information will be available in future Parent Bulletins.

Certificates – We have a number of certificates of qualifications for pupils that left our school between 2013 and 2018 that are still to be collected. Certificates of qualifications are important documents that are often required by colleges, universities or employers. Past pupils should contact Ms Qureshi to arrange a suitable time to collect their certificates. Any remaining certificates that are not collected will be confidentially shredded in November 2019.

Adopted/Special Guardianship - Extra funding can be applied for to support your child. Please contact Ms Nawaz Deputy Headteacher at the school for further information.

Family Fund - Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people. More information is available in [this link](#).

Free School Meals– There are many advantages to claiming free school meals. Firstly, it can ensure your daughter receives a healthy meal during the school lunch break. Additionally, our school receives important additional funding to support the learning of our pupils on free school meals. This funding is used in a variety of ways, examples include additional targeted support and mentoring, assistance with educational visit costs, access to online study resources and books. [Click here](#) to find out if your daughter is eligible for free school meals. To complete an online application form visit: www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/apply.

Taylor Shaw Loyalty Scheme – Taylor Shaw, our in-school caterers, are introducing a loyalty scheme to encourage online payments by ParentPay. Under the scheme your daughter will qualify for a free school meal after her online ParentPay account has been credited with £5.00 or more on 7 occasions. A flyer is available on [this link](#).

Forthcoming community events of interest

Watt in the World – This is a temporary exhibition at the Library of Birmingham that explores the life and legacy of James Watt that may be of interest to those with a passion for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) and History. The exhibition is free to enter and open from 11:00 to 17:00 daily until 2nd November. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Heritage Week – 12th to 22nd September is Birmingham Heritage Week, which consists of many varied and interesting events, exhibitions, walks, open days, workshops and much more. This is a great opportunity to discover parts of our city that you may not have visited before or to rediscover familiar places and see them from a new perspective. More information is available on [this link](#).

Family Day: Explore, Discover, Experiment– On Saturday 14th September between 11:00am and 5:00pm and 7pm to 9pm the University of Warwick is hosting an extra-special Family Day to celebrate hosting the British Science Festival. There will be dozens of stalls, workshops, talks and performances taking over the campus, exploring space, dinosaurs, cities of the future, our planet, ancient worlds and much more! More information is available on [this link](#).

Return to Nature – On Saturday 14th September between 11:00am and 8:00pm there is a family fun day at Holders Woods, Moseley. A free day out for the whole family, this exciting new micro-festival, situated in beautiful ancient woodland, will include an environmental arts trail of immersive installations, live music, performance art, spoken word, story-telling, delicious food and inspiring talks. More information is available on [this link](#).

Explore and Create – On Saturday 14th September, 10:00am to 4:00pm there are drop in session at The Hive to make your own jewellery using beads and metal stamping. Entry is free to exhibitions with 'Pay as you feel' for craft materials. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Mid-Autumn Festival – On Sunday 15th September, a celebration of Chinese culture and family fun at the Birmingham Conference and Events Centre. More information and tickets are available on [this link](#).

Book Bunch at Ward End Library – This is a fun and exciting reading group for young people aged from 11 to 17 years, of all reading abilities. The group meets monthly from 2:00pm to 3:00pm on the third Saturday each month. The next meeting is on Saturday 21st September. More information is available on [this link](#).

Dodici Corde Guitar Duo – Saturday 21st September, a free live music event and a rare opportunity to hear the guitar music of the Early Romantic Period at the Library of Birmingham. More information is available on [this link](#).

Ikon Gallery Family Saturday – An excellent opportunity to be creative and spend some time making and experimenting on 5th October. More information is available on [this link](#).

Great Birmingham Run – Saturday 13th October pupils may enter the Junior Great Birmingham Run. For a small entry fee of £10.00 pupils are invited to run 2.5k as part of this sporting event. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Hippodrome Circus 120 – Birthday Open Day – 26th October, a special free day with circus inspired acts in and around Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre. More information is available on [this link](#).

College and Sixth Form Open Evenings

This is a list of the open events for some of the colleges and sixth forms our pupils have visited or joined in previous years. Please note that it is not a complete list and should be supplemented by independent research. It is recommended that pupils apply for more than one course, to ensure they have suitable choices when examination results are known.

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
Access Creative College	Tuesday 29 th October 2019, 3:00pm, 4:30pm or 6:00pm	www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/
Aston University Sixth Form	Wednesday 13 th November 2019, 5:30pm to 8:30pm	www.auea.co.uk/
BMET	Saturday 19 th October 2019, 10:00am to 1:00pm	www.bmet.ac.uk
Bordesley Green Girls' Sixth Form	To be confirmed	www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk
Cadbury College	Saturday 5 th October. Time to be confirmed	www.cadcol.ac.uk
Edgbaston High School for Girls	Saturday 21 st September 2019, 9.30am - 12.00 noon	www.edgbastonhigh.co.uk
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Saturday 19 th October 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	www.jcc.ac.uk
King Edwards VI Camp Hill School for Girls	Thursday 21 st November 2019, 6.00pm to 8.00pm	www.kechg.org.uk
King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls	To be confirmed	www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk
Solihull College	Saturday 16 th November 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	www.solihull.ac.uk
South and City College	Wednesday 2 nd October 2019, 4:30pm to 7:00pm	www.sccb.ac.uk
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Saturday 19 th October 2019, 9:30am to 3:30pm	www.solihullsfc.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Saturday 23 rd November 2019, 10:00am to 3:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk
University of Birmingham School	To be confirmed	www.uobschool.org.uk