



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

8th November 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Sunday 10 th November	Remembrance Sunday World Science Day for Peace and Development
Monday 11 th November	Timetable week B Year 11 Mock Examinations continue Armistice Day Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 13 th November	World Diabetes Day
Thursday 14 th November	Year 10 English Literature Mock Examination
Monday 18 th November	Timetable week A Governors meeting: Site, Finance and Premises (5:30pm-8:00pm)
Tuesday 19 th November	Leavers Certificate Collection Day 1 No after school Art clubs
Wednesday 20 th November	Leavers Certificate Collection Day 2 Universal Children's Day
Friday 22 nd November	Year 10 - Work Skills Show
Monday 25 th November	Timetable week B Year 9 - Assessment Week
Wednesday 27 th November	Year 10 - Taming of the Shrew screening (English Literature)
Thursday 28 th November	Netball fixture - St. Edmund Campion coming to HHGS
Friday 29 th November	Staff Training Day - School closed to pupils
Saturday 30 th November	St Andrew's Day
Sunday 1 st December	World AIDS Day

Notices

Thought for the Week - Remembrance- *"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."* **Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)**. It is 100 years since the first silence was observed on 11th November 1919, to reflect and remember all those killed during the First World War. This tradition continues today, alongside the purchase of poppies as a symbol of remembrance. As we approach Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, pupils have been reflecting on 'remembrance' and thinking about the sacrifices that so many



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have made in times of conflict, past and present. Over the weekend encourage your daughter to continue to reflect on remembrance or visit a local remembrance service. Information on the Birmingham Remembrance Sunday service is on [this link](#).

Following on from our remembrance assemblies in school, families may also like to visit [this link](#) to read more about the role of the canals in war. We have many canals in Birmingham and there is a huge amount of history associated with these.

Introducing "School Gateway" - From Monday 11th November 2019, the school will be changing the system that it uses to send SMS text messages to parents, from ParentPay to School Gateway. School Gateway will enable the school to develop new parent engagement opportunities. Enabling SMS text messaging through School Gateway is "Phase 1" of this development.

When parents receive SMS messages from the school, they will come from the number +44 121 285 4537, which is the official SMS number allocated to Hodge Hill Girls' School by School Gateway. Parents may wish to add this number to their phone contacts and name it "Hodge Hill Girls' School SMS".

Online Safety - With the internet changing all the time, it can be difficult to know how to keep your children safe online. With this in mind the NSPCC have relaunched Net Aware, a bite-size guide to the latest and most popular social networks, apps and games. Net Aware now includes more social networks, apps and games than ever before, with expert advice from O2 and NSPCC. It also has news stories covering the latest trends and a newly created tips and advice section that answers important questions around online safety. More information is available on [this link](#).

Pause, Mental Health Drop In - This is a centre for young people, under 25, and their families that offers a variety of mental health services. One big advantage at Pause is that there is no need for an appointment. If you or your daughter are worried about something or just need a space to think, you can simply drop in for a chat with one of the team, learn a new technique for managing your emotions or join one of their support groups. More information 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>

Mock Examinations - *"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."* (Winston Churchill). Year 11 started their mock examinations on Monday, which are continuing next week. Please continue to support your daughter with her revision, ensure that she is getting sufficient rest and eating healthily as she completes her mock examinations. Remember, 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.

A copy of the overall Mock Examination Timetable for Year 11 and Year 10 English Literature is available on [this link](#).

Year 11 MFL Mock Speaking Examinations - Year 11 A groups will have their MFL speaking examinations on 19th or 21st November. Pupils are advised to learn the following topics for general conversation: technology, free time and town. The photocard and role play card will be based on festivals and environment.

Year 11 B groups will have their speaking examinations on 26th November. They are recommended to learn the topics of town and technology for their general conversation assessment. The photocard and role play card will be based on free time and festivals.

Art - Year 11 GCSE Art, Craft & Design pupils should be using teacher feedback to improve their current working at grades and prepare for their 10-hour mock exams on 15th and 18th November. **Please note that there will be no after school Art club on Tuesday 19th November. The club will be open as normal on Tuesday 26th November to enable pupils to continue working on their course work.**

For those pupils studying Art, don't forget to use the [Art Site on Pupil Portal](#) to support improving your skills as well as the latest news and an idea of the topics you will be studying.

Any Year 7 pupil who has not studied Art yet but would like to buy their own sketchbook to use in Years 7, 8 and 9, please purchase your sketchbook via parent pay and bring with you to your Art lessons.

Year 7 Reading - Year 7 pupils will shortly be beginning twice weekly reading sessions in form time, led by their form tutors. These sessions will also include comprehension activities to support pupils with their understanding. Research shows that being read to supports learning and pupil progress. You might like to consider reading to – and with – your daughter at home to help her learning. Please talk to your daughter about the opportunities she has in school to develop her reading and encourage her to read as much as possible at home.

