



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

1st March 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Sunday 3 rd to Tuesday 5 th March	French Trip to Paris - Pupils will be leaving school at 4:45am on the Sunday morning. The anticipated return time is 11:30pm on the Tuesday evening.
Monday 4 th March to Friday 8 th March	National Careers Week
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day Netball fixture against Stockland Green
Friday 8 th March	International Women's Day
Monday 11 th March to Friday 15 th March	STEAM Week
Thursday 14 th March	Year 10 Geography Field Visit
Friday 15 th March	Year 9 visit to Big Bang Fair

Notices

Visitor Reception – Our reception for parents and visitors has now relocated. It is now positioned by the gate at the end of the pedestrian path and by the vehicle gate into the car park. Parents and visitors should follow the burgundy signs to our reception when they arrive on the school site.

Attendance and Punctuality – Good attendance and punctuality is linked to effective learning and academic success, promotes wellbeing and prepares pupils for future employment. Pupils can access the main building from 8:25am. All pupils need to be in their form rooms for 8:35am, when the morning register is completed. All pupils who are late twice will be required to complete a half hour detention.

Pupil attendance at school is monitored. Congratulations to Year 10, who maintained the best attendance during last week.

Trip to France – Pupils should arrive at school on the morning of Sunday 3rd March so that they are ready to depart from school at 4:45am. It is anticipated that they will return to school for 11:30pm on the evening of Tuesday 5th March. Please note that Wednesday 6th March is a normal school day, hence all pupils are expected to be in school as normal on this day.

ParentPay will be used to update parents during the trip.

Careers Week – National Careers Week starts on Monday 4th March. Within school we started a focus on careers yesterday, Thursday 28th February, when Year 10 pupils received a special assembly by the BBC. A panel of BBC employees from different career backgrounds were interviewed by a presenter to explain their



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career and the qualifications required. This was a creative way for our pupils to learn more about several different careers.

The careers focus within school will continue next week, when there will be lots of different activities including:

- Competition to design a careers app. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative and informative apps produced.
- During form time pupils will be considering employability skills, learning about the labour market and taking part in quizzes.
- Subject lessons will also include videos on careers linked to the specific subject.
- A careers board will contain fun career facts and quotes designed to raise aspirations and encourage our pupils to consider and share their future career options.

Please discuss with your daughter her ideas for potential careers and her learning from this week.

Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition – There is a further opportunity for pupils to practice and prepare for their forthcoming practical exam on Monday 4th March. All pupils should ensure that they bring the appropriate ingredients and equipment needed. It is essential that pupils are ready to choose their final dishes for their actual exam, which will take place in a few weeks' time. Pupils have been advised that all the planning sections must be completed before the practical exam and have been given a coursework checklist to complete. Revision material has also been given to each pupil to enhance their exam knowledge. Pupils are reminded that help and support is available at the intervention session, which are currently taking place on Fridays after school.

World Book Day and International Women's Day – Next week our assemblies mark World Book Day and International Women's Day.

The theme for this year's World Book Day, 'Reading is Power, read up, speak up, change the world', with the aim to empower young people to talk passionately and confidently about the books that inspire them. More information is available on [this link](#).

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. There are lots of inspirational videos available on [this link](#).

STEAM Week – Planning is well underway for a huge range of activities to support 'STEAM Week' in school on 13-15 March; you may be aware that these dates coincide with the nationally recognised Science Week, and we are developing this to cover all sorts of activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Please take the time to discuss the importance of 'STEAM' with your daughter; a good understanding and a real interest in these areas supports all aspects of learning and links to many future careers. All pupils in the school will be involved in a range of both enrichment and enhancement activities inspired by STEAM learning. Further details will be provided for pupils over the coming days in school.

We are collecting Pringle (or similar) tubes – Please bring any empty pringle (or similar) tubes to IT1 by **Monday 4th March**. These tubes are required for a workshop organised by Bletchley Park at school on Wednesday 13th 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.

We are collecting old newspapers and magazines – During STEAM week we are planning an activity to recycle newspapers and magazines into pots and bowls. In order to do this, we require a substantial number of newspapers and magazines. Pupils should take all donations of old newspapers and magazines to Room 15, where they can be deposited in a box. Many thanks for your support.

Year 9 Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair - This is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for young people in the UK. It is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to develop their knowledge and explore potential careers for the future by speaking with scientists and engineers. In preparation for their visit, it is recommended that our Year 9 pupils visit [this link](#) to find out

more information about the many workshops, shows and activities on offer. Pupils who plan their day will be able to maximise their learning and ensure they visit all the areas of interest.

GCSE Pod – At the end of the regional league we finished in third place for the GCSE Pod Games. Since the competition started at the beginning of November, we have earned a score of 49.22. A total of 17,013 pods have been streamed, with 1,069 streamed during the half term holiday. The top 3 schools in each regional league qualify for the Pod Grand Finals and compete nationally throughout the critical examination session (1st March to 30th June).

While taking part in the GCSE Pod Games our pupils have benefited from using this resource, which has supported their learning and provided valuable revision resources for all pupils. As pupils in Year 10 prepare for GCSE English Literature and Year 11 prepare for their GCSE examinations, we hope that they will continue to build on their excellent use of GCSE Pod.

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

Year 11 GCSE Fine Art – Parents and pupils are reminded that there is valuable extra support available as they prepare for their external exam in A2 on Thursdays after school.

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.

Year 11 GCSE Preparation and Study Skills – Many of our Year 11 pupils have started their GCSE revision and preparation. Starting to prepare early for GCSE examinations helps pupils to reduce panic and stress, whilst it also improves examination results. There are many different revision techniques that can be used. One revision technique is called ‘Interleaving’, which is the theory of revising more than one topic in each revision session. Interleaving strengthens memory association and reinforces the connections between different tasks. More information on this technique is available on [this link](#).

Out of Hours Learning – There are many opportunities throughout the week for additional support for pupils. Should your daughter wish to join our ‘Out of Hours Learning’ programme, she must return the appropriate consent form to the Admin Office.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch-Up Maths • Homework Club • Science Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Catch-Up Maths • English • Health and Social Care • History • Homework Club • Mathematics • Science • Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton • Catch-Up Maths • English • French • Homework Club • Mathematics • Interventions • Mathematics • Science Trilogy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, Craft and Design • Catch-Up Maths • Fine Art • History • Homework Club • Mathematics • Netball Club and Fixtures • Science Trilogy • Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • French • History • Mathematics

Please ensure that, if you are collecting your daughter from an after-school session, you come down the drive and into Reception; this enables us to supervise pupils.

GCSE English Literature – All our Year 10 pupils plus some pupils from Year 11 will be taking the GCSE English Literature examinations this year. The exams are taking place on 15th and 23rd May. It is recommended that pupils are regularly revising and using GCSE Pod to prepare for their forthcoming examinations.

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 **6th 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

College Open Events – While most of our Year 11 pupils have completed their post 16 college applications, 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 is 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
BMET	Saturday 15 th June, 10:00am to 1:00pm	www.bmet.ac.uk
South and City College	Wednesday 20 th March, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.sccb.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Monday 11 th March, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk