



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

10th January 2020

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 13 th January	Timetable week A
Tuesday 14 th January	Dance Competition
Thursday 16 th January	Year 11 Coffee Morning (10:30am - 11:30am) Football Tournament
Friday 17 th January	Year 11 JCC Interview Day
Monday 20 th January	Timetable week B Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 22 nd January	Basketball Tournament
Monday 27 th January	Timetable week A Year 9 Parents' Evening Year 9 - Visit to Lichfield Cathedral for Holocaust Memorial day

Notices

Thought for the Week – Epiphany – “*Epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world.*” John Milton (d.1674). An *epiphany* can be a sudden realisation lifting us to new insight and understanding in life. At the beginning of the New Year, people often look back at the last year, seeking new ways in which they can improve their lives. At this time of year many people make resolutions, which are for the improvement of either their physical, emotional or mental wellbeing. Studies found that 22% of people achieved their resolutions by setting themselves goals. Over the next week encourage your daughter to think about smart objectives or resolutions for the new year.

Assemblies – In this week's assemblies pupils have been learning about the inspirational women nominated for our new house system.

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.

Do We Have the Correct Contact Information? – We have introduced a new system for parental communications called School Gateway. It is our intention that all school related communication including school closure notifications, bulletins, newsletters, reports, timetables, attendance figures and out-of-hours-learning bookings will be distributed using School Gateway. There are many advantages to using School



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Gateway, which includes an app that can be installed on your smart phone. In order to use the app it is essential that you supply the school with your current **email address and mobile telephone number**. Letters were sent in December that included your contact information. Please either return the response slip or email enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk including the name and form group for all your children alongside your email and mobile telephone number, so that we can ensure that our records are correct.

Year 11 Coffee Morning – Year 11 parents who could not attend parents evening in December 2019 have been invited to a coffee morning on Thursday 16/1/2020 (10.30-11.30am.) This is an ideal opportunity for parents to learn ideas to support their daughter's progress and access the resource pack that has been provided for the pupils. Parents are reminded that the School Gateway is an ideal opportunity to access their daughter's report. Support for School Gateway will also be available at the coffee morning.

Year 11 Joseph Chamberlain Interview Day – On Friday 17th January staff from Joseph Chamberlain College will be in school to interview Year 11 pupils who have applied to study courses there in the new academic year. Please ensure pupils are prepared for the interview and bring their certificates with them on the day.

Year 9 Curriculum Evening – Year 9 pupils have taken home a letter of invitation to our forthcoming Year 9 Curriculum Evening on Monday 20th January. This is a very important opportunity for you to learn more about the various study options available for your daughter. A copy of the letter is available on this link. Please ensure that the response slip is returned to Mrs Kennie by Tuesday 14th January.

Countdown to GCSEs: Preparing to Succeed – It is now **15** weeks until the first of the exams begins. Our MFL speaking exams begin on 21st April, with Art, Craft and Design beginning 28th April, Photography 29th April and Drama week commencing 4th May and on 11th May is the first RS exam.

GCSE Preparation Target of the Week – Our Year 11 pupils are making a huge amount of use of GCSE Pod at the moment. During the next week take the time to watch this PowerPoint presentation, which gives you lots of ideas for how you can best use the resource to help you with your exam preparation. [Click here](#) to open the presentation.

Attendance – Congratulations to Year 7, who have enjoyed early lunches in recognition for their excellent attendance during the week before the Christmas holiday.

Out of Hours Learning – Our out of hours learning programme restarts on Monday 13th January. 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.

Earphones/Headphones – It is advantageous for your daughter to bring headphones to school. This will ensure that she can listen to the audio in programmes such as GCSE Pod, Hegarty Maths and Maths Whizz in our IT suites during lessons, lunchtime clubs and our Homework Club.

Job of the week for Citizenship – This week's career of the week is being a member of the Royal Air Force. Click on [this link](#) to see all the different opportunities that are available to you if you join the Royal Air Force and the great careers they have.

If you or any family members work within a civil service job, please get in contact with Mrs Barron at s.barron@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk as she would love for you to come into school to speak to students about your jobs and careers in the service.

GCSE Pod – Our pupils have continued to make very frequent use of GCSE Pod and accessed 1879 pods over the last week of term and the two-week holiday. The most popular subjects overall were History, English Literature and Maths. As a school, we have now hit 100,000 pods in total since our subscription to GCSE Pod began a few years ago. We are in third place overall for our region for usage with an average of 24.82 pods having been watched since 1st November per KS4 pupil.

Year	GCSE Pod Active Users	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	73%	112 pods have been watched with History, Texts for Drama and Maths the most popular.
Year 8	96%	275 pods were watched with English Literature, History and English Language popular.
Year 9	96%	293 pods watched with Maths, English Literature and English Language the most popular subjects.
Year 10	97%	307 pods, most popular subjects are English Literature, Geography and History.
Year 11	97%	893 pods, History, Religious Studies and Biology the most popular subjects.

Please encourage your daughter to continue to use GCSE Pod over the Christmas holiday. It is a great resource to help to consolidate learning from this term or prepare for future learning.

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.

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.

Maths Whizz – Maths Whizz is an award-winning online tutor that is used by pupils in Year 7. Maths Whizz accelerates learning, builds confidence and helps our pupils to reach their potential in maths through educational online maths games. 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.

Physics Evening Lectures – The Institute of Physics at the University of Birmingham offers a number of evening lectures which are open to the general public and may be of particular interest to families wanting to widen their learning opportunities in science; please follow [this link](#) to find out more.

English Literature – Tickets are on sale for a dramatisation of Jekyll and Hyde at the Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham from Wednesday 26 February to Friday 28 February 2020 . This is one 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 is available on [this link](#).

Memories, the 30th 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 24th January, which will be followed by judging in February and a proportion of each school's entries will form an exhibition from 28th April to 1st May. More information is available on [this link](#) and from the Art Department.

Never Such Innocence Project – This is a competition we have taken part in before that invites young people to create a piece of art which reflects on conflict and it's affects. If pupils would like to enter the Christmas

Holiday is the ideal time to create a piece of artwork. Pupils should write the title of the work, their name, age and form on the back and then hand it to the Art Department. More information is available on [this link](#).

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

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](#).

The New Art Gallery Walsall– 15th November 2019 to 19th 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– 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](#).

Ikon Gallery Family Saturday – 1st February, 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	Tuesday 28 th January 2020, 5:00pm or 6:30pm	www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/
BMET	Wednesday 26 th February 2020, 4:00pm to 7:00 pm	www.bmet.ac.uk
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Tuesday 21 st January 2020, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	www.jcc.ac.uk
Solihull College	Tuesday 3 rd and Wednesday 4 th March 2020, 5:30pm to 8:00pm	www.solihull.ac.uk
South and City College	Monday 20 th January 2020, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.sccb.ac.uk
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Monday 20 th January 2020, 5:00pm to 8:00pm	www.solihullsfc.ac.uk

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
University College Birmingham	Saturday 25 th January 2020, 10:00am to 3:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk