



# Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## Diary

Date	Information
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Timetable week B</b> Governors meeting: Full Governing Body (5:30pm-8:00pm)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Human Rights Day
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Football / Futsal Tournament
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Mock Results Day
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Timetable week A</b> Inter-house Sports Tournament (All Week) Year 7 - Creepy Crawly Christmas Lecture Year 11 Parents evening
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Rewards Trip
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term Charity Non-uniform Day
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Christmas Holidays – school closed
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Timetable week B</b> Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of new school term, school open as normal for all pupils

## Notices

**Thought for the Week – Perspective** - “*The way we see the world is not the way it is, but how we are.*” Stephen Covey (d.2012). Perspective is a particular attitude or way of looking at something or a point of view. It is important to remember that there can be many different perspectives for a situation; we all see, hear, feel, smell and taste things differently. Problems are often a matter of perspective, because we don't see things as they truly are. We are able to change our perspective, by trying to see things from different viewpoints. Over the weekend encourage your daughter to continue to reflect on 'perspective'.

**Assemblies** – This week's assemblies have had the theme of 'Christmas'. Please encourage your daughter to discuss her learning from this week's assemblies with you over the weekend.

**Charity Collection for our Local Foodbank** –We are collecting non-perishable food to support local families in crisis and need for 2 weeks from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December until Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. All donations of in-



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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)

date, non-perishable food should be given to form tutors during morning registration and will be donated to Erdington Food Bank.

If you want to donate but not sure what to give, a typical food parcel consists of three days nutritionally balanced, tinned and dried food. This can include a selection from cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk, long life fruit juice or squash. In addition, many food banks also provide essential non-food items such as toiletries and hygiene products. Thank you for your support.

**Value Voice Crew** – The Value Voice Crew have selected the value of ‘gratitude’ for December. Gratitude is the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. It is a strong feeling of appreciation to someone or something for what the person has done to help you. Throughout this month there is a focus on promoting gratitude 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 Gratitude at HHGS](#)

**School Uniform** – We would like to remind parents that all pupils need to be wearing their school jumper now that we are in winter season.

Parents should also note 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 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](#).

**Leave in Term Time** – Parents are reminded that leave during term time is not allowed. It is imperative that pupils regularly attend school and receive their full-time education. Absence from school can affect pupil attendance, learning and relationships with staff and their peers. Pupils may also find difficulty reintegrating back into school. We are also aware that the Local authority has recently prosecuted families of pupils at who have been absent from our school.

**Positive Behaviour** – Congratulations to the top 100 pupils who have achieved the most positive behaviour points. They will be rewarded with our rewards bowling trip during the last week of term.

**Year 11 Mock Exam Results Day** - Year 11 pupils will receive their mock exam results on Friday 13th December. Parents will also receive a copy of these results along with their daughter’s Year 11 report on Parents’ Evening on Monday 16th December.

**Year 11 Parents Evening** - Year 11 Parents’ Evening is on Monday 16th December. Pupils have all been given a letter, which is also available on [this link](#), and are making appointments to see their teachers. Mrs Adu will be delivering presentations ‘Supporting your daughter during examinations’, and parents will be given their daughter’s report on this evening. In addition, pupils will be issued with packs of resources to support their learning and exam preparation. Please ensure you make every effort to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Khan, Pastoral Manager for Year 11.

**Countdown to GCSEs: Preparing to Succeed** – It is now **19** weeks until the first of the exams begins. Our MFL speaking exams begin on 21<sup>st</sup> April, with Art, Craft and Design beginning 28<sup>th</sup> April, Photography 29<sup>th</sup> April and Drama week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> May and on 11<sup>th</sup> May is the first RS exam.

To support our pupils as they approach their GCSE exams, each week we will be sharing a **GCSE Preparation Target of the Week**. This week the target is: – All Year 11 pupils should be making regular use of Hegarty Maths to support their learning and revision in Maths. Please ask your daughter to show you how she is using Hegarty Maths to support her progress.

**Netball** – Congratulations to our Year 9/10 Netball team. A 3-3 draw in their match against Stockland Green this week. Wonderful to hear the teacher from Stockland Green saying how much her pupils had enjoyed the match and that our pupils were an asset to the school. Well done.

**Christmas Lunch** – On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding our school Christmas lunch. On this day there will be a roast dinner with all the trimming. A vegetarian option will also be available.

