



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

13th December 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 16 th December	Timetable week A Inter-house Sports Tournament (All Week) Year 7 - Creepy Crawly Christmas Lecture Year 11 Parents evening
Tuesday 17 th December	Rewards Trip (am)
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 20 th December	Charity Non-Uniform Day for St Basils (Preventing youth homelessness) End of Term – School will be closing early on this day with pupils leaving at 12:15pm. A letter with more information will be distributed early next week.
Monday 23 rd December to Friday 3 rd January	Christmas Holidays – school closed
Monday 6 th January	Timetable week B Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils
Tuesday 7 th January	Start of new school term, school open as normal for all pupils

Notices

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.

Reports for Year 11 pupils, including their mock exam results, will be handed out at Parents' Evening. Pupils will have received their own copies of their mock exam results on Friday 13th December and Parents' Evening provides an excellent opportunity to discuss 'next steps' to support your daughter on her journey to success in her GCSEs. Please take the time to discuss mock exam results with your daughter prior to Parents' Evening.

Countdown to GCSEs: Preparing to Succeed – It is now **19** 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.

To support our pupils as they approach their GCSE exams, each week we will with be sharing a **GCSE Preparation Target of the Week**. This week's target – Pupils will receive packs of revision materials to support



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them in their preparation for their GCSEs at Parents' Evening on Monday 16th December; they should spend time over the Christmas break looking at the resources and identifying how these can be used to help them moving forwards with their exam preparation. Pupils should also note that further resources will be provided over the coming weeks and months and should make sure that they are well organised and understand exactly what they need to focus on to support their preparation.

Thought for the Week – Altruism - *"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."* Winston Churchill. (d.1965). Altruism is the principle or practice of unselfish concern for the welfare of others. We have thought about acts of kindness and how they create a more compassionate and considerate society. We have also reflected on the quotation "How do we change the world? One single act of random kindness at a time." which is spoken by Morgan Freeman in the film *Evan Almighty*. Over the weekend encourage your daughter to continue to reflect on 'altruism'.

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

Attendance – Congratulations to Year 7, 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 – 7.21; Year 8 – 8.18; Year 9 – 9.CL; Year 10 – 10.ML2 and Year 11 – 11.10.

Charity Collection for our Local Foodbank – The last day to non-perishable food for our local foodbank is Monday 16th December. All donations of in-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.

Charity Non-Uniform Day – On Friday 20th December pupils are invited to donate to St Basils and wear something different to their normal school uniform. St Basils is a local charity that works with vulnerable young people in Birmingham to enable them to find and keep a home, grow their confidence, develop their skills, increase opportunities and prevent homelessness. Pupils should give their donation to their form tutor during morning registration. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Christmas Lunch – On Wednesday 18th 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.

Health and Social Care Career of the Week – This week's career is 'Care Assistant'. More information is available on [this link](#).

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.

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.

GCSE Pod –Last week 1185 pods were watched by our pupils. History, English Literature and English Language the three most watched subjects across the whole school.

We are taking part in the GCSE Pod games that compares our use of GCSE POD with 98 schools of a similar size in our region. Currently we are now comfortably back to 3rd place with an average of 15.92 pods having been watched per KS4 pupil since 1st November.

Year	GCSE Pod Active Users	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	73%	99 pods have been watched with Food Preparation and Nutrition, History and Maths the most popular.
Year 8	91%	55 pods were watched with Maths, English Language and Physics popular.
Year 9	96%	234 pods watched with English Literature, Maths and History the most popular subjects.
Year 10	96%	229 pods, most popular subjects are English Literature, History and Geography.
Year 11	97%	571 pods, History, English Language 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](#).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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](#), 26th to 28th February and [A Christmas Carol at The Crescent Theatre](#), 3rd to 14th 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.

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.

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

Festive Family Craft – 14th 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 21st December. More information is available on [this link](#).

Ikon Gallery Family Saturday – 4th January and 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 these links: [January](#) and [February](#).

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.solihullsf.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Saturday 25 th January 2020, 10:00am to 3:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk