



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

15th February 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 18 th to Friday 22 nd February	Half Term Holiday – School Closed
Monday 25 th February	Beginning of new half term. School open as normal for pupils Governing Body Meeting – Curriculum and Pastoral
Wednesday 27 th February	Netball fixture against Erdington Academy
Sunday 3 rd to Tuesday 5 th March	French Trip to Paris - Pupils will be leaving school at 4:45am on the Sunday morning with anticipated return time of 11:30pm on the Tuesday evening.
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day Netball fixture against Stockland Green
Friday 8 th March	International Women's Day
Monday 11 th March to Friday 15 th March	STEAM Week

Notices

Road Safety – It is lovely to see so many parents collecting their daughters at the end of the school day. It is extremely important to staff that pupils are able to leave the site and cross the road safely. The Bromford Road gets very busy at the start and end of the school day. Please be mindful and keep your child safe by stopping in a safe location and NOT on the Zig Zag lines.

Online safety - 5th February was Internet Safety Day. Please can you be aware of what your daughter is accessing online. Frequently pupils are accessing apps and social media sites that are aimed at people older than their chronological age. We do not allow the use of mobile phones on the school site, however online issues are still brought to our attention, especially after the weekend or a school holiday.

Start and End of the day- Pupils are expected to be at registration by 8:35am at the latest. Pupil supervision currently starts at 8:25am when we ring our first bell. Before this, pupils can attend our breakfast club from 8:00am and must sign in. At the end of the day pupils should leave the site promptly if they are not part of any supervised activity.

Supervision before the start of the day and at the end of the day is limited to the school site and not the surrounding areas

Trip to France – There are a few pupils who have not brought the EHIC card and/or the remaining paperwork for this trip. It is essential that this documentation is brought into school before the trip. Please note that any



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pupil who does not return this important documentation will not be able to go on the trip. Here is the link to apply online for the EHIC: www.gov.uk/european-health-insurance-card.

Pupils should arrive at school on the morning of Sunday 3rd March so that they are ready to depart from school at 4:45am. It is anticipated that they will return to school for 11:30pm on the evening of Tuesday 5th March. Please note that Wednesday 6th March is a normal school day, hence all pupils are expected to be in school as normal on this day.

ParentPay will be used to update parents during the trip and a parent letter will be distributed shortly.

MathsWhizz - Well done to all those students who are regularly making at least 3 progressions per week. Parents, this is a great opportunity to sit with your daughter, while she is doing MathsWhizz, and discuss the progress she is making. All students are expected to do at least one hour during the holidays.

Catch-Up Maths Resources - This week, selected Year 7 Catch-Up Maths pupils have been provided with personalised Maths resources to work on over the next few weeks. The resources are based on the topics that your daughter is struggling with on MathsWhizz. Each pupil with a pack should aim to complete up to 2-3 worksheets per week and bring them to Ms Sagheer to be checked regularly. You are welcome to support your daughter with these activities and leave any feedback in the folder.

GCSE Pod - In the last few days we have dropped to third place for the GCSE Pod Games, a competition running until the end of February that compares our use with 76 similar schools. As a school, our average number of pods watched is 43.49. An average of 44.88 have been watched by the school that is currently in first place. Over the last week our highest use of GCSE Pod was by Year 8, who watched 296 pods.

It is now less than 2 weeks until the end of the competition. The half term holiday is a fantastic time for our pupils to watch GCSE Pod to help their understanding of any difficult topics and to support their learning. Please continue to encourage your daughter to watch relevant GCSE pods to support her learning

The half term holiday is also an ideal time for Year 11 to revise and prepare for their GCSE examinations. Starting to prepare early for GCSE examinations helps pupils to reduce panic and stress, whilst it also improves examination results. One revision technique is called 'Spaced Practice'. This is regular short periods of revision that combines learning and testing or recalling information that followed by a short break. This pattern is repeated as topics are revisited. GCSE Pod can help with this through their assignments. Assignments test pupils' knowledge and then recommend a playlist of Pods to close any gaps in knowledge. After watching the recommended pods the assignment can be repeated to identify the learning achieved and where more work is required. More information on this technique is available on [this link](#).