**Pupil Voice Survey about Art and Design Projects** – Year 7 and Year 8 have just completed their first 9-week rotation in art and design subjects. During this time, they have completed a variety of new short projects. We

would like to hear our pupils' views on their learning and the projects they have completed. Please encourage your daughter to complete the evaluation from on [this link](#).

**School Gateway Contact Details** - Thank you to parents that have supplied their updated mobile telephone number and email address. These are currently being updated on our records. There are still a number of parents who have either not responded or not provided a current email address. Please ensure that you supply this information as soon as possible to ensure that you continue to receive important school communication. Access to School Gateway is dependent on the school having a current **mobile telephone number and email address** for your child's primary parent/carer contact.

**Attendance** - Congratulations to Year 10, who have enjoyed early lunches this week in recognition for their excellent attendance during the previous week.

Congratulations to the forms with the highest attendance figures, positive behaviour points have been awarded in recognition. Last week this was Year 7 - 7.20; Year 8 - 8.DL; Year 9 - 9.LL; Year 10 - 10.ML1 and Year 11 - 11.9.

**Maths Whizz** - Congratulations to class 7H/Ma 1, who receive the Maths Whizz trophy for the second week running. They have both the highest average usage at 75 minutes per pupil and the highest progressions. Well done to Wania, who had the highest usage and made the most progress last week.

It is recommended that all pupils in Year 7 complete 45 minutes on Maths Whizz as part of their weekly Maths homework. How is your daughter doing? Please remember that pupils do have access to computers in school at lunchtimes and at our Homework Club, which pupils can sign up for. Additional IT access is now available for Year 7 to use Maths Whizz in ICT1 at lunchtime on Wednesdays. Many thanks for your continuing support.

**Hegarty Maths** - Please encourage your daughter to use Hegarty Maths on a regular basis. Regular usage of Hegarty Maths supports pupil's learning and achievement. We are currently 682 out of 1498 schools currently registered on the program.

Congratulations to 8G/Ma1 who are currently the most regular users and to Misbha in this group who has the best usage across the whole school.

**GCSE Pod** - Last week 580 pods were watched by our pupils. History, Biology, Chemistry and English Literature were the most accessed subjects during the last week. As a school we have now watched 10,000 pods this academic year. Congratulations to all the pupils who have received a pin badge in recognition of their use of GCSE Pod.

We are also taking part in the GCSE Pod games that compares our use of GCSE POD with 99 schools of a similar size in our region. Currently we are now comfortably back to 3rd in the GCSE Pod league table.

Year	GCSE Pod Active Users	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	57%	17 pods have been watched with Maths, ICT and Food Preparation and Nutrition the most popular.
Year 8	89%	106 pods were watched with History, Physics and English Language popular.
Year 9	95%	170 pods watched with English Literature, History, Geography the most popular subjects.
Year 10	96%	78 pods, most popular subjects are History, Biology and Physics.
Year 11	97%	209 pods, History, Biology and Chemistry the most popular 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. If pupils are unable to access GCSE Pod at home, they are able to access it at school through Homework Club. Pupils should see Miss O'Neil for a letter and consent form to join the Homework Club.

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](#).

**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.

We urge you to monitor your daughter's usage regularly to support better progress in Science. Your daughter can speak to her Science teacher or Dr Malik if there are any problems.

**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.

**English Literature** – There are a couple of forthcoming theatre productions of texts that some of our pupils study as part of their English Literature Curriculum. Watching a theatrical performance can help pupils to develop their understanding and knowledge of the text. Tickets and more information are available on the following links: [Jekyll & Hyde at The Old Rep Theatre](#), 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February and [A Christmas Carol at The Crescent Theatre](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**GCSE Art Pupils from 2018-2019** – Art portfolios of work for pupils who completed their Art GCSE in June 2019 are now available for collection if required. Please telephone reception to make a convenient time to collect your portfolio. Thank you.

**SEND Parent Consultation Network** - Birmingham City Council are introducing some important changes to improve the way they support SEND for schools and families. One of the changes is the introduction of locality SEND teams across the north, south, east and west of the city. The teams will be made up of educational psychologists, specialist teachers, therapists and Parent Link Officers. More information on the changes together with dates when parents can meet Parent Link Officers is available on [this link](#).

