



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

27th September 2019

Diary

Date	Information
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
Monday 7 th October	Timetable week B
Tuesday 8 th October	Year 7 Curriculum Evening 5:00 to 6:30pm
Wednesday 9 th October	Year 10 and Year 11 Supporting Your Daughter with her Learning Evening 5:00 to 6:30pm
Monday 14 th October	Timetable week A
Wednesday 16 th October	World Food Day
Thursday 17 th October	International day for the eradication of poverty
Friday 18 th October	Think it Pink day raising money for Cancer Research

Notices

Thought for the Week – Symbolism - *"Symbols are the imaginative signposts of life."* Margot Asquith (d.1945). This week pupils have been considering 'symbolism', something that represents or stands for an idea, object or relationship. Symbols help us to communicate and express our thoughts, ideas and beliefs. This week, Hindus around the world celebrate the Hindu story, Ramayana, in the festival Navratri. Navratri (nine nights) celebrates the victory of hero, Rama, over the evil 10 headed Ravana. This festival contains lots of symbolism including the victory of good over evil. Did you know that each of Ravana's 10 heads symbolise a different negative human emotion; lust, anger, delusion, greed, pride, jealousy, selfishness, hatred, cruelty and vanity. Please encourage your daughter to think of other symbolism in our society over the weekend.

Wear it Pink Collection – We are currently collecting pink items to create hampers filled with pink goodies and treats ready for our October fundraising event, Wear it Pink for Cancer Research. We welcome donations of any new pink products to support this worthy cause, e.g. socks, make up, hair accessories, stationery, toiletries etc. Pupils should bring any donations by Monday 14th October.

From Monday 30th September raffle tickets will be on sale for 50p each, with the chance to win one of our luxury pink hampers.

Coats and Shoes - Parents are requested to ensure that pupils bring a waterproof coat and wear plain black, practical sturdy shoes to school. This is especially important during the colder and damper days of late Autumn and Winter.



Hodge Hill Girls' School
Bromford Road
Birmingham
B36 8EY

Website: www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk
Telephone: 0121 464 3094
Email: enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk

Leave in Term Time - The Local authority has recently prosecuted families of pupils who have not attended school. It is imperative that pupils regularly attend school and receive their full-time education. Absence from school can affect their attendance, learning and relationships with staff and their peers. Pupils may also find difficulty reintegrating back into school.

ParentPay - We're really pleased to see that the majority of our parents have activated their ParentPay accounts, and are using ParentPay to regularly top-up their daughters' balance for lunch payments. A really useful feature in ParentPay is the ability for parents to set a "communication alert" so that they automatically receive an email when their daughter's lunch balance falls below a certain amount. To learn how to set up communication alerts, simply google "parentpay set up email alerts", and check your Spam/Junk Mail folders, as genuine ParentPay emails can get incorrectly filtered. Please note that the email balance alert option is free-of-charge, whereas the sms-text balance alert option is chargeable to the parent's ParentPay account.

A screenshot of the ParentPay 'Balance alerts' interface. The title 'Balance alerts' is at the top. Below it is a table with columns: Service, Child, Threshold, Email alert, and Text alert. The first row shows 'Lunch Payments for Hodge Hill Girls' School' as the service, 'Ann' as the child, a threshold of '£10.00' in a text input field, a checked 'Email alert' checkbox, and an unchecked 'Text alert' checkbox.

Service	Child	Threshold	Email alert	Text alert
Lunch Payments for Hodge Hill Girls' School	Ann	<input type="text" value="£10.00"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Collecting your Daughter - It is lovely to see parents waiting for their children at the end of the school day. To support the school in ensuring members of the public can still access the foot path could we kindly ask parents to wait on the opposite side of the road, or further down the road. The community police officer has also asked the school to remind parents not to park on the zigzag marking outside schools.

