



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

20th December 2019

Diary

Date	Information
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
Monday 13 th January	Timetable week A
Tuesday 14 th January	Dance Competition
Thursday 16 th January	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

Notices

Christmas Holidays – We would like to wish everyone in our community a happy and safe festive season. Pupil safety is always of paramount importance, please ensure that you have read the Christmas Safety letter, which has been developed in partnership with West Midlands Police. A copy of the letter is available on [this link](#).

Out of Hours Learning – Please note that our out of hours learning will recommence on Monday 13th January. There will be no out of hours learning and clubs during the first week of term.

Thought for the Week – Nativity – “*If in your heart you make a manger for his birth, then Christ will once again appear a child on this earth.*” Angelus Silesius (d.1677). Sunday 22nd December marks the winter solstice, the day in the year with the shortest amount of sunlight hours. Many ancient cultures had winter solstice festivals, celebrating the return of the light as the days become longer. Jesus’ birth is placed around the time of the winter solstice with the teaching that Jesus is ‘the light of the world’ and the message to live in a new way by turning away from the dark world of meanness and self-interest to a life based on love, understanding and generosity. This is also a theme in Charles Dickens, Christmas Carol. Over the Christmas holiday encourage your daughter to continue to reflect on the many simple actions that we can do to take the Christmas spirit of love, understanding and generosity into the new year.

Assemblies – This week our assemblies have celebrated the success and efforts of our pupils this term. Congratulations to all our pupils who have received certificates.



Hodge Hill Girls' School
Bromford Road
Birmingham
B36 8EY

Website: www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk
Telephone: 0121 464 3094
Email: enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk

Art - We encourage you to visit local Art Galleries with your daughters to view a wide range of artistic styles and develop knowledge about the diversity reflected within the Art subject area. Details of exhibitions and events are available on these links: [Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery](#), [Ikon Gallery](#), [The Midlands Art Centre](#).

Alternatively visit street artist Banksy's new piece of art work in the Jewellery Quarter, which was created to highlight homelessness. More information is available on [this link](#).

Pupils can keep up to date with news about Art by using the [Art Department Site](#), which contains lots of advice to support improving skills and techniques or pupils can check out the areas of future learning for their year group.

Year 11 Art, Craft & Design GCSE - The Art Department has extended the deadline for Component 1 for all the Art, Craft & Design GCSE students to support them achieving the best grades that they can. Component 1 is worth 60% of the final GCSE grade. Pupils are encouraged to use the extended deadline to improve and refine their work. The new deadline is the first lesson back after the Christmas holidays when pupils will start Component 2 in preparation for their examination.

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 its 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](#).

Earphones/Headphones - Your daughter will be using Maths Whizz and Hegarty Maths on a regular basis in school. Both programs have audio elements, so it would be an advantage for your daughter to bring her own headphones to school.

Maths Whizz - Congratulations to 7g/Ma 1 who receive the Maths Whizz trophy this week. Well done also to Soffiyah K who had the highest individual Maths Whizz usage and made the most progress last week.

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.

Maths Homework - Maths homework is on <https://hegartymaths.com> and all pupils must check Class Charts to ensure they have completed the correct tasks for the week. It is important that pupils watch all the video clips and are making notes/copying examples into their Blue Books. Pupils are also reminded that 'Hegarty Maths Help' is available in room 18 every day at lunchtime with Miss. Akram. Failure to complete the tasks on time will result in an after-school intervention from 2:45pm-3:15pm on Tuesdays in room 15.

Countdown to GCSEs: Preparing to Succeed - It is now **18** 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 - please take the time over the holidays to discuss your daughter's report with her, including her mock exam results. Please discuss revision strategies with your daughter, particularly in those subjects she is finding most challenging, and ask her to explain to you how she plans to manage her revision over the coming weeks and months.

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 - 7.2; Year 8 - 8.A1; Year 9 - 9.TX; Year 10 - 10.ML3 and Year 11 - 11.9.

Job of the week for Citizenship - Each week we want to promote jobs that link to citizenship and PSHE in school. This will allow pupils to see the variety of on public sector jobs there are available. This week, the job

of the week is a 'HMRC Officer'. More information on working for Her Majesty's revenue and customs is available on [this link](#).

If you have a job linked to the public sector please let Mrs Barron know, as she would like to give students as much information as possible and there is nothing better than hearing it from people working within the sector. Her email address is s.barron@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk. Come back next week for our next job link.

Health and Social Care Career of the Week – This week's career is 'Care Home Manager'. 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](#)

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 – Pupils have watched 994 pods over the last week, with an average of 18.63 pods having been watched per KS4 pupil since 1st November. We are currently in 3rd place out of 98 schools for schools of an equivalent size in our region for usage. 88% of our pupils have active accounts and the most watched subjects overall last week were English Literature, History and Biology.

Year	GCSE Pod Active Users	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	73%	116 pods have been watched with Texts for Drama, Geography and Maths the most popular.
Year 8	96%	36 pods were watched with History, English Language and English Literature popular.
Year 9	96%	256 pods watched with English Literature, Maths, and Chemistry the most popular subjects.
Year 10	97%	211 pods, most popular subjects are English Literature, Geography and History.
Year 11	97%	375 pods, History, Biology and Chemistry 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.

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.

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](#).

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

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