



# Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

## Diary

Date	Information
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10 Science Live Visit. Pupils will leave school at 9:30am and return to school at approximately 3:40pm.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	National Internet Safety Day Year 9 Curriculum Evening (Click here for the <a href="#">Parent Letter</a> ) Year 11 Urdu Mock Speaking Examinations
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 Urdu Mock Speaking Examinations
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 7 Loudmouth Education and Training – Bully 4 U Year 11 Urdu Mock Speaking Examinations Netball Fixtures against St Edmund Campion School
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 Spanish Mock Speaking Examinations Year 9 Parents' Evening (Click here for the <a href="#">Parent Letter</a> )
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 Spanish Mock Speaking Examinations
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 last day to return options preference form Year 11 French Mock Speaking Examinations
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 French Mock Speaking Examinations
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

## Notices

**Year 9 Options** – Year 9 pupils are currently considering the subjects they will be studying in Years 10 and 11. This is an important time for our pupils who need to consider which courses they will enjoy studying while also support their career aims for the future. The key dates and timescales for the Year 9 options process are:

- **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 4:30pm** – Year 9 Curriculum Evening. A meeting for parents and pupils to learn more information on the curriculum and options. During the evening the preference sheets will be distributed. Following the meeting Year 9 Options information will be available on the Pupil Portal. A copy of the parent letter with more information is available on [this link](#).
- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 4:00pm** - Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening. This is an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to discuss pupil progress with subject teachers who will also be able to provide help to inform choices. A copy of the parent letter with more information is available on [this link](#).
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** – Deadline for preference forms - all completed preference forms must be returned to Form Tutors.



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**Are your contact details correct?** – This week there were further severe weather warnings. Please ensure that you are familiar with our Extreme Weather Procedure, which is available on [this link](#). It is vital that our school has your correct mobile telephone number, as this will be used for all emergency communications.

**We are collecting Pringle (or similar) tubes** – Please bring any empty pringle (or similar) tubes to IT1 by **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. These tubes are required for a workshop organised by Bletchley Park at school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to learn about the famous for code breaking during the Second World War. Pupils will also be able to see one of the code breaking Enigma machines and take part in various coding activities

**Safer Internet Day** – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February is International Safer Internet Day. Throughout next week there will be various activities focusing on this year's theme of "*Together for a better internet*", including a special assembly, Year 7 Bully 4 U performance as well as during lessons.

When pupils use the Internet, it is important that they consider and protect their 'Online Reputation'. An 'Online Reputation', which is also known as a 'Digital Footprint', develops as people create posts and share content on the internet and social networking websites. This may be content personally posted or you can be tagged in items that are created by others. Many employers and colleges are now checking applicants 'Online Reputations' as part of their selection process. There are many actions pupils can take to protect their online reputation. This includes:

1. Make a positive footprint.
2. Search for yourself online.
3. Checking privacy settings on social networking accounts.
4. Think before you post.
5. Deactivate and delete accounts that are no longer used.

More information on protecting on line reputations is available on [this link](#).

**Charity Update** – Thank you to everyone who supported our non-uniform day at the end of last term. We raised a total of £467.66, which has now been sent to Unicef.

**History** – Year 7 and 8 will be sitting their spring assessment in the next few weeks. Effective revision at home is key to achieving and demonstrating the excellent learning taking place in the classroom.

Year 10 should be creating regular revision notes from GCSE pod and their class notes. This is to ensure it does not become a big task as they approach their GCSE exams.

Year 11 should be revising at home regularly for their History GCSE, which is fast approaching. Pupils have access to a myriad of resources to aid them in this.

**Religious Studies** – Year 10x1, 10x2 and 10x3 have homework to complete every week. These are in an A4 or A5 booklet. Can you please support in ensuring students are completing these at home. Thankyou!

