



# Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Diary

Date	Information
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	School Closed – Half Term Holiday
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> or Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Eid-al-Fitr / Ramadan (TBC)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10 End of Year Examinations Start
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10 Work Experience Placement Interviews (2:30pm onwards)
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	HHSCP Father's Day Gift Shop
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Visit to Ackers Adventure
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Inoculations – Year 8 HPV & Year 9 School Leaver Booster Visit to Lloyds House Year 6 Induction Evening

## Notices

**Year 10 Art, Craft and Design Extended Coursework Project** – Year 10 Art, Craft & Design pupils are about to start the extended coursework project required for Unit 1 of their GCSE. This element is worth 60% of their final GCSE grade. Please can we ask that all students come prepared for lessons with their A2 folders, pencils and their GCSE guide booklet. Students are expected to complete homework of at least 1 hour a week to support the development of their skills and ideas.

**Maths Whizz** – Our Year 7 and 8 students have been working really hard towards their examinations this week. Unfortunately, probably due to this, their Maths Whizz usage has lapsed. Could we please have a 'push' over the holidays and Summer to make sure that students are using the program regularly, a little every day really makes a difference. Thank you for your continued support.

**Year 11 Revision Guides** - Year 11 pupils have borrowed revision guides from school for a number of different subjects. Please ensure that revision guides are returned to the Pastoral Office once exams have been completed in the relevant subjects.



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**Lost Property** – All lost property will be available for collection from the Lower iLZ at 2:45pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Please ensure that all items of clothing and belongings that your daughter brings into school are very clearly labelled. This will enable lost items to be returned to their owner should they be found.

**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 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 have just their Physics examinations to complete when they return after half term.

Year 9 are approximately halfway through their examinations.

Year 10 will start their examinations on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 the Year 9 and Year 10 examination timetable is available on [this link](#). Please encourage to use the half term holiday to continue with her preparation for these examinations. It is also recommended that your daughter should regularly check her examination timetable online, as this will be updated to reflect any changes as necessary.

Please note that the gyms will be used for some exams in Year 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 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.

**Year 11 External Examinations** – Formal written examination started on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

Year 11 will be starting study leave after the half term. They should attend school for all their examinations. Please ensure your daughter arrives 15 minutes before the published start time, 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.

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

**GCSE Pod** – Pupils have been making excellent use of GCSEPod as they prepare for their examinations. Since the beginning of May our pupils have watched 3228 pods. The most popular subject is English Literature with 1046 pods as Year 10 and Year 11 prepare for their GCSE English Literature examinations. History, Religious Studies, Biology and ICT have also been popular subjects with our pupils.

The half term holiday is an excellent time for pupils to use GCSE Pod to either prepare for their examinations; to support their learning of more difficult topics they may have covered and to prepare for topics they will be studying during the next half term. Remember that 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 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
Half Term	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2019	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Term Ends	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/apply).

**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"> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• History Ambassadors</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> <li>• Rounders</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Craft and Design</li> <li>• Cricket</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French</li> </ul>

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.

**New Youth Club** – An exciting new Youth Club is opening on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Newbridge Baptist Church on Yardley Green Road. This is a great opportunity for young people aged from 7 to 16 years to have fun, make friends and get involved. For more information phone 07949 462 086 or email [club@newbridgebaptist.org.uk](mailto:club@newbridgebaptist.org.uk).

**Musical Opportunities at Birmingham Symphony Hall** – There are a variety of exciting free opportunities for young musicians aged from 11 to 19. This is organised by Jazzlines, it provides children and young people the chance to develop their skills as jazz and gospel musicians, vocalists and performers through ensembles, masterclasses, workshops and performance opportunities. For more information click on [this link](#).

**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/>

**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 31<sup>st</sup> May and more information is available on [this link](#).

## **Forthcoming events of interest**

**School of Jewellery Open Day on 29<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

**Family Saturday at the Ikon Gallery on 6th July** – This is an opportunity to visit the gallery and spend some time making and experimenting as a family with creative, hands-on activities inspired by the current exhibition. More information is available on [this link](#).

**Clayground Collective: Crater Formations at Midlands Arts Centre** – On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July there is a fabulous opportunity for you to take part in free workshops to use the limitless power of your imagination and squish clay to sculpt an epic lunar landscape! More information is available on [this link](#).