



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

29th November 2019

Diary

| Date | Information |
|---|---|
| Monday 2 nd December | Timetable week A Years 7 to 9 - Supporting Your Daughter with Her Reading Evening International Day for the Abolition of Slavery |
| Tuesday 3 rd December | Year 10 Speaker Trust Workshops Netball Fixture - Stockland Green coming to HHGS |
| Monday 9 th December | Timetable week B Governors meeting: Full Governing Body (5:30pm-8:00pm) |
| Tuesday 10 th December | Human Rights Day |
| Thursday 12 th December | Football / Futsal Tournament |
| Friday 13 th December | Mock Results Day |
| 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 (pm) |
| Friday 20 th December | Last day of term Charity Non-uniform Day |
| Monday 23 rd December to Friday 3 rd January | Christmas Holidays - school closed |
| Monday 6 th January | Timetable week B Start of new school term, school open as normal for all pupils |

Notices

Thought for the Week - Expectations - *"There two ways to be happy: improve your reality or lower your expectations."* Jodi Picoult (b.1966). Expectations are a strong feeling or belief that something will happen. Our expectations are influenced by our personal experiences, beliefs or emotions. In turn they can affect our decision making, aims and goals and emotions. It is important to understanding that somethings are within our control and some are not. Over the weekend encourage your daughter to continue to reflect on her 'Expectations'.

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



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Parent and Pupil Workshop – Supporting your daughter with her reading – On Monday 2nd December 2019 at 5.30pm parents/carers and pupils are invited to an interactive workshop with Learning Performance. The workshop will demonstrate a range of different strategies to support the development of reading, a crucial component of academic success at GCSE. This workshop follows the successful workshops ‘Supporting your daughter with her learning’. To attend please ensure you have returned the response slip to the letter on [this link](#).

Charity Collection for our Local Foodbank – We are collecting non-perishable food to support local families in crisis and need for 2 weeks from Monday 2nd December until 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.

Pupil Voice Survey about Art and Design Projects – Year 7 and Year 8 have just completed their first 9-week rotation in art and design subjects. During this time, they have completed a variety of new short projects. We would like to hear our pupils’ views on their learning and the projects they have completed. Please encourage your daughter to complete the evaluation from on [this link](#).

Year 11 Mock Exam Results Day - Year 11 pupils will receive their mock exam results on Friday 13th December. Parents will also receive a copy of these results along with their daughter’s Year 11 report on Parents’ Evening on Monday 16th December.

Countdown to GCSEs: Preparing to Succeed – It is now **20** 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 will with be sharing a **GCSE Preparation Target of the Week** – Pupils should watch at least 10 GCSE Pods about learning covered in the Autumn Term of Year 10 this week.

School Gateway Contact Details – Thank you to parents that have supplied their updated mobile telephone number and email address. These are currently being updated on our records. There are still a number of parents who have either not responded or not provided a current email address. Access to School Gateway is dependent on the school having a current mobile telephone number **and** email address for your child’s primary parent/carer contact. Please ensure you supply this information to the school as soon as possible.

Thank a Teacher - Has a teacher really helped you this year? Did you know that you can send them a free thankyou card using the [this link](#).

SEND Parent Consultation Network - Birmingham City Council are introducing some important changes to improve the way they support SEND for schools and families. One of the changes is the introduction of locality SEND teams across the north, south, east and west of the city. The teams will be made up of educational psychologists, specialist teachers, therapists and Parent Link Officers. More information on the changes together with dates when parents can meet Parent Link Officers is available on [this link](#).

November 2019 SEND Parent and Carer Survey - Please find below the link to the November 2019 SEND parent and carer survey. This survey is an important milestone to see if the improvements Birmingham City Council have made in services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are reaching Parents and Carers in Birmingham. The survey is live at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FJHYT5F>, and closes on 11th December 2019.

Reminder about jewellery in PE lessons - Pupils must remove all jewellery for PE lessons for health and safety reasons. If pupils are unable to remove jewellery, they should bring plasters from home to cover this.

Letters of Attendance – Please note that the school does not provide letters to pupils or parents confirming their attendance at Hodge Hill Girls’ School. Parents and pupils should be keeping copies of their acceptance

of place documentation and school reports in case they need this information in the future. If the Home Office requires confirmation of attendance, they must write to the school directly.

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.

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 – 7.20; Year 8 – 8.16; Year 9 – 9.CL; Year 10 – 10.ML3 and Year 11 – 11.9.

New Lunchtime Menus – Taylor Shaw have recently reviewed and updated their menus. A copy of their new menu is available on [this link](#).

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.

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.

Maths Whizz – It is great to see how many of our Year 7 pupils have embraced Maths Whizz and are doing above and beyond the required 45 minutes per week, they are making excellent progress.

Feedback has been received from parents who have tried to access Maths Whizz on phones and tablets without success. Maths Whizz have stated that at the moment it is not available on all platforms. 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 – Please encourage your daughters to use Hegarty Maths on a regular basis. Year 8 to Year 11 are set at least one task per week for homework and should be completing additional tasks for pre-tutoring, consolidation and revision. So far this year our pupils have averaged only 2.13 hours on Hegarty which places us at 612 out of schools currently registered on the program. We can do better.

Well done to 8G/Ma1 who are currently the group with the highest usage.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's maths teacher who will be happy to help.

GCSE Pod – Last week 580 pods were watched by our pupils. History, Biology, Chemistry and English Literature were the most accessed subjects during the last week. As a school we have now watched 10,000 pods this academic year. Congratulations to all the pupils who have received a pin badge in recognition of their use of GCSE Pod.

We are also taking part in the GCSE Pod games that compares our use of GCSE POD with 99 schools of a similar size in our region. Currently we are in fourth place, having dropped from third place the previous week.

| Year | GCSE Pod Active Users | Use of GCSE POD |
|---------|-----------------------|--|
| Year 7 | 57% | 17 pods have been watched with Maths, ICT and Food Preparation and Nutrition the most popular. |
| Year 8 | 89% | 106 pods were watched with History, Physics and English Language popular. |
| Year 9 | 95% | 170 pods watched with English Literature, History, Geography the most popular subjects. |
| Year 10 | 96% | 78 pods, most popular subjects are History, Biology and Physics. |
| Year 11 | 97% | 209 pods, History, Biology and Chemistry 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.

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

Ikon Gallery, Barry Flanagan Exhibition - 18th September to 24th November to 23rd December, This is a major survey of work by Barry Flanagan, one of Britain's most inventive sculptors, filling Ikon's two floors of gallery space entirely. Curated by Jo Melvin, it brings together a selection of Flanagan's iconic bronze sculptures (1980s-90s) alongside earlier works, offering new insights into the interconnectedness of seemingly distinct aspects of his practice. 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](#).

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 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](#).

Free Chamber Music event at Library of Birmingham – Saturday 30th November. An exciting series of free concerts given by students from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire’s Chamber Music Department. This month featuring the Dunev String Quartet. 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 – 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](#).

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 23rd December. 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/ |
| 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.solihullsfcc.ac.uk |
| University College Birmingham | Saturday 25 th January 2020, 10:00am to 3:00pm | www.ucb.ac.uk |