Year 11x2 and 11x3 have officially finished their GCSE content and completed all their assessments. They will start an intense revision programme for the next 12 weeks. Please encourages pupils to revise and complete their section on the application booklets. They should all have the following booklets:

- Section 1: Christian Beliefs
- Section 2: Marriage & the Family life
- Section 3: Living the Christian Life
- Section 4: Matters of Life & Death

**Educational Visits** – Please ensure that your daughter has any medication that is referred to in her school medical records with her for educational visits. Visit staff are unable to take pupils on visits if they do not have the correct medication with them. If medical needs have changed, please ensure that the school is updated accordingly.

**Online Homework** – Last week we introduced a new online system that enable parents and carers to view their daughter's homework. ClassCharts Homework is being used by all class teachers to record the homework they set for each class alongside the due date. A brief guide that shows how the information can

be viewed by date set or due date and filtered by class code, school year, subject or teacher is available on [this link](#).

ClassCharts Homework is available in the 'Parents' section of our school website and on [this link](#).

Pupils can access ClassCharts Homework from the 'Pupil' section of our school website and the Pupil Portal.

**GCSE Pod** – We remain in 2nd place for the GCSE Pod Games, a competition running until the end of February that compares similar schools use of GCSE Pod. As a school, the average number of pods watched has risen to 34.95 from 32.09 last week. The most pods were watched by Year 11 (278 pods), with Years 8 (234 pods) and 10 (230 pods) in second and third place.

GCSE Pod is available to support learning across our curriculum. Please continue to encourage your daughter continue to use GCSE Pod. GCSE Pod is an excellent resource to support learning for pupils in all years. It is especially valuable for our pupils in Years 10 and 11 to continually revise their learning and prepare for GCSEs; starting to prepare early for GCSE examinations helps pupils to reduce panic and stress, whilst it also improves examination results

Further information for parents on GCSE Pod is available on [this link](#).

**Work Experience** – All pupils in Year 10 have received 'Work Experience Placement' forms. Pupils should now in the process of actively looking for their own placement by contacting local employers. The Work Experience Placement' forms should be completed and returned to school by **25<sup>th</sup> February**.

### **Forthcoming Examinations or Assessments**

**Year 11 Languages** - In February, Year 11 pupils will be completing their mock speaking examinations in Modern Foreign Languages. While there will be some opportunities to practice within school, it is important that pupils also practice talking and answering questions at home in preparation for their mock examination.

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Day/date</i>
Urdu	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> or Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February.
Spanish	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February.
French	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> or Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February.

**Year 7 and Year 8 Religious Studies** – Spring assessments will be completed during week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**Fabulous Opportunity at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery** – There is a fantastic opportunity to view drawings by the famous artist Leonardo da Vinci at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery between February and May. This is a temporary exhibition that opens on 1st February celebrating the 500th anniversary since his death. A visit to this exhibition is strongly recommended by our Art Department and is suitable for pupils of all ages. For more information click on [this link](#).

### **Post 16 Preparations**

**An Opportunity for Pupils interested in Childcare Careers** – Crackerjack Training offer a variety of learning programmes and apprenticeships in childcare. They are holding their Annual Apprenticeship Road Show Event on **6<sup>th</sup> March** at Hallmark Hotel Birmingham, 225 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, B16 9RY. For more information on this opportunity telephone 0121 454 2043 or visit [www.crackerjacktraining.co.uk](http://www.crackerjacktraining.co.uk)

**College Open Events** – There are a few college open events that may be of interest to our pupils in Years 10 and 11. These are a great opportunity to visit colleges to find out about different course offerings, qualifications and post 16 options. It recommended that pupils have 3 different college offers so that they have choices for once their GCSE results are published.

College	Date of next Open Event	Website address
Access Creative College	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February, 10:00am to 12.30pm & 1.30pm to 4:00pm	<a href="http://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/">www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/</a>
BMET	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.bmet.ac.uk">www.bmet.ac.uk</a>
South and City College	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.sccb.ac.uk">www.sccb.ac.uk</a>
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.solihullsfsc.ac.uk">www.solihullsfsc.ac.uk</a>
University College Birmingham	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	<a href="http://www.ucb.ac.uk">www.ucb.ac.uk</a>