



# Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## Diary

Date	Information
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Timetable week A</b> Governors meeting: Site, Finance and Premises (5:30pm-8:00pm) Year 10 Assessment Week
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Leavers Certificate Collection Day 1 No after school Art clubs
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Leavers Certificate Collection Day 2 Universal Children's Day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 10 - Work Skills Show
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Timetable week B</b> Year 9 - Assessment Week
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Netball fixture - St. Edmund Campion coming to HHGS
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Staff Training Day - School closed to pupils</b>
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	St Andrew's Day
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	World AIDS Day
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>Timetable week A</b> Year 9 - Assessment Week International day for the abolition of slavery
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Netball Fixture - Stockland Green coming to HHGS

## Notices

**Thought for the Week - Tolerance** - *"What is tolerance? It is the consequence of humanity. We are all formed of frailty and error, let us pardon one another of each other's folly - that is the first law of nature."* Voltaire (d.1778). Tolerance is having a fair and objective attitude towards those whose lifestyles, beliefs or opinions differ from our own. We live in a diverse society, with differences in race, culture, gender, sexuality, social background or religion, to name a few. Through our tolerance, we can create an environment where everyone can feel valued and respected, where everyone's ideas, thoughts and dreams are important. Over the weekend encourage your daughter to continue to reflect on 'Tolerance'.

**Assemblies** - In assembly this week, pupils have been learning about Anti-Bullying Week 2019, which has the theme 'Change Starts With Us'. One of the ways change can start is with conversations. More information is available on [this link](#). Please encourage your daughter to discuss her learning from this week's assemblies with you over the weekend.



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**International World Children's Day** –20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 is World Children's Day and this year it is a special one, because on that day the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child will also be 30 years old! More information is available on [this link](#).

**Medication** –All medication must be handed to Reception. Pupils should not be carrying any medication around school with them. If you have any concerns with this, please contact Mrs Morrison.

**Medical Appointments** – Where possible parents are requested to make medical appointments after school or during the school holidays. This supports our efforts to maintain good attendance at school, which is vital for your daughter to achieve her full academic potential and consequently have better chances in life.

Where appointments outside the school day are not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary. The appointment card or appointment letter must be seen by the Attendance and Welfare Assistant or Pastoral Manager in advance of the appointment.

**Access to School Site** – Parents are reminded that they are not allowed to access the school site at the beginning or end of the school day. If you are dropping or collecting your daughter from school, you should park in a safe location and walk to the school gate. If you are collecting your daughter during the school day you should park in a designated parking space and not obstruct the entrance to the school. It is important for Health and Safety that vehicle access to the school is always clear.

**Countdown to GCSEs: Preparing to Succeed** – It is now **22** weeks until the first of the exams begins. Our MFL speaking exams begin on 21<sup>st</sup> April, with Art, Craft and Design beginning 28<sup>th</sup> April, Photography 29<sup>th</sup> April and Drama week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> May and on 11<sup>th</sup> May is the first RS exam.

To support our pupils as they approach their GCSE exams, each week will with be sharing a **GCSE Preparation Target of the Week** – This week it is to make sure pupils have a revision timetable. Pupils should be able to show their families their revision timetable. Pupils should speak to school staff if they are unsure about how to plan a timetable.

**Year 11 Mock Exam Results Day** - Year 11 pupils will receive their mock exam results on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Parents will also receive a copy of these results along with their daughter's Year 11 report on Parents' Evening on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Year 11 Mock Exams** – The Year 11 mock examinations are drawing to a close. On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November there are Photography, Art and Drama examinations.

The MFL speaking examinations are on 19<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> November for A groups. 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 10 and Year 9 Assessment Weeks** – Year 10 pupils have an 'Assessment Week', beginning 18<sup>th</sup> November, while the Year 9 Assessment Week begins on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Subject teachers will provide the 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 assessments. If your daughter has any questions, she should check with her subject teacher.

**GCSE Art Pupils from 2018-2019** – Art portfolios of work for pupils who completed their Art GCSE in June 2019 are now available for collection if required. Please telephone reception to make a convenient time to collect your portfolio. Thank you.

**Art** –Please note that there will be no after school Art club on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The club will be open as normal on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November to enable pupils to continue working on their course work.

**KS3 Art, Design & Technology** - Groups will rotate the week beginning the 18<sup>th</sup> November. Please arrive prepared for your lessons – by bringing your sketchbooks to Art if this is your new rotation area. Thank you.

**Attendance** – Congratulations to Year 10, who have enjoyed early lunches this week in recognition for their excellent attendance during the previous week.

Congratulations to the forms with the highest attendance figures, positive behaviour points have been awarded in recognition. Last week this was Year 7 – 7.4; Year 8 – 8.18; Year 9 – 9.CL; Year 10 – 10.ML3 and Year 11 – 11.7.

**Supporting Independent Learning** - Pupils are provided with a variety of ways to access learning and revision materials online; here is a quick summary of how Hegarty Maths, Maths Whizz, Tassomai and GCSE Pod can be used to support pupil progress. More information is available on [this link](#).

**New Lunchtime Menus** – Taylor Shaw have recently reviewed and updated their menus. A copy of their new menus is available on [this link](#).

**Year 7 Reading** - Year 7 pupils are 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.

**English Literature** – There are a couple of forthcoming theatre productions of texts that some of our pupils study as part of their English Literature Curriculum. Watching a theatrical performance can help pupils to develop their understanding and knowledge of the text. Tickets and more information are available on the following links: [Jekyll & Hyde at The Old Rep Theatre](#), 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February and [A Christmas Carol at The Alexandra](#), 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**Crime Prevention** – West Midlands Police have issued advice on how families can keep themselves protected against burglary. More information is available on [this link](#).

**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.

**Value Voice Crew** – The value of the month for November is ‘courage’. Courage is a noun, meaning the ability to control your fear in a dangerous or difficult situation; strength in the face of pain or grief and to choose what is good, right, and kind, even when it is hard or scary. Please discuss this value with your daughter and review the following resources together.

- [Value of the Month Poster](#)
- [30 days of courage at HHGS](#)
- [30 days of courage at home](#)

**Introducing “School Gateway”** - On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the school changed the system that it uses to send SMS text messages to parents, from ParentPay to School Gateway. School Gateway will enable the school to develop new parent engagement opportunities. Enabling SMS text messaging through School Gateway is “Phase 1” of this development.

When parents receive SMS messages from the school, they will come from the number +44 121 285 4537, which is the official SMS number allocated to Hodge Hill Girls’ School by School Gateway. Parents may wish to add this number to their phone contacts and name it “Hodge Hill Girls’ School SMS”.

**Online Safety** – With the internet changing all the time, it can be difficult to know how to keep your children safe online. With this in mind the NSPCC have relaunched Net Aware, a bite-size guide to the latest and most popular social networks, apps and games. Net Aware now includes more social networks, apps and games than ever before, with expert advice from O2 and NSPCC. It also has news stories covering the latest trends and a newly created tips and advice section that answers important questions around online safety. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Pause, Mental Health Drop In** – This is a centre for young people, under 25, and their families that offers a variety of mental health services. One big advantage at Pause is that there is no need for an appointment. If you or your daughter are worried about something or just need a space to think, you can simply drop in for a chat with one of the team, learn a new technique for managing your emotions or join one of their support groups. More information is available on [this link](#).

**EU Settlement Scheme** - All EU citizens and their family members must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 31 December 2020. The EU Settlement Scheme gives EU citizens the immigration status they need to continue to live, work and study in the UK. More information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

**New fund created to help Birmingham girls who 'dare to dream'** - There is 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. All bids have to be supported by two nominating adults (including a teacher). More information and an online application form is available on [this link](#).

**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.

**GCSE Pod** - Last week 1697 pods were watched by our pupils. English Literature, History and English Language were the most accessed subjects. During November, each week the three pupils in each year group that use GCSE Pod the most will be awarded a pin badge in recognition.

We are also taking part in the GCSE Pod games that compares our use of GCSE POD with 99 schools of a similar size in our region. Currently we are in third place.

Year	GCSE Pod Active Users	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	51%	61 pods have been watched with ICT, English Literature and Geography the most popular.
Year 8	87%	269 pods were watched with English Language, History and English Literature popular.
Year 9	92%	204 pods watched with Chemistry, English Literature and Religious Studies the most popular subjects.
Year 10	96%	406 pods, most popular subjects are English Literature, History and Maths.
Year 11	97%	757 pods, History, Biology and Chemistry the most popular 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. If pupils are unable to access GCSE Pod at home, they are able to access it at school through Homework Club. Pupils should see Miss O'Neil for a letter and consent form to join the Homework Club.

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](#).

**Maths Whizz** - All Year 7 pupils have now completed their Maths-Whizz assessment. Maths-Whizz is an award-winning online tutor, designed for pupils aged 5 to 13, that accelerates learning, builds confidence and helps your child to reach their potential in maths through educational online maths games. Year 7 pupils are all expected to complete 45 minutes on this program each week as part of their Maths homework. Certificates and prizes are awarded to pupils who make the most progress. Any concerns or questions please contact Miss Ainge via the school office.

**Hegarty Maths** – Hegarty Maths is used to set homework and aid revision for pupils in all years. It is also a great tool for consolidation and revision of topics already covered, therefore pupils are expected to use it independently before internal and external examinations. The program will help and support pupils using the tutorial videos and quizzes they provide.

All tasks are given a week for completion and there are clear guidelines on how they should be completed in the documents below. The link between completing the homework task and notes/working out being made in their Hegarty exercise book is an important step to success, so please take the time to read these documents.

- [Student presentation from Hegarty Maths](#)
- [Student checklist for completing homework and revision](#)
- [Student self help guide](#)
- [Parent checklist for supporting students with homework and revision](#)

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's maths teacher who will be happy to help.

**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.

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

**Hungry Little Minds** – This is a scheme launched by the Secretary of State for Education to improve early language and literacy skills. While it is aimed at younger children, some of the activities and apps may be of interest to our pupils and families, especially where English is not their first language. More information is on [this link](#).