Further information for parents on GCSE Pod is available on [this link](#).

Year 11 Mathematics Mock Exam - Year 11 pupils will be sitting their final Mathematics Mock Exam during the week commencing 4th March 2019. This will give pupils an opportunity to track their progress. It is also the final assessment that is being used to decide between Higher and Foundation tier entries.

Pupils need to make sure they revise over the half term holiday!

Year 11 History - Year 11 pupils should be using their half-term wisely and ensuring that they are revising for their GCSE History exam. Pupils may wish to revisit their recent Health mock examination paper and try any questions that they found particularly challenging.

Pupils should also keep in mind that they are guaranteed a question on Pevensey Castle on Paper Two. It is recommended that they continue their research on this; their Pevensey Castle booklet includes many tasks to support with them this process.

Photography Competition - We are launching our first photography competition with the theme of 'Contrast'. This theme is open to individual interpretation and please note that photographs must not include any images of people.

It is recommended that pupils start by researching the definition of 'contrast' and the work of other photographers on this theme for inspiration. Photos can be taken on any suitable device such as a camera, mobile phone or tablet and after choosing one photo, it should be uploaded into the Photography Competition site available on the pupil portal. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 27th February.

We are collecting Pringle (or similar) tubes – Please bring any empty pringle (or similar) tubes to IT1 by **Monday 4th March**. These tubes are required for a workshop organised by Bletchley Park at school on Wednesday 13th March. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to learn about the famous for code breaking during the Second World War. Pupils will also be able to see one of the code breaking Enigma machines and take part in various coding activities.

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.

Online Homework – We have recently introduced a new online system that enable parents and carers to view their daughter’s homework. ClassCharts Homework is being used by all class teachers to record the homework they set for each class alongside the due date. A brief guide that shows how the information can be viewed by date set or due date and filtered by class code, school year, subject or teacher is available on [this link](#).

ClassCharts Homework is available in the ‘Parents’ section of our school website and on [this link](#).

Pupils can access ClassCharts Homework from the ‘Pupil’ section of our school website and the Pupil Portal.

Out of Hours Learning – There are 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"> • Catch-Up Maths • Homework Club • Science Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Catch-Up Maths • English • Health and Social Care • History • History Ambassadors • Homework Club • Mathematics • Science • Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton • Catch-Up Maths • English • French • Homework Club • Mathematics • Mathematics Interventions • Mathematics • Science Trilogy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, Craft and Design • Catch-Up Maths • Fine Art • History • Homework Club • Mathematics • Netball Club and Fixtures • Science Trilogy • Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • French • History • Mathematics

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.

Fabulous Opportunity 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](#).

Post 16 Preparations

An Opportunity for Pupils interested in Childcare Careers – Crackerjack Training offer a variety of learning programmes and apprenticeships in childcare. They are holding their Annual Apprenticeship Road Show Event on **6th March** at Hallmark Hotel Birmingham, 225 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, B16 9RY. For more information on this opportunity telephone 0121 454 2043 or visit www.crackerjacktraining.co.uk

College Open Events – There are a few college open events that may be of interest to our pupils in Years 10 and 11. These are a great opportunity to visit colleges to find out about different course offerings, qualifications and post 16 options. It recommended that pupils have 3 different college offers so that they have choices for once their GCSE results are published.

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
Access Creative College	Friday 22 nd February, 10:00am to 12.30pm & 1.30pm to 4:00pm	www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/
BMET	Saturday 15 th June, 10:00am to 1:00pm	www.bmet.ac.uk
South and City College	Wednesday 20 th March, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.sccb.ac.uk
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Thursday 28 th February, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	www.solihullsfca.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Monday 11 th March, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk