



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

25th October 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November	Half Term Holiday, School Closed
Thursday 31 st October	Halloween
Friday 1 st November	All Saints Day
Monday 4 th November	Timetable week A School open as normal for pupils (Start of school day at 8:30) All pupil after school activities are cancelled due to staff training Charity - Remembrance Poppy Appeal (All week) Year 8 Assessment Week Year 11 Mock Examinations start
Tuesday 5 th November	Pupil after school activities commence for the new half term
Wednesday 6 th November	Year 8 Mindset Workshop
Friday 8 th November	Year 10 English Literature Mock
Sunday 10 th November	Remembrance Sunday World Science Day for Peace and Development
Monday 11 th November	Timetable week B Year 11 Mock Examinations continue Armistice day Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 13 th November	World Diabetes Day

Notices

Thought for the Week – Conscience– *“What can be added to the happiness of a man who has health, no debt and a clear conscience?” Adam Smith (d.1790).* This week pupils have been reflecting on ‘conscience’, the inner sense which guides a person’s behaviour. Our conscience is a part of the mind which enables a person to recognise right from wrong. It is our conscience that makes us feel guilty when we do something bad and good when we do something kind. Over the weekend encourage your daughter to continue to reflect on how her conscience influences the decisions she makes in everyday life.

Start of the New Half Term – School will open for the new half term at 8:00am on Monday 4th November. All pupils should arrive by 8:30am for the start of the school day and be in their form room ready for registration



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at 8:35am. Due to staff training there will be no after-school activities on Monday 4th November; all pupils should return home at 2:45pm.

Poppy Appeal – We are supporting the British Legion Poppy Appeal. From Monday 4th November our prefects will be selling poppies. The red poppy is a national symbol of remembrance and home. Wearing a poppy is a way of showing appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, veterans and their families, both past and present. All money raised in this appeal will be donated to the Royal British Legion, who help support serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces community and their families.

Mock Examinations – *“You’ve got to get up every morning with determination if you’re going to go to bed with satisfaction.”* (George Lorimer). With just one week until the start of the mock examinations it is important that our Year 11 and Year 10 pupils use their half term to continue with their revision. Starting the day feeling determined with realistic targets for learning and progress can help pupils to work through the day and achieve their goal. Remember, there are a variety of tools that support revision and preparation for examinations including GCSE Pod, Tassomai, Hegarty Maths, BBC Bitesize, textbooks, personal notes etc.

A copy of the overall Mock Examination Timetable for Year 11 and Year 10 English Literature is available on [this link](#).

Year 8 Assessment Week – Year 8 pupils have an ‘Assessment Week’, starting on 4th November. Subject teachers have provided pupils with guidance in lessons about revision and preparation for their assessment, as well as the dates and times of the assessments. All assessments will be taking place during normal timetabled lessons. Please support your daughter by ensuring that she is preparing thoroughly for her assessment. If your daughter has any questions, she should check these with her subject teacher.

Year 11 MFL Mock Speaking Examinations – Year 11 A groups will have their MFL speaking examinations on 19th or 21st November. Pupils are advised to learn the following topics for general conversation: technology, free time and town. The photocard and role play card will be based on festivals and environment.

Year 11 B groups will have their speaking examinations on 26th November. They are recommended to learn the topics of town and technology for their general conversation assessment. The photocard and role play card will be based on free time and festivals.

Year 7 Reading - Year 7 pupils will shortly be beginning twice weekly reading sessions in form time, led by their form tutors. These sessions will also include comprehension activities to support pupils with their understanding. Research shows that being read to supports learning and pupil progress. You might like to consider reading to – and with – your daughter at home to help her learning. Please talk to your daughter about the opportunities she has in school to develop her reading and encourage her to read as much as possible at home.

Attendance – Congratulations to Year 7, who have enjoyed early lunches in recognition for their excellent attendance. They achieved the highest attendance for the previous week including Wednesday 16th October when they achieved 100%!

Congratulations to the forms with the highest attendance figures, positive behaviour points have been awarded in recognition. Last week this was Year 7 – 7.20; Year 8 – 8.DL; Year 9 – 9.LL; Year 10 – 10.ML2 and Year 11 – 11.7.

New fund created to help Birmingham girls who ‘dare to dream’ – A new fund to help the next generation of fearless females pursue their ambitions and dreams was launched by Birmingham City Council and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham’s Charity on Monday (14 October 2019). Birmingham girls aged under 16 can now apply for grants of up to £250 to support their own academic or career dreams. This can be for an activity, course, books, equipment or help in accessing work experience (e.g. travel costs). Applicants must live in Birmingham and be in education or training in the city, and have their bid supported by two nominating adults (including a teacher).

More information and an online application form is available on [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.

Dark Nights Letter – Parents are requested to read Dark Nights letter, which has been written in conjunction with West Midlands Police. This letter contains important information to help keep your daughter safe. The letter is available on the school website and [this link](#).

Art – Year 11 GCSE Art, Craft & Design pupils should be using teacher feedback to improve their current working at grades and prepare for their 10-hour mock exams on 15th and 18th November.

For those pupils studying art, don't forget to use the [Art Site on Pupil Portal](#) to support improving your skills as well as the latest news and an idea of the topics you will be studying.

Any Year 7 pupil who has not studied art yet, but would like to buy their own sketchbook to use in Years 7, 8 and 9, please purchase your sketchbook via parent pay and bring with you to your art lessons.

Collection of Certificates – Pupils who left school between 2013-2019 and have not collected their certificates please contact Ms Qureshi on the main school number to arrange a time to collect them.

Out of Hours Learning – There are currently a variety of out of hours learning opportunities available to pupils. For more information pupils should see the relevant subject teacher, who will also provide the appropriate consent form. Please ensure that consent forms are returned to school as soon as possible. Pupils should post their completed consent forms in the pupil post box on the ground floor.

A summary of the 'Out of Hours' learning opportunities currently available is on [this link](#). Please note that while many of our clubs are running every week, some clubs are only open either week A or Week B. Our Out of Hours Learning opportunities are continually reviewed, which may result in changes to this list.

Data Protection and Privacy Notice – Parents are reminded to review our [Data Protection Policy](#) and [Pupil Privacy Notice](#). These documents provide important information on how we maintain, manage and process the information we hold in our systems and how we fulfil our legal responsibilities.

Year 11 Opportunity College Taster Sessions – Solihull Sixth Form College is hosting a number of taster sessions for many of their courses, starting on Tuesday 5th November. This is an excellent opportunity to try a course before you apply. For a list of the taster sessions, more information and to book, click on [this link](#).

GCSE Pod – GCSE Pod is moving to a new website. Currently the new site is only available when the Google Chrome browser is used. To support the launch of this new site there is a new introduction video for parents, which is available on [this link](#). Please encourage your daughter to use the new GCSE Pod site by using Google Chrome. If pupils are unable to access GCSE Pod at home, they are able to access it at school through Homework Club, they should see Miss O'Neil for a letter and consent form to join the Homework Club.

During last week 882 pods were watched, an increase to the 629 pods watched the previous week., English Literature, Maths and History were the most accessed subjects. GCSE Pod is an excellent resource of short videos that support pupil learning. If your daughter has not activated her account, please encourage her to use the link on the school website or pupil portal to activate her account. Digital Leaders are available during Monday and Friday lunch times to support Year 7 and Year 8 pupils with setting up their accounts.

Year	GCSE Pod Active Users	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	43%	18 pods have been watched with Maths, History, RS and Study Smarts the most popular.
Year 8	82%	90 pods were watched with English Literature, History and Biology popular.
Year 9	91%	395 pods watched with English Literature, Maths and Physics the most popular subjects.
Year 10	95%	163 pods, most popular subjects are English Literature, Biology and Study Smart
Year 11	97%	214 pods, History, English Language and Chemistry the most popular subjects.

There is also 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](#).

Hegarty Maths – This is an online resource used by the Maths Faculty as part of its homework setting programme. Each week your daughter will be guided towards certain “clips” and work for her to complete. However, Hegarty Maths is not restricted to the teacher set homework. Hegarty Maths can be searched for video/animated clips on virtually all the topics within the GCSE maths course. Pupils can watch video clips and learn how to tackle a maths topic with step by step instructions. Pupils can then practice what they have learnt with a short test that will rate their competence on that topic. The target for success is 80%+. Parents are recommended to take a look at their daughter’s tests/classwork books and encourage them to search Hegarty Maths for any topic that they are struggling with.

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 each 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 used online or 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.

Black History Month Competition – In order to promote the Black British Arts and Culture collection at the Library of Birmingham they are running a number of competitions that are pupils are invited to enter. The close at 5pm on Saturday November 30th. More information on each competition is available on the following links: [prize trail](#), [junior \(U12\) writing competition](#) and a [teen writing competition](#).

The Young Walter Scott Prize 2019 Competition – Pupils that are fascinated by History and love writing fiction are invited to enter this competition. The challenge is to write between 800 and 2000 words that is set in a time before you were born. Any kind of fiction is accepted – prose, poetry, drama, fictional letters or reportage. The closing date is 31st October and more information is available on [this link](#).

