



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

6th September 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 9 th September	Timetable week B 4:30pm to 7:00pm Year 6 Open Evening for potential new pupils and their families who are applying to join a secondary school in September 2020.
Monday 16 th September	Timetable week A Year 6 Open Week for parents of pupils who are applying for secondary school places for the next academic year who would like a guided tour of our school. Please contact Reception to book an appointment.
Wednesday 18 th September	Year 11 Mindset Workshop
Thursday 19 th September	Year 10 Mindset Workshop
Friday 20 th September	Year 11 Achieve Conference
Monday 23 rd September	Timetable week B Full Governing Body Meeting 5:30pm to 8:00pm
Tuesday 24 th September	Year 11 Post 16 Curriculum Evening 5:30pm to 6:30pm
Wednesday 25 th September	Year 8 and Year 9 Supporting Your Daughter with Her Learning Evening 5:00 to 6:30pm
Thursday 26 th September	European Day of Modern Languages

Notices

Welcome – Welcome to all our new pupils, their families and staff that have joined our school community. Parents of our new Year 7 pupils may find [this link](#) useful, which provides advice on starting a new Secondary School.

On Wednesday, all our pupils participated in our first Pastoral Day, consisting of assemblies and many different activities in their form groups to prepare all our pupils for the new school year and develop study skills. Year 11 were introduced to 'Spaced Practice' in workshops by 'Exams MADE Easy'. This follows the principle of revise, rest, repeat to space out revision to achieve better results. More information is on [this link](#).

Planners and Timetables – Pupils will now have their planner and timetable, please help your daughter to have the correct equipment for all lessons and ensure that clothing items are labelled. Your daughter should have noted the name of her form tutor and Pastoral Manager. They should be your first point of contact at school.

Congratulations – Congratulations to our 2018/9 Year 11 pupils. We are extremely pleased that our pupils have achieved excellent GCSE results, which reflect the efforts and hard work by our pupils, staff and families.



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Open Evening and Open Week – We are looking forward to welcoming Year 6 pupils and their parents/carers to our Open Evening on Monday 9th September. This is a great opportunity to look around our school and talk to teachers and pupils about life at Hodge Hill Girls' School. Thank you to all the pupils who have offered to help at this important event.

In addition to our Open Evening, we are holding an Open Week that provides the opportunity to tour our school during a normal school day. Please ensure that appointments are booked with reception.

Post 16 Curriculum Evening – This is an excellent opportunity for Year 11 and parents to come and gain information on the various options available for September 2020. We will have a number of guests from 6th form schools, colleges and training providers who will give advice and information on Post 16 courses and apprenticeships.

Information update - Please provide the school with any changes to personal details, emergency contacts and medical information.

Value Voice Crew – The Value Voice Crew is a team of pupils that work together to promote and encourage reflection on a different value each month. This month they have selected 'Respect'. Throughout September there will be Form Group discussions, quizzes and other activities within school. Click on the following links to view the [poster](#) and also to download a [game](#) that can be played with family and friends. Please encourage your daughter to reflect on the value of 'Respect', including respecting yourself and others.

Thought for the Week – 'New Beginnings'. As we start our new academic year we have been reflecting on 'New Beginnings', which is the point in time or space at which something begins, whilst another thing ends. Pupils have been reflecting on the endings and beginnings that are happening at the start of the new academic year and the opportunities to make new choices and try new things.

Extra-Curricular Activities – We have been busy planning a number of exciting extra-curricular learning opportunities and clubs. More information will be available in future Parent Bulletins.

ParentPay – If you wish your daughter to purchase school meals, please ensure that her ParentPay account has credit. Year 7 parents should also use ParentPay to for locker payments. Letters with log in information were sent to all parents of Year 7 pupils in July 2019.

You can log into ParentPay to top-up accounts on [this link](#).

Adopted/Special Guardianship - Extra funding can be applied for to support your child. Please contact Ms Nawaz Deputy Headteacher at the school for further information.

Family Fund - Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people. More information is available in [this link](#).

Free School Meals– 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 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. [Click here](#) to find out if your daughter is eligible for free school meals. To complete an online application form visit: www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/apply.

Taylor Shaw Loyalty Scheme – Taylor Shaw, our in-school caterers, are introducing a loyalty scheme to encourage online payments by ParentPay. Under the scheme your daughter will qualify for a free school meal after her online ParentPay account has been credited with £5.00 or more on 7 occasions. A flyer is available on [this link](#).

Thank a Teacher – This is a new and free way to teachers and support staff, who do an amazing job every day. Anyone can use this link to send a card including pupils, parents, family members. Why not say 'Thank You' to a teacher that's made a difference to you? It takes two minutes to do but has a lasting impact on those exceptional teachers who receive them. More information is available in [this link](#).

Certificates – We have a number of certificates of qualifications for pupils that left our school between 2013 and 2018 that are still to be collected. Certificates of qualifications are important documents that are often required by colleges, universities or employers. Past pupils should contact Ms Qureshi to arrange a suitable

time to collect their certificates. Any remaining certificates that are not collected will be confidentially shredded in November 2019.

Spare Uniform – We are collecting spare uniform, PE kit and training shoes that we can use in emergencies. If you have any items of uniform that are either too small or that you no longer require please donate them to the Pastoral Office.

2019/2020 Term Dates – Please note the following term dates for the next school year and ensure that any holidays are booked during the school holidays.

	Autumn Term 2019	Spring Term 2020	Summer Term 2020
Term Starts	Wednesday 4 th September 2019	Monday 6 th January 2020	Monday 20 th April 2020
Half Term	Monday 28 th October 2019 to Friday 1 st November 2019	Monday 17 th February 2020 to Friday 21 st February 2020	Monday 25 th May 2020 to Friday 29 th May 2020
Term Ends	Friday 20 th December 2019	Friday 3 rd April 2020	Monday 20 th July 2020

GCSE Pod – GCSE Pod is an excellent resource that is available for our pupils to use in support of their homework, to help pupils with current and future topics they are studying and to refresh their knowledge of topics that they have studied as they to prepare for assessments and examinations.

There are a number of new pods covering study skills, including interleaving to strengthen memory, retrieval practise to help students recall information and spaced learning to ensure the information sticks. These pods will be useful to all pupils. More information is available on [this link](#).

Additionally, the [GCSE Pod Parents section](#) contains lots of useful advice to help parents support their daughter with their use of GCSE pod and in the development of good study skills.

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 11:00 to 17:00 daily until 2nd November. 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 7th September. More information is available on [this link](#).

Return to Nature – On Saturday 14th September between 11:00am and 8:00pm there is a family fun day at Holders Woods, Moseley. A free day out for the whole family, this exciting new micro-festival, situated in beautiful ancient woodland, will include an environmental arts trail of immersive installations, live music, performance art, spoken word, story-telling, delicious food and inspiring talks. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Heritage Week – 12th to 22nd September is Birmingham Heritage Week, which consists of many varied and interesting events, exhibitions, walks, open days, workshops and much more. This is a great opportunity to discover parts of our city that you may not have visited before or to rediscover familiar places and see them from a new perspective. 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 21st September. More information is available on [this link](#).

Great Birmingham Run – Saturday 13th October pupils may enter the Junior Great Birmingham Run. For a small entry fee of £10.00 pupils are invited to run 2.5k as part of this sporting event. More information is available on [this link](#).

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