



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

6th October 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Saturday 5 th October	World Teacher's Day
Monday 7 th October	Timetable week B
Tuesday 8 th October	Year 7 Curriculum Evening, arrive at 4:45pm for a 5:00pm start (Click here for a copy of the parent letter)
Wednesday 9 th October	Year 10 and Year 11 Supporting Your Daughter with her Learning Evening, arrive at 4:45pm for a 5:00pm start (Click here for a copy of the parent letter)
Monday 14 th October	Timetable week A
Wednesday 16 th October	World Food Day
Thursday 17 th October	International Day for The Eradication of Poverty
Friday 18 th October	Wear it Pink day raising money for Cancer Research
Monday 21 st October	Timetable week B Year 7 Assessment Week Governors Meeting: Curriculum and Pastoral 5:30pm to 8:00pm Inter-house Sports Tournament Week Year 11 GCSE Human Geography Field trip Readathon Week
Tuesday 22 nd October	International Stammering Awareness Day
Wednesday 23 rd October	Aspirations Day/Careers Convention/Work Experience Launch Educational Visit to Centre for Alternative Technology

Notices

Thought for the Week – Education - “*The word ‘education’ is derived from the Latin ‘educere’, meaning to ‘draw out’. In this sense, it is the drawing out of our humanity and unique potential.*” John Dewey (d.1952). This week pupils have been considering ‘education’, the teaching, learning and development of knowledge, skills and values. This can be in a formal environment, such as our school lessons and also in an informal environment, such as breaktime, clubs or at home. In reflecting on education, Marian Wright Edelman stated, “Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.” Over the weekend encourage your daughter to reflect in her education alongside her future aims.



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Wear it Pink Raffle – Thank you to everyone who has donated pink items for our hampers raffle. There is still time to donate any new pink products to support this worthy cause, e.g. socks, make up, hair accessories, stationery, toiletries etc. Pupils should bring any donations by Monday 14th October.

Raffle tickets to win one of our luxury hampers are on sale during lunch times for 50p each.

Wear it Pink Day – On Friday 18th October pupils and staff are invited to wear a pink item to school with their school uniform and donate £1.00 to Cancer Research.

Attendance - We would like to thank parents/carers for their help and support in improving attendance and punctuality. Last week attendance was 96.5%. For punctuality, three pupils incurred 3 late marks. Staff have discussed the importance of punctuality with these pupils and they have arrived at school on time for registration.

Ms Belnavis is now awarding positive behaviour points to the Form with the best attendance at the end each school week.

Value Voice Crew – The Value Voice Crew have selected the value of Kindness for October. Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate. Throughout this month there will be a focus on promoting kindness 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 Kindness at Home](#) and [30 Days of Kindness at School](#).

World Teacher's Day – Saturday is World Teacher's Day, an international day that promotes the teaching profession and celebrates the role of teachers throughout the world. To mark this day why not say 'Thank You' to a teacher that's made a difference to you? Thank a Teacher is a new and free way to thank teachers and support staff, who do an amazing job every day. Anyone can use this link to send a card including pupils, parents, family members. It takes two minutes to do but has a lasting impact on those exceptional teachers who receive them. More information is available in [this link](#).

Year 11 Mock Exams – "If people only knew how hard I've worked to gain my mastery; it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all." – Michelangelo. Year 11 are busy preparing for their mock examinations, which are now just in 4 weeks' time. This is a great to practice techniques learnt at the Year 11 Revision Workshops on their first day of term. In addition, there are a variety of tools that support revision and preparation for examinations including GCSE Pod, Tassomai, Hegarty Maths, BBC Bitesize, textbooks, personal notes etc.

Out of Hours Learning – Pupils are being informed of all appropriate out of hours learning opportunities and provided with the appropriate consent forms by their teachers. 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.

After-School Homework Club – The After-School Homework Club started on Monday 30th of September. This provides a quiet environment with computer facilities for pupils to complete their homework from Monday to Thursday each week. If a pupil wants to join our Homework Club, they must collect the appropriate consent form from Miss O'Neill, which should be signed and posted in the ground floor pupil post-box.

Year 9 Textiles After School Club – A new after school club is starting on 10th October for Year 9 pupils who are interested in starting to learn about making clothes. At the club pupils will be introduced to using sewing patterns and making a simple garment for a child. They will need to provide suitable material and can up-cycle textiles if they choose. The club will run between 2.55 and 4.05pm for the rest of the term on Thursday. Interested pupils must collect the appropriate consent form from Ms Walsh, which should be signed and posted in the ground floor pupil post-box.