The Education Art Prize 2019 Competition – Following on from our success in this competition last year, pupils are invited to enter this competition organised by Specialist Crafts Art and Design. To enter, pupils need to design and develop a clay item that has the potential to be produced commercially and in large quantities. The closing date is 30th November. More information is available on [this link](#) and from the Art Department.

Rugby World Cup – The Rugby World Cup started on Friday 20th September and continues until Saturday 2nd November. National teams from around the world are competing to be crowned as World Champions in Japan. England will be playing their semi-final against New Zealand tomorrow (Saturday 26th October) at 9am, with Wales facing South Africa on Sunday morning, again at 9am. For pupils particularly interested in sport, these would be fantastic matches to watch to support understanding of rugby.

The official site of the Rugby World Cup is available on [this link](#), with details of all the games and when they are broadcast by ITV. [Click here](#) to see an introduction to the tournament by James Haskell, England international player.

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 11:00am to 5:00pm daily until 2nd November. More information is available on [this link](#).

Thoughts on Portraiture – An exhibition of art that explores how artists have used a wide range of styles and imagery to interpret complex human emotion and experiences. Entrance is free, with the exhibition open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily until 18th November at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. More information is available on [this link](#).

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

Beginners Orienteering Event – Saturday 26th October, City of Birmingham Orienteering Club are putting on simple courses that novices can enjoy with the aim to promote orienteering to everyone who lives in and around Birmingham. More information is available on [this link](#).

Black Country Living Museums – 26th October to 3rd November, visit during the daytime to explore 26 acres of period shops and houses to uncover the dastardly deeds of criminals of the past at the 'Fiendish Felons'-themed half term. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Museums – 26th October to 3rd November, there are lots of different events, exhibitions and family workshops organised by Birmingham Museums that are happening during the holidays across the city. Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery invite pupils to join them for spooky story telling or craft workshops making spooky masks or brains in jars. You can visit Sarehole Mill for pumpkin carving; Aston Hall to create a spell jar or the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter for a jewellery workshop and much more. Further information is available on [this link](#).

Midlands Art Centre – 26th October to 3rd November, get creative at the Midlands Arts Centre this half term. There are a whole range of activities and workshops from creative writing to hip hop and street dance or music making to pottery. A full lists of the activities and more information is available on [this link](#).

RAF Cosford October Half Term, Tech Week - 26th October to 3rd November. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday RAF Cosford will be running 'Drones and Robotics' - four tech-based activities: drone racing, robotic football, maze navigation and a robotic version of Ten Pin Bowling! Throughout the entire week visitors will be able to step inside their new Virtual Reality Zone and experience the thrill of flying in a Spitfire! More information is available on [this link](#).

Unplug and Play – October Half Term Family Fun- From Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November, get your wellies at the ready for 5 afternoons of outdoor exploration, crafts and trails at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham's Young Poet Laureate - An Audience with Aliyah – On Wednesday 30th October 2019 at 2:15 pm there is an opportunity for pupils to hear a short set poetry performance from Aliyah (20 minutes) followed by a Q&A session (20 minutes). This event is taking place at Beatbox, Music Library, Lower ground floor, Library of Birmingham. The event is free, and booking is essential. Limited spaces (only 25 tickets available). Please contact childrens.library@birmingham.gov.uk for a ticket.

Ikon Gallery Workshop – Leaping Hares – On Thursday 31st October there is a creative family workshop. The workshop is an excellent opportunity to be creative with activities inspired by Barry Flanagan's Leaping Hare. 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 2nd November. More information is 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 16th November. More information is available on [this link](#).

WorldSkills UK Live – This is the UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event that is being held on 23rd November 2019 at the NEC Birmingham. It is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to get impartial one-to-one guidance on career routes and jobs from National Careers Service and National Apprenticeship Service. Find opportunities that you can apply for, such as work experience, apprenticeships, and jobs. 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 23 rd November 2019, 10:00am to 1:00pm	www.bmet.ac.uk
Bordesley Green Girls' Sixth Form	Thursday 7 th November 2019, 6:00pm to 8:00pm	www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk
Cadbury College	Wednesday 27 th November 2019, 4:00pm to 7:30pm	www.cadcol.ac.uk
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Tuesday 19 th November 2019, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	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	Thursday 21 st November 2019, 6.00pm to 8.00pm	www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk
King Edwards VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy	Thursday 14 th November 2019, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	https://www.hwga.org.uk/
Solihull College	Saturday 16 th November 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	www.solihull.ac.uk
South and City College	Thursday 28 th November 2019, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.sccb.ac.uk
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Wednesday 27 th November 2019, 5:00pm to 8:00pm	www.solihullsfca.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Saturday 23 rd November 2019, 10:00am to 3:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk
University of Birmingham School	Thursday 7 th November 2019, 5:00pm to 8:00pm	www.uobschool.org.uk