



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

17th May 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 20 th May	Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 End of Year Examinations during this week 10X2 Assessment Preparation Day for iMedia Governors Meeting
Tuesday 21 st May	10X1 and 10X3 Assessment Preparation Day for iMedia
Wednesday 22 nd May	Year 9 - Solutions for the Planet Big Idea Regional Final.
Thursday 23 rd May	Year 10/Year 11 GCSE English Literature Examination
Friday 24 th May	10Y1 and 10Y2 Assessment Preparation Day for iMedia
Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May	School Closed – Half Term Holiday
Monday 3 rd June	School Open for Summer Term Year 11 study leave commences, attendance required for scheduled examinations Year 10 GCSE iMedia examination Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 End of Year Examinations continue during this week
Wednesday 5 th or Thursday 6 th June	Eid-al-Fitr / Ramadan (TBC)
Friday 7 th June	Year 10 End of Year Examinations Start

Notices

Hay fever - As the seasons change some pupils will suffer with hay fever. Medication should be taken before school if needed. If your daughter suffers with hay fever or allergies, please ensure that any necessary medication is brought to school throughout this period.

Year 10 Assessment Preparation Day for iMedia – All pupils must bring the R081 Pre-Productions Skills Booklet with them for this assessment preparation day. This day is essential preparation for their external GCSE exam, which takes place on Monday 3rd June.

Year 7 to Year 10 Internal Examinations – A list of revision topics by subject for each year is now available on [this link](#). Please encourage your daughter to use this as she continues her revision throughout the time before her examinations.

Year 7 and Year 8 will have a week of examinations w/c 20th May. A copy of the exam timetable for Year 7 and Year 8 is available on [this link](#).



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Year 9 examinations also start on 20th May, while Year 10 will have their examinations starting on Friday 7th June. Please note that Year 10 will not be sitting an English exam in the internal examination series as they will have completed their actual GCSE English Literature exam. A copy of their examination timetable is available on [this link](#).

Please encourage your daughter to regularly check her examination timetable online, which will be updated to reflect any changes that are required.

The gyms will be used for some exams in Years 7, 8 and 9 to enable the pupils to develop their understanding of a formal examination situation. Year 10 will sit the vast majority of their exams in the gym to support the development of skills for their external GCSEs in summer 2019.

Year 11 External Examinations – Formal written examination started on Monday 13th May. All pupils have been provided with a copy of the FINAL examination timetable printed on yellow paper. A copy of this timetable is also available on [this link](#).

Please ensure your daughter arrives 15 minutes before the start time of her examinations, with all the equipment required for the examination. Morning examinations will start at 9.00AM and afternoon examinations will start at 1.00PM. If you have any questions, please contact Ms Qureshi.

It is especially important that all of Year 11 pupils attend school for the full school day as normal. When pupils are not in examinations, they will be attending normal lessons with their teachers, who will be available to provide support for our pupils. It is important that your daughter uses this time to ask any questions, seek help with her revision and ensure that she understands exam techniques and expectations.

Please [click here](#) to read a parent letter with important information on the arrangements for Year 11 pupils.

Handwriting and GCSE exams - Our handwriting is the first impression that examiners will have of us in most subjects studied at GCSE. Please take the time to look at your daughter's handwriting; if you find it difficult to read, an examiner will find it hard too. Please encourage her to write clearly so that examiners will be able to read everything that has been written. Remember, too, that handwriting sometimes deteriorates after writing for a longer period of time, so it is important that your daughter regularly practises extended writing and writing for a sustained period.

Year 9 and Year 10 Science Support - We are trialling a new app called Tassomai with our Year 9 and Year 10 pupils to support revision and learning in Science, especially with the imminent examinations over the next few weeks. This app works on any smart phone, tablet or computer.

Your daughter will have received instructions on how to access and set -up Tassomai. If she has any queries, your daughter should see Dr Malik or her Science teacher.

GCSE Pod – Since the beginning of May our pupils have watched 1953 pods. The most popular subject is English Literature with 751 pods as Year 10 and Year 11 prepare for their GCSE English Literature examinations. History, Religious Studies and Science (Biology and Physics) have also been popular subjects with our pupils.

GCSE Pod is an excellent resource that supports all pupil revision and learning. Learning is most effective when it is 'active'. To maximise learning please encourage your daughter to try one of these activities after watching GCSE Pod:

- Note down at least 5 key facts, dates, diagrams or quotes from the video.
- Create a mind map to join ideas together.
- Discuss the key learning from the pod with a family member or friend.

The [GCSE Pod Parents section](#) contains lots of useful advice to help parents support their daughter as they prepare and complete examinations. Especially recommended are '[Supporting your child through their GCSEs](#)' and '[How to deal with exam stress](#)'

Attendance – Recently we have had an increasing number of requests for holidays in term time. Pupils are expected to be in school during term time and as such holidays cannot be authorised. Please note the following term dates for the next school year and ensure that any holidays are booked during the school holidays.

