



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

12th April 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 15 th April to Friday 26 th April	School closed for Easter Holidays
Monday 29 th April	School open for all pupils GCSE Photography examination
Tuesday 30 th April	GCSE Speaking examination in French and Urdu GCSE Fine Art examination
Wednesday 1 st May	GCSE Speaking examination in French and Urdu
Thursday 2 nd May	GCSE Speaking examination in French and Urdu GCSE Fine Art examination GCSE Photography examination
Friday 3 rd May	GCSE Speaking examination in Spanish and Urdu GCSE Photography examination
Monday 6 th May	School closed for May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7 th May	GCSE Speaking examination in Spanish
Friday 10 th May	GCSE Drama Examination
Monday 13 th May	Year 8 Parent Evening

Notices

Cashless Catering System Updates – We are introducing a new cashless catering system from Thursday 9th May. The transition between the old and new system has been designed to be as seamless as possible. Pupils account credits by ParentPay and pupils entitled to free school meals will be unaffected by this change. However, pupils who credit their account with cash in school should note that this facility and the **Cash Loaders will not be available between Friday 3rd May and Wednesday 8th May**. During this time parents are advised to use ParentPay to check and top-up balances, or ensure their daughter uses the Cash Loaders to top-up prior to Friday 3rd May. The new Cash Loaders will be usable from Thursday 9th May. A copy of the letter to parents is available on [this link](#).

Safety Letter – The school website contains an important safety letter for parents and carers that has been composed in conjunction with West Midlands Police. Please read the letter, which is available on [this link](#).

Attendance and punctuality - Over the last few weeks we have had an increasing number of requests for holidays in term time. Pupils are expected to be in school during term time and as such holidays cannot be authorised.



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Punctuality - The register is taken at 8.35 each morning. Pupils need to be in their form room ready for this time. A number of pupils are not making their way directly into school in a morning. Please reinforce with your daughter the importance of being on time and in the right place at the right time.

Hay fever - As the seasons change some pupils will suffer with hay fever. Medication should be taken before school if needed. As the Year 11 begin their preparations for the GCSE's please ensure that they have any necessary medication throughout this period.

GCSE Pod - The Easter holiday is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to consolidate previous learning. Year 10 and 11 pupils will be busy preparing for their upcoming GCSEs. Year 10 will sit their English Literature exam and many will be using GCSE Pod to support revision. Pupils in Years 7 to 9 may wish to revisit the pods that they have been encouraged to watch earlier in the year as part of their preparation for end of year exams.

GCSE Pod have published a series of pods to support the development of study skills; these can be accessed at <https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/studysmart>. Please encourage your daughter to watch these pods to see if there are techniques which may help her further with her studying and revision. They have also published a guide for parents and carers on smart studying and cognitive learning techniques. A copy of this guide is available on [this link](#).

Big Battery Hunt - We have registered for the 'Big Battery Hunt', an initiative led by the National Schools Partnership, to encourage pupils and families to collect used batteries for recycling. We received a number of collection boxes in school, and demand far exceeded supply as many Year 7 and Year 8 pupils took boxes to take home. If your daughter does not have a collection box, please ask her to bring used batteries to the school Pastoral Office where we will ensure that they are sent for recycling.

Year 8 Parent Evening - Letters have been sent home for the Year 8 Parent Evening on Monday 13th May. Please discuss this evening with your daughter, who will make appointments for you to see her teachers. A copy of the letter is available on [this link](#). Please ensure that the reply slip is returned to school by Tuesday 7th May.

First World War Centenary - '5 years of extraordinary art experiences' is a new video of highlights from 14-18 NOW's 5 year arts programme for the First World War centenary. It shows the diverse art and activities that engaged 35 million people in reflecting and remembering the First World War. This follows on from assemblies and activities held within school to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1 during the Autumn Term. The video is available on [this link](#).

Year 7 to Year 10 Internal Examinations - Year 7 and Year 8 will have a week of examinations w/c 20th May. The exam timetable and lists of topics to revise will be made available to pupils shortly after the Easter holiday. Please encourage your daughter to begin her revision over the Easter holidays.

Year 9 and 10 will have their examinations during w/c 3rd June. Exam timetables and lists of topics to revise will be made available to pupils shortly after the Easter holidays. Both year groups should be using the Easter holidays to support their revision. Please note that Year 10 will not be sitting an English exam in the internal examination series as they will have completed their actual GCSE English Literature exam.

The gyms will be used for some exams in Years 7, 8 and 9 to enable the pupils to develop their understanding of a formal examination situation; Year 10 will sit the vast majority of their exams in the gym to support the development of skills for their external GCSEs in summer 2019.

Handwriting and GCSE exams - Our handwriting is the first impression that examiners will have of us in most subjects studied at GCSE. Please take the time to look at your daughter's handwriting; if you find it difficult to read, an examiner will find it hard too. Please encourage her to write clearly so that examiners will be able to read everything that has been written. Remember, too, that handwriting sometimes deteriorates after writing for a longer period of time, so it is important that your daughter regularly practises extended writing and writing for a sustained period.

GCSE History - Health and the People - Pupils in Years 10 and 11 who study GCSE History are encouraged to watch the BBC Teach series of 'Medicine through Time' videos which support learning for 'Health and the People'. The videos can be accessed through [this link](#).