**November 2019 SEND Parent and Carer Survey** - Please find below the link to the November 2019 SEND parent and carer survey. This survey is an important milestone to see if the improvements Birmingham City Council have made in services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are reaching Parents and Carers in Birmingham. The survey is live at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FJHYT5F>, and closes on 11th December 2019.

**Memories, the 30<sup>th</sup> Young Art Exhibition at the Royal College of Art** – Pupils are invited to submit oil, watercolour, acrylic, pastel, crayon, pencil or ink original work for the Art, Drawing and Printmaking Competitions. All entries must be submitted with a donation of £2.00 for Research into Childhood Cancers. The competition rules are available on [this link](#). The closing date of this competition is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, which will be followed by judging in February and a proportion of each school's entries will form an exhibition from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May. More information is available on [this link](#) and from the Art Department.

**New fund created to help Birmingham girls who 'dare to dream'**– There is a new fund to help the next generation of fearless females pursue their ambitions and dreams was launched by Birmingham City Council and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham's Charity on Monday, 14 October 2019. Birmingham girls aged under 16 can now apply for grants of up to £250 to support their own academic or career dreams. This can be for an activity, course, books, equipment or help in accessing work experience (e.g. travel costs). Applicants must live in Birmingham and be in education or training in the city. All bids have to be supported by two nominating adults (including a teacher). More information and an online application form is available on [this link](#).

**EU Settlement Scheme** - All EU citizens and their family members must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 31 December 2020. The EU Settlement Scheme gives EU citizens the immigration status they need to continue to live, work and study in the UK. More information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

## Forthcoming community events of interest

**Ikon Gallery, Barry Flanagan Exhibition** - 18<sup>th</sup> September to 24<sup>th</sup> November, This is a major survey of work by Barry Flanagan, one of Britain's most inventive sculptors, filling Ikon's two floors of gallery space entirely. Curated by Jo Melvin, it brings together a selection of Flanagan's iconic bronze sculptures (1980s-90s) alongside earlier works, offering new insights into the interconnectedness of seemingly distinct aspects of his practice. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Czech Innovation Expo (CIE) exhibition at the Library of Birmingham** - 16<sup>th</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> February. This is an interactive exhibition that would appeal to pupils interested in Science and/or technology. It introduces prominent scientists, thinkers and innovators, whose essential discoveries and inventions have influenced the lives of people around the world, through state-of-the-art technologies and virtual reality. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Birmingham Christmas Market** - 7<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market, the largest authentic German market outside Germany and Austria and the centrepiece of the city's festive event calendar. More information is available on [this link](#).

**The New Art Gallery Walsall** - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020. There is a free exhibition that brings together three photographers, Arpita Shah, Maryam Wahid and Nilupa Yasmin to present new and existing work focused around portraiture, culture and female identity. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Dressed to the Nines at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery** - 7<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020, this is an exhibition about dressing up and going out from around 1850 to the present day. It is an opportunity to see the changes that have occurred in the types of clothing that are worn for special occasions, textiles and fabrics used, where these clothes are purchased from and the kinds of events they are worn at. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Ikon Gallery Family Saturday** - 7<sup>th</sup> December, 12:00 noon to 4:00pm, an excellent opportunity to be creative and spend some time making and experimenting. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Festive Family Craft** - 14<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00 to 4:00pm there is an opportunity to make festive baubles at The Hive. 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 21<sup>st</sup> December. 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 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2020, 5:00pm or 6:30pm	<a href="http://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/">www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/</a>
BMET	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2020, 4:00pm to 7:00 pm	<a href="http://www.bmet.ac.uk">www.bmet.ac.uk</a>
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2020, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.jcc.ac.uk">www.jcc.ac.uk</a>
Solihull College	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020, 5:30pm to 8:00pm	<a href="http://www.solihull.ac.uk">www.solihull.ac.uk</a>
South and City College	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2020, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.sccb.ac.uk">www.sccb.ac.uk</a>
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2020, 5:00pm to 8:00pm	<a href="http://www.solihullsfc.ac.uk">www.solihullsfc.ac.uk</a>

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
University College Birmingham	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2020, 10:00am to 3:00pm	<a href="http://www.ucb.ac.uk">www.ucb.ac.uk</a>