Attendance – Congratulations to Year 7, who have enjoyed early lunches in recognition for their excellent attendance. They achieved the highest attendance for two weeks in a row before half term.

Congratulations to the forms with the highest attendance figures, positive behaviour points have been awarded in recognition. Last week this was Year 7 – 7.21; Year 8 – 8.A1; Year 9 – 9.CL; Year 10 – 10.ML2 and Year 11 – 11.9.

Value Voice Crew – The value of the month for November is ‘courage’. Courage is a noun, meaning the ability to control your fear in a dangerous or difficult situation; strength in the face of pain or grief and to choose what is good, right, and kind, even when it is hard or scary. Please discuss this value with your daughter and review the following resources together.

- [Value of the Month Poster](#)
- [30 days of courage at HHGS](#)
- [30 days of courage at home](#)

New fund created to help Birmingham girls who ‘dare to dream’ – 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, and have their bid supported by two nominating adults (including a teacher).

More information and an online application form is available on [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.

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.

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.

GCSE Pod – From 20th October to 2nd November 1648 pods were watched by our pupils. History, English Literature and Maths were the most accessed subjects. During November, each week the three pupils in each year group that use GCSE Pod the most will be awarded a pin badge in recognition.

Year	GCSE Pod Active Users	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	45%	33 pods have been watched with Maths, English Literature and History the most popular.
Year 8	84%	84 pods were watched with History, English Literature and Geography popular.
Year 9	92%	677 pods watched with English Literature, History and Maths the most popular subjects.
Year 10	96%	413 pods, most popular subjects are English Literature, History and English Language.
Year 11	97%	441 pods, History, Chemistry and Religious Studies 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](#).

Maths Whizz – All Year 7 pupils have now completed their Maths-Whizz assessment. Maths-Whizz is an award-winning online tutor, designed for pupils aged 5 to 13, that accelerates learning, builds confidence and helps your child to reach their potential in maths through educational online maths games. Year 7 pupils are all expected to complete 45 minutes on this program each week as part of their Maths homework. Certificates and prizes are awarded to pupils who make the most progress. Congratulations to Alveera, Amina, Salihah, Alina and Tasneem who will receive Gold Certificates for their work over the past two weeks. Any concerns or questions please contact Miss Ainge via the school office.

Hegarty Maths – Hegarty Maths is used to set homework and aid revision for pupils in all years. It is also a great tool for consolidation and revision of topics already covered, therefore pupils are expected to use it independently before internal and external examinations. The program will help and support pupils using the tutorial videos and quizzes they provide.

All tasks are given a week for completion and there are clear guidelines on how they should be completed in the documents below. The link between completing the homework task and notes/working out being made in their Hegarty exercise book is an important step to success, so please take the time to read these documents.

- [Student presentation from Hegarty Maths](#)
- [Student checklist for completing homework and revision](#)
- [Student self help guide](#)
- [Parent checklist for supporting students with homework and revision](#)

Any questions please speak to your child's maths teacher who will be happy to help.

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

Hungry Little Minds – This is a scheme launched by the Secretary of State for Education to improve early language and literacy skills. While it is aimed at younger children, some of the activities and apps may be of interest to our pupils and families, especially where English is not their first language. More information is on [this link](#).

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

The Education Art Prize 2019 Competition – Following on from our success in this competition last year, pupils are invited to enter the Education Art Prize 2019, 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.

Forthcoming community events of interest

Thoughts on Portraiture at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery – 3rd August to 18th November. This is 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. More information is available on [this link](#).

Czech Innovation Expo (CIE) exhibition at the Library of Birmingham – 16th October to 28th 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](#).

Free family craft activity session at The Hive – 9th November, between 10:00am and 4:00pm, families are invited to have fun making paper lanterns and candleholders. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Interfaith Music Festival at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery– 16th November, between 10:00am and 4:00pm, there will be various activities to celebrate Interfaith Week with music, dance and art. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Christmas Market – 7th November to 23rd 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](#).

Dressed to the Nines at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery– 7th December to 4th 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](#).

Book Bunch at Ward End Library – Saturday 16th November. 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. More information is available on [this link](#).

WorldSkills UK Live at the NEC Birmingham – 23rd November 2019, this is the UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event. 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](#).

Ikon Gallery Family Saturday – 7th 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](#).

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	Saturday 30th November 2019, 12 noon and 1:30pm	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 23 rd November 2019, 10:00am to 1:00pm	www.bmet.ac.uk
Cadbury College	Wednesday 27 th November 2019, 4:00pm to 7:30pm	www.cadcol.ac.uk
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Tuesday 19 th November 2019, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	www.jcc.ac.uk
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	Wednesday 27 th November 2019, 5:00pm to 8:00pm	www.solihullsfc.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Saturday 23 rd November 2019, 10:00am to 3:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk