



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

18th October 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 21 st October	Timetable week B Year 7 Assessment Week Governors Meeting: Curriculum and Pastoral 5:30pm to 8:00pm Inter-house Sports Tournament Week Year 11 GCSE Human Geography Field trip Readathon Week
Tuesday 22 nd October	International Stammering Awareness Day
Wednesday 23 rd October	Aspirations Day/Careers Convention/Work Experience Launch Educational Visit to Centre for Alternative Technology
Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November	Half Term Holiday, School Closed
Thursday 31 st October	Halloween
Friday 1 st November	All Saints Day
Monday 4 th November	Timetable week A Year 8 Assessment Week Year 11 Mock Examinations start
Wednesday 6 th November	Year 8 Mindset Workshop
Sunday 10 th November	World Science Day for Peace and Development

Notices

Uniform Consultation – At Hodge Hill Girls' School our uniform forms part of our school ethos. It is imperative that our pupils wear their uniform with pride and represent themselves and the school community in a positive way. Many schools have changed their uniform in recent years, and we are now looking for your views around our uniform with the possibility of making changes in the future.

[Click here](#) to complete a form and submit your views. Please submit your response by **Friday 25th October 2019 at 3pm**.

Year 9 and Year 10 Opportunity to receive Aim Higher mentoring – We have been allocated 10 places on the Aim Higher mentoring programme this year. This involves 10 of our pupils receiving weekly mentoring from a current Aston University student who will provide support and guidance on time management, study techniques and pathways to university and future careers. The students visit the school each week during the timetabled school day. This year we are offering all pupils in Years 9 and 10 the opportunity to apply for a



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place on this scheme with ten pupils being chosen following application. Pupils are expected to demonstrate that they have thought about their own specific needs as learners and how they feel that this would benefit them. Interested pupils should collect an application form from their form tutor and ensure it is returned to the pupil post-box by the end of school on Wednesday 23rd October.

Thought for the Week – Sustenance– *“Human beings are of such nature that they should have not only material but spiritual sustenance as well. Without spiritual sustenance, it is difficult to maintain peace of mind.” Dalai Lama (b.1935)* This week pupils have been considering ‘sustenance’ and how food, exercise, relationships, learning, hobbies, acts of kindness, mindfulness and experiences can sustain, strengthen and nourish our growth, health and wellbeing. Over the weekend encourage your daughter to continue to reflect on substance and the factors that help her to keep healthy, mind and body.

Year 7 and Year 8 Assessment Weeks – Year 7 pupils have an ‘Assessment Week’, starting on 21st October, while the Year 8 ‘Assessment Week’ starts on 4th November. Subject teachers have provided 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 assessment. If your daughter has any questions, she should check these with her subject teacher.

Readathon – Next week all pupils in Years 7 to 9 are taking part in a readathon. This is a charity event with pupils sponsored to read as many books as they can across the week. The sponsorship raised will be used to buy books for schools as well as supporting our local children’s hospital, by providing mobile bookcases and resident storytellers to children who have long-term stays in hospital. Please encourage your daughter with her reading and thank you for your support.

Aspirations Day – On Wednesday 23rd October it is Aspirations Day. The aim of this day is to encourage our pupils to consider their future aims and ambitions, and to start to develop plans for achieving these. There are many different activities planned for this day, with many visitors invited to inspire our pupils. Some of our visitors will be bringing animals, including chickens and a guide dog. If your daughter has any allergies or asthma, please ensure that she has her inhalers/EpiPen with her. Parents must ensure that the school is kept updated on medical information.

Attendance – Congratulations to Year 10, who have enjoyed early lunches in recognition for their excellent attendance. Last week they were the year with highest attendance figure at 98.04%. Congratulations also to the forms with the highest attendance figures who have been awarded positive behaviour points in recognition. Last week this was Year 7 – 7.21; Year 8 – 8.A1; Year 9 – 9.CL; Year 10 – 10.14 and Year 11 – 11.10.

Dark Nights Letter – Parents are requested to read Dark Nights letter, which has been written in conjunction with West Midlands Police. This letter contains important information to help keep your daughter safe. The letter is available on the school website and [this link](#).

Mock Examinations – *“Some people dream of SUCCESS while other wake up and work hard at it.”* (Barbara Rubel). Year 11 are busy preparing for their mock examinations, which are now just in 2 weeks’ time. Year 10 will also be completing mock examinations in English Literature. Pupils have received a copy of their individual timetable. A copy of the overall Mock Examination Timetable is available on [this link](#).

This is a great to practice techniques learnt at the Year 11 Revision Workshops on their first day of term. 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.

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 Voice Crew have selected the value of Kindness for October. Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate. Throughout this month there is a focus on promoting kindness throughout the whole school day- every day. Please discuss this value with your daughter. To support use these links to view the [poster](#), [30 Days of Kindness at Home](#) and [30 Days of Kindness at School](#).

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.

Year 11 Opportunity College Taster Sessions – Solihull Sixth Form College is hosting a number of taster sessions for many of their courses, starting on Tuesday 5th November. This is an excellent opportunity to try a course before you apply. For a list of the taster sessions, more information and to book, click on [this link](#).

GCSE Pod – GCSE Pod is moving to a new website. Currently the new site is only available when the Google Chrome browser is used. To support the launch of this new site there is a new introduction video for parents, which is available on [this link](#). Please encourage your daughter to use the new GCSE Pod site by using Google Chrome. If pupils are unable to access GCSE Pod at home, they are able to access it at school through Homework Club, they should see Miss O'Neil for a letter and consent form to join the Homework Club.

During last week 629 pods were watched, with English Literature, History and Religious Studies the most accessed 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.

Year	Active user on GCSE Pod	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	41%	179 pods have been watched with History, Maths and Religious Studies the most watched subjects.
Year 8	75%	3 pods were watched in Geography.
Year 9	91%	183 pods watched with English Literature, Physics and Religious Studies the most popular subjects.
Year 10	95%	55 pods, most popular subjects are History, English Literature, and Religious Studies.
Year 11	97%	158 pods, History, Biology and Physics the most popular subjects.

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 video clips and learn how to tackle a maths topic with step by step instructions. Pupils 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.

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.

The app can be used online or 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.

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

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

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 that has the potential to be produced commercially and in large quantities. The closing date is 30th November. More information is available on [this link](#) and from the Art Department.

Rugby World Cup – The Rugby World Cup started on Friday 20th September and continues until Saturday 2nd November. National teams from around the world are competing to be crowned as World Champions in Japan. 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.

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](#).

Fragility: Prism Textiles – 8th to 19th October, the RBSA Gallery has an exhibition exploring the concept of fragility through textiles, bringing together a range of quality textile practices with a fine art approach. More information is available on [this link](#).

Diwali on the Square – Saturday 19th October. A family event to celebrate Diwali in the heart of Birmingham city centre. Now in its 3rd year, you can enjoy live performances from dancers; singers and musicians as well as browse the fabulous stalls showcasing Indian culture and food. 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](#).

Open Cockpits Weekend – On 19th and 20th October RAF Cosford will be opening up various aircraft from their Test Flight and War in the Air Hangars to visitors. Additionally, experts will be available to answer any questions. More information, including ticket prices is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Hippodrome Circus 120 – Birthday Open Day – Saturday 26th October, a special free day with circus inspired acts in and around Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre. More information is available on [this link](#).

Beginners Orienteering Event – Saturday 26th October, City of Birmingham Orienteering Club are putting on simple courses that novices can enjoy with the aim to promote orienteering to everyone who lives in and around Birmingham. More information is available on [this link](#).

Black Country Living Museums – 26th October to 3rd November, visit during the daytime to explore 26 acres of period shops and houses to uncover the dastardly deeds of criminals of the past at the 'Fiendish Felons'-themed half term. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Museums – 26th October to 3rd November, there are lots of different events, exhibitions and family workshops organised by Birmingham Museums that are happening during the holidays across the city.

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery invite pupils to join them for spooky story telling or craft workshops making spooky masks or brains in jars. You can visit Sarehole Mill for pumpkin carving; Aston Hall to create a spell jar or the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter for a jewellery workshop and much more. Further information is available on [this link](#).

Midlands Art Centre – 26th October to 3rd November, get creative at the Midlands Arts Centre this half term. There are a whole range of activities and workshops from creative writing to hip hop and street dance or music making to pottery. A full lists of the activities and more information is available on [this link](#).

RAF Cosford October Half Term, Tech Week - 26th October to 3rd November. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday RAF Cosford will be running 'Drones and Robotics' - four tech-based activities: drone racing, robotic football, maze navigation and a robotic version of Ten Pin Bowling! Throughout the entire week visitors will be able to step inside their new Virtual Reality Zone and experience the thrill of flying in a Spitfire! More information is available on [this link](#).

Unplug and Play – October Half Term Family Fun- From Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November, get your wellies at the ready for 5 afternoons of outdoor exploration, crafts and trails at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. 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 the 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, and booking is essential. Limited spaces (only 25 tickets available). Please contact childrens.library@birmingham.gov.uk for a ticket.

Ikon Gallery Workshop – Leaping Hares – On Thursday 31st October there is a creative family workshop. The workshop is an excellent opportunity to be creative with activities inspired by Barry Flanagan's Leaping Hare. 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 2nd November. More information is available on [this link](#).

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
Bordesley Green Girls' Sixth Form	Thursday 7 th November 2019, 6:00pm to 8:00pm	www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk
Cadbury College	Wednesday 27 th November, 4:00pm to 7:30pm	www.cadcol.ac.uk
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Saturday 19 th October 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	www.jcc.ac.uk

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
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	Thursday 21 st November 2019, 6.00pm to 8.00pm	www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk
King Edwards VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy	Thursday 14 th November 2019, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	https://www.hwga.org.uk/
Solihull College	Saturday 16 th November 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	www.solihull.ac.uk
South and City College	Thursday 28 th November 2019, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.sccb.ac.uk
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Saturday 19 th October 2019, 9:30am to 3:30pm	www.solihullsfsc.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, 5:00pm to 8:00pm	www.uobschool.org.uk