Maths – Maths is all around us. A great way for your daughter to engage in maths in a practical way is by helping in the garden. Gardening offers lots of practical, fun and memorable opportunities to practice Maths skills with counting, measuring, reading the temperature or sorting. You could also encourage your daughter

to plan a gardening project, which introduces scale, evenly arranging and spacing of bulbs or seeds, checking temperature, monitoring rainfall and measuring the plants as they grow.

Year 11 Opportunity College Taster Sessions – Solihull Sixth Form College is hosting a number of taster sessions for many of their courses, starting on Tuesday 5th November. This is an excellent opportunity to try a course before you apply. For a list of the taster session, more information and to book, click on [this link](#).

Coats and Shoes - Parents are requested to ensure that pupils bring a waterproof coat and wear plain black, practical sturdy shoes to school. This is especially important during the colder and damper days of late Autumn and Winter.

ParentPay – We're really pleased to see that the majority of our parents have activated their ParentPay accounts, and are using ParentPay to regularly top-up their daughters' balance for lunch payments. A really useful feature in ParentPay is the ability for parents to set a "communication alert" so that they automatically receive an email when their daughter's lunch balance falls below a certain amount. To learn how to set up communication alerts, simply google "ParentPay set up email alerts", and check your Spam/Junk Mail folders, as genuine ParentPay emails can get incorrectly filtered. Please note that the email balance alert option is free-of-charge, whereas the sms-text balance alert option is chargeable to the parent's ParentPay account.



The Young Walter Scott Prize 2019 Competition – Pupils that are fascinated by History and love writing fiction are invited to enter this competition. The challenge is to write between 800 and 2000 words that is set in a time before you were born. Any kind of fiction is accepted – prose, poetry, drama, fictional letters or reportage. The closing date is 31st October and more information is available on [this link](#).

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.

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](#).

GCSE Pod – During last week 651 pods were watched, with History, Spanish and English Literature the most accessed 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.

Year	Active GCSE Pods	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	21%	28 pods have been watched with Maths, English/Chemistry/ICT the most watched subjects.
Year 8	72%	30 pods were watched in Geography, Maths and Biology
Year 9	89%	157 pods watched with English Literature, ICT, Combined Science the most popular subjects
Year 10	97%	179 pods, most popular subjects are English Literature, History, Geography and Biology.
Year 11	96%	257 pods, History, Spanish and Biology the most popular subjects

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](#).

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.

Rugby World Cup – The Rugby World Cup started on Friday 20th September and continues until Saturday 2nd November. National teams from around the world competing are competing to be crowned as World Champions in Japan. 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.

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 Weekender – From 4th to 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](#).

Flight Sim 2019 – On 5th and 6th October, there is an opportunity for aviation fans to experience the best that virtual flight has to offer at RAF Cosford. More information, including ticket prices 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](#).

Fragility: Prism Textiles – 8th to 19th October, the RBSA Gallery has an exhibition exploring the concept of fragility through textiles, bringing together a range of quality textile practices with a fine art approach. 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](#).

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 19th October. More information is available on [this link](#).

Open Cockpits Weekend – On 19th and 20th October RAF Cosford will be opening up various aircraft from our Test Flight and War in the Air Hangars to visitors while our experts answer any questions that they may have. More information, including ticket prices 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](#).

RAF Cosford October Half Term, Tech Week - 26th October to 3rd November. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday RAF Cosford will be running 'Drones and Robotics' - four tech-based activities: drone racing, robotic football, maze navigation and a robotic version of Ten Pin Bowling! Throughout the entire week visitors will be able to step inside our new Virtual Reality Zone and experience the thrill of flying in a Spitfire! 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, and booking is essential. Limited spaces (only 25 tickets available). Please contact childrens.library@birmingham.gov.uk for a ticket.

WorldSkills UK Live – This is the UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event that is being held on 23rd November 2019 at the NEC Birmingham. It is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to get impartial one-to-one guidance on career routes and jobs from National Careers Service and National Apprenticeship Service. Find opportunities that you can apply for, such as work experience, apprenticeships, and jobs. 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 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	Thursday 7 th November 2019, 6:00pm to 8:00pm	www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk
Cadbury College	Saturday 5 th October, 10:00am to 3:00pm	www.cadcol.ac.uk
Edgbaston High School for Girls	Saturday 21 st September 2019, 9:30am to 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	Thursday 21 st November 2019, 6.00pm to 8.00pm	www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
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.solihullsf.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Saturday 23 rd November 2019, 10:00am to 3:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk
University of Birmingham School	Thursday 7 th November 2019, 5:00pm to 8:00pm	www.uobschool.org.uk