



# Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

11<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## Diary

Date	Information
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Timetable week A</b>
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	World Food Day
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	International Day for The Eradication of Poverty
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Wear it Pink day raising money for Cancer Research
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Timetable week B</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 <sup>nd</sup> October	International Stammering Awareness Day
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Aspirations Day/Careers Convention/Work Experience Launch Educational Visit to Centre for Alternative Technology
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Half Term Holiday, School Closed
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Halloween
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	All Saints Day

## Notices

**Thought for the Week** – Character – *“Watch your thoughts, for they become your words, watch your words, for they become your actions, watch your actions, for they become your habits, watch your habits, for they become your character, watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.”* Ralph Waldo Emerson (d.1882). This week pupils have been considering 'character' and the different aspects of a person's character. Character is what makes people unique, their distinguishing qualities of characteristics, personal capabilities, attitudes and morals. Over the weekend encourage your daughter to reflect her experiences and choices that are building her character.

**County Lines Letter** – Parents are requested to read 'County Lines' Exploitation letter which has been written in conjunction with West Midlands Police. This letter contains important information to help keep your daughter safe. The letter is available on the school website and [this link](#).

**Year 7 Assessment Week** – Year 7 pupils have an 'Assessment Week', week beginning 21st October. Subject teachers will provide the pupils with guidance in lessons about revision and preparation for their assessment,



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as well as the dates and times of the assessments. All assessments will be taking place during normal timetabled lessons. Please support your daughter by ensuring that she is preparing thoroughly for her assessment. If your daughter has any questions, she should check these with her subject teacher.

**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. We are collecting socks, make up, hair accessories, stationery, toiletries and many other pink items. Pupils should bring any donations by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Raffle tickets to win one of our luxury hampers are on sale during lunch times for 50p each. The prize draw will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

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

**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 is 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](#).

**Aspirations Day** – On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October it is Aspirations Day. The aim of this day is to encourage our pupils to consider their future aims and ambitions, and to start to develop plans for achieving these. There are many different activities planned for this day, with many visitors invited to inspire our pupils. Some of our visitors will be bringing animals, including chickens and a guide dog. If your daughter has any allergies or asthma, please ensure that she has her inhalers/EpiPen with her. Parents must ensure that the school is kept updated on medical information.

**Mock Examinations** – “I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.” (Thomas Jefferson). Year 11 are busy preparing for their mock examinations, which are now just in 3 weeks’ time. Year 10 will also be completing mock examinations in English Literature. Pupils have received a copy of their individual timetable. A copy of the overall Mock Examination Timetable is available on [this link](#).

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.

**Year 10 History Assessments** –Year 10 are completing History assessments next week, focussing on Medieval medicine. It is recommended that pupils watch the BBC Medieval Medicine available on [this link](#) to support their preparation for their assessments. Pupils may also find the YouTube video available on [this link](#) helpful.

**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.

**After-School Homework Club** – The After-School Homework Club started on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 has started on 10<sup>th</sup> October for Year 9 pupils who are interested in starting to learn about making clothes. The club will introduce pupils to using sewing patterns and making a simple garment for a child. Pupils 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. There are many ways that pupils can apply their mathematical learning in practical situations at home. Cooking is always a mathematician’s favourite! Perfect for understanding and practicing number, measuring, size, shape and time. Fractions can also be introduced in sharing out portions. More advanced mathematics can be used in changing a recipe for 4 into a recipe for 6.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> November. This is an excellent opportunity to try a course before you apply. For a list of the taster sessions, more information and to book, click on [this link](#).

**The Big Draw** – This is the world's largest drawing festival, which celebrates the universal language of drawing. There are many art and drawing activities happening in school this month. Did you know that drawing:

- T**urns ideas into reality
- H**elps us to see clearly and from different perspectives
- E**nables us to communicate in a universal language
- B**reaks down cultural and generational barriers
- I**mproves our health and wellbeing
- G**enerates innovation within the creative industries
- D**evelops visual literacy in an increasing visual world
- R**einforces connections between all subjects and disciplines
- A**wakens our creative potential
- W**idens everyone’s capacity to understand, communicate and innovate

More information on the Big Draw is available on [this link](#).

**GCSE Pod** – GCSE Pod is moving to a new website. Currently the new site is only available when the Google Chrome browser is used. To support the launch of this new site there is a new introduction video for parents, which is available on [this link](#). Please encourage your daughter to use the new GCSE Pod site by using Google Chrome. If pupils are unable to access GCSE Pod at home, they are able to access it at school through Homework Club, they should see Miss O’Neil for a letter and consent form to join the Homework Club.

During last week 926 pods were watched, an increase from the 651 pods watched the previous week, with History, English Literature and Maths 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. Digital Leaders are available during Monday and Friday lunch times to support Year 7 and Year 8 pupils with setting up their accounts.