**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 competition closes at 5pm on Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>. More information is available on the following links: [prize trail](#), [junior \(U12\) writing competition](#) and a [teen writing competition](#).

**The Education Art Prize 2019 Competition** – Following on from our success in this competition last year, pupils are invited to enter the Education Art Prize 2019, 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 30<sup>th</sup> November. More information is available on [this link](#) and from the Art Department.

**Memories, the 30<sup>th</sup> Young Art Exhibition ay the Royal College of Art** – Pupils are invited to submit oil, watercolour, acrylic, pastel, crayon, pencil or ink original work for the Art, Drawing and Printmaking Competitions. All entries must be submitted with a donation of £2.00 for Research into Childhood Cancers. The competition rules are available on [this link](#). The closing date of this competition is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, which will be followed by judging in February and a proportion of each school's entries will form an exhibition from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May. More information is available on [this link](#) and from the Art Department.

## **Forthcoming community events of interest**

**Ikon Gallery, Barry Flanagan Exhibition** - 18<sup>th</sup> September to 24<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, This is a major survey of work by Barry Flanagan, one of Britain's most inventive sculptors, filling Ikon's two floors of gallery space entirely. Curated by Jo Melvin, it brings together a selection of Flanagan's iconic bronze sculptures (1980s–90s) alongside earlier works, offering new insights into the interconnectedness of seemingly distinct aspects of his practice. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Czech Innovation Expo (CIE) exhibition at the Library of Birmingham** – 16<sup>th</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> February. This is an interactive exhibition that would appeal to pupils interested in Science and/or technology. It introduces prominent scientists, thinkers and innovators, whose essential discoveries and inventions have influenced the lives of people around the world, through state-of-the-art technologies and virtual reality. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Birmingham Christmas Market** – 7th November to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market, the largest authentic German market outside Germany and Austria and the centrepiece of the city's festive event calendar. More information is available on [this link](#).

**The New Art Gallery Walsall**– 15<sup>th</sup> November to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020. There is a free exhibition that brings together three photographers, Arpita Shah, Maryam Wahid and Nilupa Yasmin to present new and existing work focused around portraiture, culture and female identity. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Birmingham Interfaith Music Festival at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery**– 16th November, between 10:00am and 4:00pm, there will be various activities to celebrate Interfaith Week with music, dance and art. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Book Bunch at Ward End Library** – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November. 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. More information is available on [this link](#).

**'The Nutcracker' Story Time at Library of Birmingham** – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November. An opportunity to learn all about the wonderful world of The Nutcracker with Birmingham Royal Ballet. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Birmingham School of Jewellery Open Weekend** – Saturday 23<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November. The world-famous School of Jewellery is open for you to visit, make, play and enjoy with hands-on experiences, exhibitions and more. Suitable for all ages, they will be running workshops throughout the weekend looking at gemstones and watches, Computer Aided Design, as well as making simple jewellery. You can sign up for the workshops on the day. There is also the opportunity to see their current exhibition – Hand Made by Machine, tour the school, see the facilities and find out how you can get involved. More information is available on [this link](#).

The Jewellery Quarter Open Studios are also open over the weekend with the opportunity so come and see what goes on behind closed doors. More information is available on [this link](#).

**WorldSkills UK Live at the NEC Birmingham** – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019, this is the UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event. 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](#).

**Free Chamber Music event at Library of Birmingham** – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. An exciting series of free concerts given by students from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's Chamber Music Department. This month featuring the Dunev String Quartet. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Dressed to the Nines at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery**– 7<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020, this is an exhibition about dressing up and going out from around 1850 to the present day. It is an opportunity to see the changes that have occurred in the types of clothing that are worn for special occasions, textiles and fabrics used, where these clothes are purchased from and the kinds of events they are worn at. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Ikon Gallery Family Saturday** – 7th December 12:00 noon to 4:00pm, an excellent opportunity to be creative and spend some time making and experimenting. 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	Saturday 30th November 2019, 12 noon and 1:30pm	<a href="http://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/">www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/</a>

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
BMET	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2019, 10:00am to 1:00pm	<a href="http://www.bmet.ac.uk">www.bmet.ac.uk</a>
Cadbury College	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 4:00pm to 7:30pm	<a href="http://www.cadcol.ac.uk">www.cadcol.ac.uk</a>
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.jcc.ac.uk">www.jcc.ac.uk</a>
King Edwards VI Camp Hill School for Girls	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019, 6:00pm to 8:00pm	<a href="http://www.kechg.org.uk">www.kechg.org.uk</a>
King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019, 6.00pm to 8.00pm	<a href="http://www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk">www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk</a>
Solihull College	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	<a href="http://www.solihull.ac.uk">www.solihull.ac.uk</a>
South and City College	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.sccb.ac.uk">www.sccb.ac.uk</a>
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 5:00pm to 8:00pm	<a href="http://www.solihullsfca.ac.uk">www.solihullsfca.ac.uk</a>
University College Birmingham	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2019, 10:00am to 3:00pm	<a href="http://www.ucb.ac.uk">www.ucb.ac.uk</a>