



# Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## Diary

Date	Information
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Parents Evening, 4:00pm to 6:30pm <a href="#">Click here</a> to view the letter to parents
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Joseph Chamberlain Interviews in school for Year 11
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	'CBSO Dissected' Educational Visit Year 11,FR2, French speaking examination practice
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Spanish speaking examination practice
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Governing Body Meeting for Site, Finance and Premises
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11,FR1, French speaking examination practice
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Holocaust Memorial Day

## Notices

**Welcome back** – Welcome to the start of 2019. We hope that all our families, pupils and staff had an enjoyable holiday and wish you all a happy and prosperous new year. For 2019 we have lots of exciting events and activities planned. We will continue to keep you updated with this weekly bulletin, with additional information in specific letters as appropriate.

**School Meals** – Taylor Shaw, our new caterers have new menus and made various changes within the lower iLZ, creating a vibrant environment for our pupil to enjoy their school meals. Copies of the new menus are available now on our school website and on [this link](#). We hope that pupils have also enjoyed the initial incentive draw to win an iPad. The winning pupil will be announced shortly within school.

We want all pupils to enjoy a healthy and nutritious meal. There are a number of circumstances where our pupils are able to receive a free school meal. You may be eligible to claim free school meals for your child, up to the age of 19-years-old, if you (or your child) get one of the following:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit

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



Hodge Hill Girls' School  
Bromford Road  
Birmingham  
B36 8EY

Website: [www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk](http://www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk)  
Telephone: 0121 464 3094  
Email: [enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk)

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.

For more information and to complete an online application form visit:

[www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/apply](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/apply).

**School Uniform** – We would like to remind you that make-up, nail varnish and ornamental or large jewellery are not part of our school uniform. Pupils may wear a watch, one pair of small stud earrings and a removable flat nose stud.

It is also important that pupils wear the correct school uniform and are equipped for all their lessons. Our school uniform guidelines are available on the school website and by [clicking here](#).

**'CBSO Dissected' Educational Visit** – On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January we have a wonderful opportunity for a group of Year 7 pupils to visit Birmingham Symphony Hall and see the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra perform their 'CBSO Dissected' concert. Letters with more information on this education visit have been distributed to Year 7 pupils who either have not seen a live orchestra or have expressed an interest in this educational visit. Please note that places are limited and will be allocated to the first 35 pupils who return their consent form.

**Science Live Conference Educational Visit** – On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Year 10 pupils have the opportunity to visit the GCSE Science Live Conference at the Symphony Hall. This is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to hear and be inspired by five of Britain's top scientists (Prof Robert Winston, Prof Andrea Sella, Prof Jim Al-Khalil, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock and Prof Alice Roberts) all of whom work at the cutting edge of their specialisms. The trip also includes GCSE examination tips, inspiration for the application of science and explain opportunities study science at A level and beyond. There are currently several places available for pupils to join this educational visit. Interested pupils should see Dr Malik for a letter and more information.

Parents of pupils attending this trip are requested to make the voluntary contribution on Parent pay.

**GCSE Pod** – We are taking part in the GCSE Pod games, a competition running until the end of February that compares similar schools use of GCSE Pod. It is wonderful that at the end of 2018 Hodge Hill Girls' School were top of the Leader Board. However, to be the winner of the GCSE Pod games, and more importantly for our pupils to realise the benefits of using GCSE Pod, it is essential that our pupils continue to regularly watch GCSE Pods to support and enhance learning.

It is fabulous that over 16,000 pods have been watched by our pupils September to December 2018, with History and English Literature pods being the most popular. This is a fantastic reflection of our pupil efforts and how useful many of our pupils are finding GCSE Pod as part of their learning and homework routine. Please continue to encourage your daughter to watch GCSE Pods and to further enhance her learning ask questions about what she remembers or has learnt from the Pod she has just watched

GCSE Pod are continually reviewing and adding new content. They recently published 207 new pods in English Literature, Geography, Food Preparation and Nutrition, History, IT, Sciences and Religious Studies. Further information for parents on GCSE Pod is available on [this link](#).

**Textiles** – Pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 are starting a new project in Textiles. The focus of the project is **Re-use and Looking After the Environment**, with one of the activities to create a long-lasting textile bag. Pupils are requested to bring to school something that can be re-used and add to the fabric collection. Please consider suitable textile materials that your daughter may be able to bring into school in January.

### **Forthcoming Examinations or Assessments**

**Year 9 Humanities** – Year 9 will have their spring assessments in Geography, History and Religious Studies during January.

**Year 11 History** – The next assessments are on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Year 11 Languages** - In February, Year 11 pupils will be completing their mock speaking examinations in foreign Languages. While there will be some opportunities to practice within school, it is important

that pupils also practice talking and answering questions at home in preparation for their mock examination.

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Day/date</i>
Urdu	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> or Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February.
Spanish	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February.
French	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> or Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February.

**Year 7 and Year 8 Religious Studies** – Spring assessments will be completed during week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**Year 11 SEND Transition Evening** - Joseph Chamberlain College will be hosting their annual SEND transition evening on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The college will be open to Year 11 students with additional educational needs, and their parents/carers. Please come along if a child in your care with SEND is considering Further Education. You will have the opportunity to:

- Tour the College
- Meet other students with SEND
- Meet our Learning Support Team
- Discuss and plan additional learning support
- Meet our Pastoral Support Team
- Meet with specialist teachers from the Local Authority

The college building is fully wheelchair accessible with ground floor step-free access, lifts to all levels, spacious disabled toilets and reserved parking bays. If you have any additional needs, please let us know so we can arrange suitable adjustments for you.

For further information, email their Learning Support Manager, June Underwood: [junderwood@jcc.ac.uk](mailto:junderwood@jcc.ac.uk). To register for the event, please visit their website: <https://www.jcc.ac.uk/events/send-evening-2019/>.

### Post 16 Preparations

The following table contains a list of some of the forthcoming open events. These are a great opportunity to visit colleges and sixth forms to support post 16 choices.

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
Access Creative College	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February, 10:00am to 12.30pm & 1.30pm to 4:00pm	<a href="http://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/">www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/</a>
BMET	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.bmet.ac.uk">www.bmet.ac.uk</a>
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2019, 6:00pm to 7:30pm	<a href="http://www.jcc.ac.uk">www.jcc.ac.uk</a>
South and City College	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.sccb.ac.uk">www.sccb.ac.uk</a>
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.solihullsfc.ac.uk">www.solihullsfc.ac.uk</a>
University College Birmingham	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> January, 11:00am to 3:00pm	<a href="http://www.ucb.ac.uk">www.ucb.ac.uk</a>
University of Birmingham School	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2019, 5:30pm to 8:00pm	<a href="http://www.uobschool.org.uk">www.uobschool.org.uk</a>