Year	Active GCSE Pods	Use of GCSE POD
Year 7	40% (previously 21%)	54 pods have been watched with History, Maths and English the most watched subjects.
Year 8	75%	49 pods were watched in English, Maths and Religious Studies most popular.
Year 9	91%	352 pods watched with English Literature, Maths and Religious Studies the most popular subjects.
Year 10	96%	415 pods, most popular subjects are History, English Literature, and Religious Studies.
Year 11	97%	56 pods, Physics, History and Chemistry 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 video clips and learn how to tackle a maths topic with step by step instructions. Pupils 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.

**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.

The app can be used online or 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](http://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.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 that has the potential to be produced commercially and in large quantities. The closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> November. More information is available on [this link](#) and from the Art Department.

**Rugby World Cup** – The Rugby World Cup started on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September and continues until Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. National teams from around the world 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> November at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Fragility: Prism Textiles** – 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

**Big Draw Day at the MAC** – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Jim Holyoak and Matt Shane's immersive drawing installations are made in a marathon fashion, expanding across entire walls over the course of an exhibition. Birmingham MAC is inviting you to come to their Big Draw event to create a drawing on a similar scale. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Draw to Observe - The Big Draw Workshop**– Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Artist Tom Jones will be at The Hive to lead a drawing workshop aimed at everyone from beginners, to those who would like to develop their skills and ideas. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Great Birmingham Run** – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

**Diwali on the Square** – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October. A family event to celebrate Diwali in the heart of Birmingham city centre. Now in its 3rd year, you can enjoy live performances from dancers; singers and musicians as well as browse the fabulous stalls showcasing Indian culture and food. 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 19<sup>th</sup> October. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Open Cockpits Weekend** – On 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October RAF Cosford will be opening up various aircraft from their Test Flight and War in the Air Hangars to visitors. Additionally, experts will be available to answer any questions. More information, including ticket prices is available on [this link](#).

**Birmingham Hippodrome Circus 120 – Birthday Open Day** – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October, a special free day with circus inspired acts in and around Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Beginners Orienteering Event** – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October, City of Birmingham Orienteering Club are putting on simple courses that novices can enjoy with the aim to promote orienteering to everyone who lives in and around Birmingham. More information is available on [this link](#).

**RAF Cosford October Half Term, Tech Week** - 26<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 their new Virtual Reality Zone and experience the thrill of flying in a Spitfire! More information is available on [this link](#).

**Unplug and Play – October Half Term Family Fun**- From Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, get your wellies at the ready for 5 afternoons of outdoor exploration, crafts and trails at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Birmingham's Young Poet Laureate - An Audience with Aliyah** – On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:childrens.library@birmingham.gov.uk) for a ticket.

**Ikon Gallery Workshop – Leaping Hares** – On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October there is a creative family workshop. The workshop is an excellent opportunity to be creative with activities inspired by Barry Flanagan's Leaping Hare. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November. More information is available on [this link](#).

**WorldSkills UK Live** – This is the UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event that is being held on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> October 2019, 3:00pm, 4:30pm or 6:00pm	<a href="http://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/">www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/</a>
Aston University Sixth Form	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 5:30pm to 8:30pm	<a href="http://www.auea.co.uk/">www.auea.co.uk/</a>

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
BMET	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2019, 10:00am to 1:00pm	<a href="http://www.bmet.ac.uk">www.bmet.ac.uk</a>
Bordesley Green Girls' Sixth Form	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 6:00pm to 8:00pm	<a href="http://www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk">www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk</a>
Cadbury College	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November, 4:00pm to 7:30pm	<a href="http://www.cadcol.ac.uk">www.cadcol.ac.uk</a>
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	<a href="http://www.jcc.ac.uk">www.jcc.ac.uk</a>
King Edwards VI Camp Hill School for Girls	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019, 6:00pm to 8:00pm	<a href="http://www.kechg.org.uk">www.kechg.org.uk</a>
King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019, 6.00pm to 8.00pm	<a href="http://www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk">www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk</a>
Solihull College	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 10:00am to 2:00pm	<a href="http://www.solihull.ac.uk">www.solihull.ac.uk</a>
South and City College	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.sccb.ac.uk">www.sccb.ac.uk</a>
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2019, 9:30am to 3:30pm	<a href="http://www.solihullsfc.ac.uk">www.solihullsfc.ac.uk</a>
University College Birmingham	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2019, 10:00am to 3:00pm	<a href="http://www.ucb.ac.uk">www.ucb.ac.uk</a>
University of Birmingham School	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2019, 5:00pm to 8:00pm	<a href="http://www.uobschool.org.uk">www.uobschool.org.uk</a>