Year 11 GCSE Modern Foreign Languages – The official MFL GCSE Speaking examinations are happening after the Easter Holidays. These examinations account for 25% of the potential GCSE marks. It is vital that pupils attend their exam at their allocated time slot as we are not able to accommodate pupils at an alternative time. The dates for the examinations are as follows:

- Tuesday 30th April, Wednesday 1st May, Thursday 2nd May/ Urdu and French
- Friday 3rd May/ Urdu and Spanish
- Tuesday 7th May / Spanish

Year 11 GCSE Fine Art – Parents and pupils are reminded that the GCSE Fine Art Examinations are on Tuesday 30th April and Thursday 2nd May. It is essential that all pupils complete their preparation work during the first day of the exam. Valuable extra support is available for pupils as they prepare for their external exam in A2 on Thursdays after school.

Year 11 GCSE Science Revision Materials – All Year 11 pupils have access to some new revision materials in the Science area of the X-Drive. These materials can be accessed within school or at home by using the Home Access Plus link from the pupil area of the school website.

GCSE English Literature – All our Year 10 pupils plus some pupils from Year 11 will be taking the GCSE English Literature examinations this year. The exams are taking place on 15th and 23rd May. It is recommended that pupils are regularly revising and using GCSE Pod to prepare for their forthcoming examinations.

Out of Hours Learning – There are some new PE clubs for basketball, rounders and cricket starting during week commencing 6th May. These are open to all pupils and are part of our ‘This Girl Can’ activities to promote exercise and fitness amongst our pupils. To join one of these clubs, pupils should collect a letter from the PE teacher and return the signed consent form to our Admin Office.

There are also many opportunities throughout the week for additional support for pupils. Should your daughter wish to join our ‘Out of Hours Learning’ programme, she must return the appropriate consent form to the Admin Office.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics • Homework Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball (from 7th May) • English • Health and Social Care • History Ambassadors • Homework Club • Mathematics • Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Homework Club • Mathematics • Rounders (from 8th May) • Science • Spanish • Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, Craft and Design • Cricket (from 9th May) • English • Fine Art • History • Homework Club • Mathematics • Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French

Please ensure that, if you are collecting your daughter from an after-school session, you come down the drive and into Reception; this enables us to supervise pupils.

CyberFirst 2019 – Smallpeice Trust is offering free courses aimed at 14 to 17 year-olds during the school summer holiday on cyber security. These courses offer the opportunity to learn how everyday technology really works; how the systems and software that surround us are connected to each other; how information flows through networks; and how we can take sensible steps to protect our digital world. Perhaps most importantly, everyone who does CyberFirst gains a strong sense of responsibility – to act safely, legally and ethically. More information is available on [this link](#).

Years 10 and 11 Summer Residential Courses – Smallpeice Trust have lots of exciting residential courses taking place this summer. These courses provide a great opportunity to learn about engineering subjects, give

pupils a taster of life on campus at a UK university and can help enhance UCAS applications. A full list of courses provided by the Smallpeice Trust is available on [this link](#).

Art Competition – Inspire 19 – For the fourth year Birmingham Museums are organising an art competition with the opportunity to win up to £200 of CASS Art Vouchers and many other prizes! To enter pupils, need to create a piece of art inspired by the theme of ‘What does family mean to you?’ Artwork could be inspired by a family pet, parents, siblings, foster family, carers or grandparents... The closing date is Friday 31st May and more information is available on [this link](#).

Easter Holiday Opportunity – *It's Lit Link Up* is back to hold a weeklong programme for young people, aged 13-19 years old, which will take place during the Easter School Holiday. The aim and purpose of *It's Lit Link Up* is to engage young people in creative arts, music and digital media, whilst developing their interpersonal skills, confidence and instigate positive learning and working well with others. During the week of activities there will be various creative practitioners from the music industry, arts and dance community to give advice and support at each session. More information is available on [this link](#).

Leonardo da Vinci Exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery – There is a fantastic opportunity to view drawings by the famous artist Leonardo da Vinci at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery between February and May. This is a temporary exhibition that opens on 1st February celebrating the 500th anniversary since his death. A visit to this exhibition is strongly recommended by our Art Department and is suitable for pupils of all ages. For more information click on [this link](#).

Photography Exhibition at Midlands Art Centre: Kate Holt & Plan International UK: Brave: The Girls of South Sudan – This is a photography exhibition by Kate Holt, showing girls' everyday lives as they survive in the world's youngest country. The girls of South Sudan have faced it all. Conflict, violence and hunger; and they are still just teenagers. See their lives in this powerful exhibition with photography by award-winning photographer Kate Holt which runs from Saturday 30 Mar until Sunday 19 May at the People's Postcode Lottery Community Gallery, Midlands Art Centre. More information is available on [this link](#).

Forthcoming events of interest

School of Jewellery Open Day on 29th June – The open day offers lots of activities for families and those interested in knowing what goes on in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. This will include craft orientated activities planned, from making project to technical demonstration, lightening talks to tours as well as Q&A sessions. The aim to invite our local community into the School, show them what the School of Jewellery is about and the range of educational opportunities available from short courses and evening classes to masters and PhD's.