Out of Hours Learning - Pupils are being informed of all appropriate out of hours learning opportunities and provided with the appropriate consent forms by their teachers. 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 will be in next week's bulletin.

After-School Homework Club - The After-School Homework Club starts on Monday 30th of September. This provides a quiet environment with computer facilities for pupils to complete their homework from Monday to Thursday each week. If a pupil wants to join our Homework Club, they must collect and return the appropriate consent form.

Year 11 Mock Exams - "The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today." H. Jackson Brown. With the Year 11 mock examinations in 5 weeks' time; it is important that our pupils are preparing for these exams. All Year 11 pupils participated in revision workshops on their first day of term to help provide them with more ideas to support their exam preparation. In addition, 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.

Maths - Maths is all around us - you can use everyday experiences to reinforce and develop maths skills and vocabulary. Measurement, fractions, shapes, time and money all benefit from real world application and often can be naturally harnessed as a way to learn maths. When out shopping there are many opportunities to practice maths from counting out items, comparing discounts and special offers, to managing money and calculating the change. Encourage and talk to your daughter about the mathematics of shopping

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 with the potential to be commercially scalable. The closing date is 30th November. More information is available on [this link](#) and from the Art Department.

Year 11 Art, Craft & Design After School Club - Started on 17th September and will be running each week on a Tuesday until Christmas to support the additional time and resources required to complete the exam board's

assessment objectives thoroughly for Component 1. Please encourage your daughter to attend as Component 1 is worth 60% of her final GCSE grade.

The Big Draw – This is the world's largest drawing festival, which celebrates the importance of drawing in all its forms during October every year. This year the theme is "Drawn to Life" focusing on the many ways creativity enhances wellbeing. Pupils are encouraged to try something creative to lift their mood or just to have a go and learn or try a new skill. More information is available on [this link](#).

Art - There has been a great start to the year in the Art Department with changes to our programme of study. Pupils are reminded to use the Art Department site on the Pupil Portal to highlight the areas they will be studying this year, to keep up to date with news and read the additional learning resources available to help improve skills. Pupils can also log into this site on [this link](#).

GCSE Pod – During last week 449 pods were watched, with History, Spanish and English Literature the most accessed subjects. 72% of our pupils now have active GCSE Pod accounts. 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.

Year	Active GCSE Pods	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	18%	History, Maths and RS have been the most accessed subjects with 74 pods watched in total.
Year 8	71%	English Literature, Biology and Chemistry with 9 pods watched in total
Year 9	90%	English Literature, History and Maths with 45 pods watched in total
Year 10	97%	History, English Literature and Geography with 125 pods watched in total
Year 11	96%	History, Spanish and English Language with 220 pods watched in total

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 the clips and learn how to tackle the topic with step by step instructions. They 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?

To access the Hegarty Maths pupils need enter their name, date of birth, our school name and then set their own passwords. Any pupils who have forgotten their passwords can ask their maths teacher to reset it.

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.

Rugby World Cup – The Rugby World Cup started on Friday 20th September in Japan. National teams from around the world competing are competing to be crowned as World Champions. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the sport of Rugby and the culture of Japan. 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.

Girls Football Team – Solihull Sporting Football Club is recruiting new players. Training takes place on Monday evenings at CTC Tudor Grange Academy, B37 6NU with games on Saturday morning, also based in Chelmsley Wood. More information and contact details are on their website and 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 11:00am 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 Weekender – From 4th to the 6th October, Birmingham’s free arts festival takes place with a rich programme of dance, music, art and performance by some of the city’s leading artists and arts organisations. The festival takes place at various venues around Digbeth. 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](#).

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 19th October. 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](#).

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 but booking is essential. Limited spaces (only 25 tickets available). Please contact childrens.library@birmingham.gov.uk for a ticket.

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 19 th October 2019, 10:00am to 1:00pm	www.bmet.ac.uk

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
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	Thursday 7 th November 2019,	www.uobschool.org.uk