	Summer Term 2019	Autumn Term 2019	Spring Term 2020	Summer Term 2020
Term Starts	Monday 29 th April 2019	Wednesday 4 th September 2019	Monday 6 th January 2020	Monday 20 th April 2020
Half Term	Monday 26 th May 2019 to Friday 31 st May 2019	Monday 28 th October 2019 to Friday 1 st November 2019	Monday 17 th February 2020 to Friday 21 st February 2020	Monday 25 th May 2020 to Friday 29 th May 2020
Term Ends	Friday 19 th July 2019	Friday 20 th December 2019	Friday 3 rd April 2020	Monday 20 th July 2020

Free School Meals – There are many advantages to claiming free school meals. Firstly, it can ensure your daughter receives a healthy meal during the school lunch break. Additionally, our school receives important additional funding to support the learning of our pupils on free school meals. This funding is used in a variety of ways, examples include additional targeted support and mentoring, assistance with educational visit costs, access to online study resources and books.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

For more information and to complete an online application form visit:

www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/apply.

Workshops for pupils whose first language is not English - Norton Hall Children and Family Centre provide a range of services for families, women, children and young people in the Washwood Heath area of Birmingham. Norton Hall Centre has a new workshop for pupils whose first language is not English that will improve communication skills using innovative techniques, exercises, games and discussions. To find out more about their services please call on 0121 328 3043 or get in touch using the contact form on <http://www.nortonhall.org.uk/>

2018 GCSE Textiles - Past pupils who completed their Textiles GCSE last year are invited to come and collect any remaining coursework they require. Please note that any coursework not collected will shortly be disposed of. Please be kind enough to pass the message on to any further pupils from last year's GCSE textiles class.

GCSE History – Health and the People - Pupils in Years 10 and 11 who study GCSE History are encouraged to watch the BBC Teach series of 'Medicine through Time' videos which support learning for 'Health and the People'. The videos can be accessed through [this link](#).

Year 11 GCSE Science Revision Materials – All Year 11 pupils have access to some new revision materials in the Science area of the X-Drive. These materials can be accessed within school or at home by using the Home Access Plus link from the pupil area of the school website.

GCSE English Literature – All our Year 10 pupils plus some pupils from Year 11 will be taking the GCSE English Literature examinations this year. They have completed their first exam; the second exam is on 23rd

May. It is recommended that pupils are regularly revising and using GCSE Pod to prepare for their forthcoming examinations.

Out of Hours Learning – Throughout the year teachers hold intervention sessions before and after school to enhance learning and achievement. As we approach the GCSE examination period, please reinforce with your daughter the importance of attending all interventions that she is expected to. This will ensure she has the best support during her examination preparations.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics • Homework Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • English • Health and Social Care • History Ambassadors • Homework Club • Mathematics • Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Homework Club • Mathematics • Rounders • Science • Spanish • Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, Craft and Design • Cricket • English • Fine Art • History • Homework Club • Mathematics • Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French

Subject teachers can provide more advice on ‘Out of Hours Learning’ opportunities. To join our ‘Out of Hours Learning’ programme, your daughter must return the appropriate consent form to the Admin Office. Please ensure that, if you are collecting your daughter from an after-school session, you come down the drive and into Reception as this enables us to supervise pupils.

Birmingham Museums and Art Galleries - To celebrate the opening of an exciting new interactive children’s gallery MiniBrum at Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum, Birmingham Museums and Art Galleries are offering all families with school-age children a fantastic Birmingham Museums Membership offer. Families are able to receive 10% off the price of a Family Membership if they purchase during May and June. For more information click on [this link](#).

Art Competition – Inspire 19 – For the fourth year Birmingham Museums are organising an art competition with the opportunity to win up to £200 of CASS Art Vouchers and many other prizes! To enter pupils, need to create a piece of art inspired by the theme of ‘What does family mean to you?’ Artwork could be inspired by a family pet, parents, siblings, foster family, carers or grandparents... The closing date is Friday 31st May and more information is available on [this link](#).

Photography Exhibition at Midlands Art Centre: Kate Holt & Plan International UK: Brave: The Girls of South Sudan – This is a photography exhibition by Kate Holt, showing girls’ everyday lives as they survive in the world’s youngest country. The girls of South Sudan have faced it all. Conflict, violence and hunger; and they are still just teenagers. See their lives in this powerful exhibition with photography by award-winning photographer Kate Holt which runs from Saturday 30 Mar until Sunday 19 May at the People's Postcode Lottery Community Gallery, Midlands Art Centre. More information is available on [this link](#).

Forthcoming events of interest

School of Jewellery Open Day on 29th June – The open day offers lots of activities for families and those interested in knowing what goes on in Birmingham’s Jewellery Quarter. This will include craft orientated activities planned, from making project to technical demonstration, lightening talks to tours as well as Q&A sessions. The aim to invite our local community into the School, show them what the School of Jewellery is about and the range of educational opportunities available from short courses and evening classes to masters and PhD's.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year - The Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition provides a showcase for the world’s very best nature photography. The exhibition, developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, is visiting Wolverhampton Art Gallery from 29 June 2019 to 1 September 2019. This is part of a worldwide tour and for the first time will be showcasing the full collection, 100 images and 45 digital shots. More information is available on [this link](#).