



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

20th September 2019

Diary

Date	Information
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 – please ensure that any outstanding response slips are returned to school on Monday.
Wednesday 25 th September	Year 8 and Year 9 Supporting Your Daughter with her Learning Evening 5:00 to 6:30pm – please ensure that any outstanding response slips are returned to school on Monday.
Thursday 26 th September	European Day of Modern Languages
Monday 30 th September	Timetable week A
Tuesday 1 st October	The Big Draw (all October) Black History Month (all October)
Saturday 5 th October	World Teacher's Day
Monday 7 th October	Timetable week B Full Governing Body Meeting 5:30pm to 8:00pm
Tuesday 8 th October	Year 7 Curriculum Evening 5:00 to 6:30pm
Wednesday 9 th October	Year 10 and Y11 Supporting Your Daughter with her Learning Evening 5:00 to 6:30pm

Notices

Thought for the Week – Peace - *"We live in a diverse society - in fact, a diverse world - and we must learn to live in peace and with respect for each other."* Stan Lee (d.2019). This week pupils have been considering the word 'peace', defined as a state of tranquillity or quiet. This can be both societal (applying to our interactions and society) and psychological (relating to how we feel and our mental health). In considering peace pupils have thought about the evolution of society and that psychological or 'inner' peace is often regarded as a necessary precursor to societal peace. Please continue the reflections and discussions of peace with your daughter over the weekend.

Post 16 Curriculum Evening – Tuesday 24th September, this is an excellent opportunity for Year 11 and their 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. A letter will be distributed to pupils and available on the school website on [this link](#). **Please ensure that you return the reply slip to indicate your attendance.**

Information on some of the local college and sixth form open events is at the end of this Bulletin.



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Year 8 and Year 9 Supporting Your Daughter with her Learning Evening – On Wednesday 25th September, parents and carers are invited to this workshop that will focus on ways in which parents/carers can support their daughter with school work and revision at home, as well as exploring areas such as mindset and goal setting which pupils and parents may find help to encourage improvements in learning, both within and beyond the classroom. A copy of the parent/carer letter is available on [this link](#). **Please ensure that you return the reply slip to indicate your attendance.**

Collecting your Daughter – It is lovely to see parents waiting for their children at the end of the school day. To support the school in ensuring members of the public can still access the foot path could we kindly ask parents to wait on the opposite side of the road, or further down the road. The community police officer has also asked the school to remind parents not to park on the zigzag marking outside schools.

Safety Letter – West Midlands Police have issued a safety letter that is available on our school website and on [this link](#).

Wear it Pink Collection – We are currently collecting pink items to create hampers filled with pink goodies and treats ready for our October fundraising event, Wear it Pink for Cancer Research. We welcome donations of any new pink products to support this worthy cause, e.g. socks, make up, hair accessories, stationery, toiletries etc.

Year 11 Learning Workshops – On Wednesday we held Learning Workshops for some pupils in Year 11. This workshop included a number of strategies to increase memory, manage stress for achievement, examination preparation and examination skills. If your daughter attended one of these workshops, please discuss how she can put some of the strategies she has learnt into practice as she prepares for her mock examinations.

Year 11 Mock Exams – “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.” Colin Powell. With the Year 11 mock examinations approaching in 6 weeks’ time; it is important that our pupils start their preparation. There are a variety of tools that can be used to prepare for examinations including GCSE Pod, Tassomai, Hegarty Maths, BBC Bitesize, textbooks, personal notes etc. All Year 11 pupils participated in revision workshops on their first day of term to help provide them with more ideas to support their exam preparation.

Year 10 Learning Workshops – On Thursday we held Learning Workshops for some pupils in Year 10. Pupils were able to reflect on their own personal strengths and areas for development as learners as well as consider how to increase their own levels of resilience. If your daughter attended one of these workshops, please discuss how she can put some of the strategies she has learnt into practice to support her learning and schoolwork.

Year 11 Art, Craft & Design After School Club - Started on 17th September and will be running each week on a Tuesday until Christmas to support the additional time and resources required to complete the exam board's assessment objectives thoroughly for Component 1. Please encourage your daughter to attend as Component 1 is worth 60% of her final GCSE grade.

European Day of Modern Languages – Throughout next week we are celebrating European Day of Languages with assemblies, form time facts and quizzes, lesson starter activities in different languages, a poster competition for Years 7 to 9 and taster sessions for pupils in Years 7, 9 and 10 to learn Japanese. These activities are designed to highlight the importance of learning different languages. The MFL Faculty has also developed several resources to support your daughter with learning languages that are available on [this link](#).

The Big Draw – This is the world's largest drawing festival, which celebrates the importance of drawing in all its forms during October every year. This year the theme is "Drawn to Life" focusing on the many ways creativity enhances wellbeing. Pupils are encouraged to try something creative to lift their mood or just to have a go and learn or try a new skill. More information is available on [this link](#).

Art - There has been a great start to the year in the Art Department with changes to our programme of study. Pupils are reminded to use the Art Department site on the Pupil Portal to highlight the areas they will be studying this year, to keep up to date with news and read the additional learning resources available to help improve skills. Pupils can also log into this site on [this link](#).

Maths - Learning maths is like building a pyramid. Maths skills such as counting, addition, subtraction etc are the foundation building blocks that make up the base. If one maths skill doesn't quite sink in, it makes the

foundations shaky and new skills become harder to learn. This is what causes children to start to lose confidence and fall behind. So early awareness of a potential problem is key so it can be addressed before confidence is damaged. Over the next few weeks look out for tips on how to support your daughter with her Maths.

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 the clips and learn how to tackle the topic with step by step instructions. They 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?

To access the Hegarty Maths pupils need enter their name, date of birth, our school name and then set their own passwords. Any pupils who have forgotten their passwords can ask their maths teacher to reset it.

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

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.

Please can parents of our new Year 7 pupils encourage their daughter to activate her GCSE Pod accounts and parents of our Year 10 pupils encourage their daughters to explore the pods available for their GCSE subjects so that they can build their understanding of the courses that have started.

There is 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](#).

PE Lessons – Parents are reminded that pupils are expected to wear our school PE kit for PE lessons. If your daughter does not have school PE kit, this should be purchased from our uniform suppliers. Please contact your daughter’s PE teacher if there are any concerns.

For health and safety reasons, pupils cannot wear jewellery in PE lessons. All jewellery must be removed. If your daughter has recently had her ears pierced, or wears a nose stud, and she is unable to remove her studs, please provide her with plasters in order for them to be covered in lessons.

Attendance and Punctuality – At Hodge Hill Girls’ School, we are committed to encouraging pupils to attend school on a daily basis. Attending school regularly helps to raise achievement and attainment and pupils have shown enthusiasm for learning since they returned to school last week.

Pupils are expected to arrive into school from 8.25am registration which takes place at 8.35am. Those who arrive after 8.35am will receive a late mark.

Absent school days and lessons missed can affect your child’s attendance and learning as shown below:

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Equals this number of weeks absent	Equals this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Equals this number of weeks absent	Equals this number of lessons missed
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

Digital Leaders – On Monday and Friday lunch times our Digital Leaders are available in the Upper iLZ to help Year 7 pupils with their use of school technology.

Digital Leaders are pupils with a desire to help others and an interest in technology. As a Digital Leader, pupils will gain confidence, develop communication skills and experience with technology. It also enhances college and apprenticeship applications. Pupils are welcome to apply to join our team of Digital Leaders. To apply they should complete the short application form on the Pupil Portal.

Rugby World Cup – The Rugby World Cup begins on Friday 20th September in Japan. National teams from around the world competing will be competing to be crowned as World Champions. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the sport of Rugby and the culture of Japan. The official site of the Rugby World Cup is available on [this link](#), with details of all the games and when they are broadcast by ITV. [Click here](#) to see an introduction to the tournament by James Haskell, England international player.

The Education Art Prize 2019 Competition – Following on from our success in this competition last year, pupils are invited to enter this competition organised by Specialist Crafts Art and Design. To enter pupils need to design and develop a clay item with the potential to be commercially scalable. The closing date is 30th November. More information is available on [this link](#) and from the Art Department.

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 11:00am to 5:00pm daily until 2nd November. More information is available on [this link](#).

Thoughts on Portraiture – 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 until 18th November at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. 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](#).

Dodici Corde Guitar Duo – Saturday 21st September, a free live music event and a rare opportunity to hear the guitar music of the Early Romantic Period at the Library of Birmingham. More information is available on [this link](#).

Birmingham Weekender – From 4th to the 6th October, Birmingham's free arts festival takes place with a rich programme of dance, music, art and performance by some of the city's leading artists and arts organisations. The festival takes place at various venues around Digbeth. 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 5th October. 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](#).

Birmingham's Young Poet Laureate - An Audience with Aliyah – On Wednesday 30th October 2019 at 2:15 pm there is an opportunity for pupils to hear a short set poetry performance from Aliyah (20 minutes) followed by a Q&A session (20 minutes). This event is taking place at Beatbox, Music Library, Lower ground floor, Library of Birmingham. The event is free but booking is essential. Limited spaces (only 25 tickets available). Please contact childrens.library@birmingham.gov.uk for a ticket.

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 29 th October 2019, 3:00pm, 4:30pm or 6:00pm	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 19 th October 2019, 10:00am to 1:00pm	www.bmet.ac.uk
Bordesley Green Girls' Sixth Form	To be confirmed	www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk
Cadbury College	Saturday 5 th October. Time to be confirmed	www.cadcol.ac.uk
Edgbaston High School for Girls	Saturday 21 st September 2019, 9.30am - 12.00 noon	www.edgbastonhigh.co.uk
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Saturday 19 th October 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	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	To be confirmed	www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk
Solihull College	Saturday 16 th November 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	www.solihull.ac.uk
South and City College	Wednesday 2 nd October 2019, 4:30pm to 7:00pm	www.sccb.ac.uk
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Saturday 19 th October 2019, 9:30am to 3:30pm	www.solihullsfsc.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Saturday 23 rd November 2019, 10:00am to 3:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk
University of Birmingham School	To be confirmed	www.uobschool.org.uk