



# Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

## Diary

Date	Information
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	School closed for May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	GCSE Speaking examination in Spanish
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 10 Work Experience Practice Interviews
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	GCSE Drama Practical Examination
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 8 Parent Evening Year 11 External Written Examinations start
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 10/Year 11 GCSE English Literature Examination
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 7 visit to see teenage cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 7 and Year 8 Examination Week Governors Meeting
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 10/Year 11 GCSE English Literature Examination

## Notices

**Cashless Catering System Updates** – We are introducing a new cashless catering system from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May. The transition between the old and new system has been designed to be as seamless as possible. Pupils account credits by ParentPay and pupils entitled to free school meals will be unaffected by this change. However, pupils who credit their account with cash in school should note that this facility and the **Cash Loaders will not be available between Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**. During this time parents are advised to use ParentPay to check and top-up balances. The new Cash Loaders will be usable from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May. A copy of the letter to parents is available on [this link](#).

**Charity Update** – Thank you to everyone who supported our recent non uniform day and helped us to raise £387.55 for WaterAid, an international charity that works with the poorest communities in the world to provide clean water and sanitation.

Earlier this year we raised £467.66 for Unicef. It is a pleasure to share with you a thank you letter that we received this week. The letter is available on [this link](#).

Thank you for your continued support with our charity fundraising.

**Year 10 Work Experience Practice Interviews** – All pupils in Year 10 have been given a sheet with details of their interview time, what they need to do on the day and 'Suggested Questions for Interviews'. The questions are designed to help your daughter prepare answers ready for her interview. They may also be used for at home for interview practice with a family member asking your daughter questions from the list.



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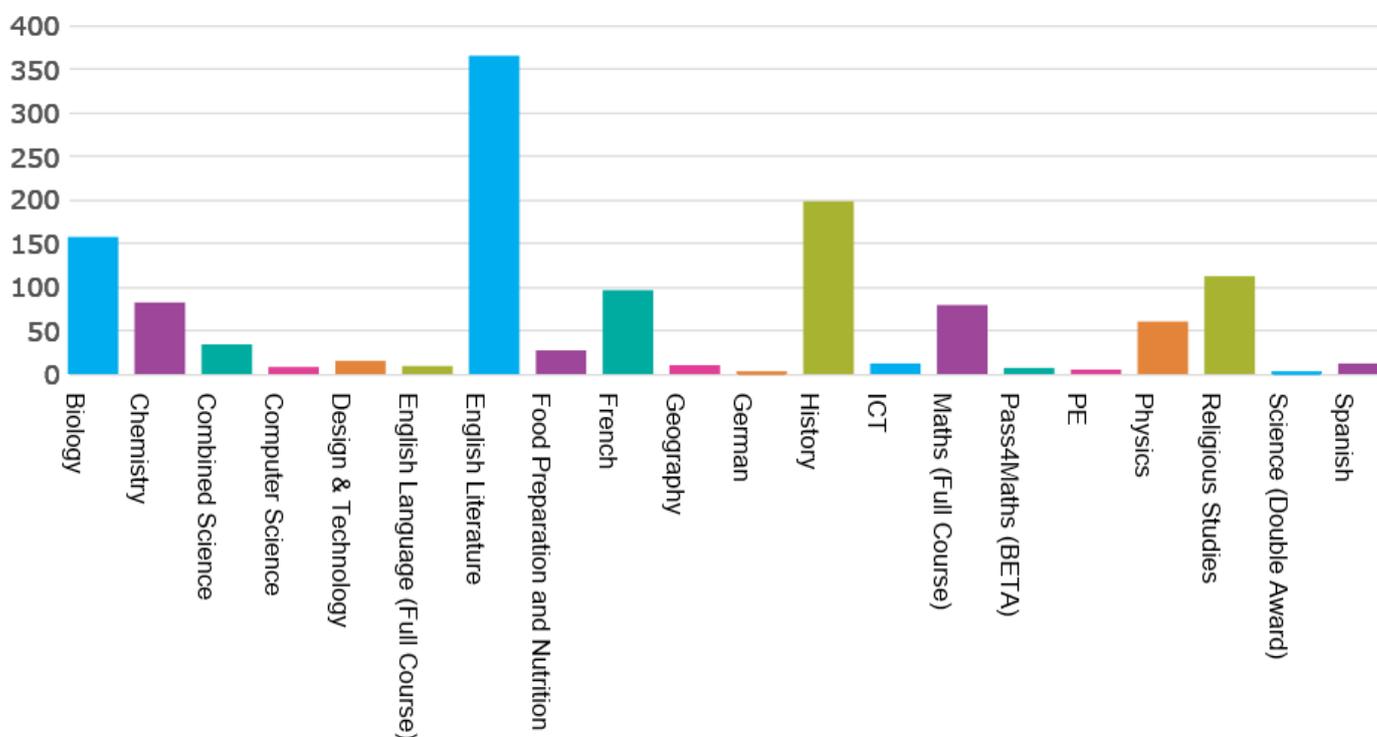
**Attendance and Punctuality** – Recently we have had an increasing number of requests for holidays in term time. Pupils are expected to be in school during term time and as such holidays cannot be authorised.

Please note that the register is taken at 8.35 each morning. Pupils need to be in their form room ready for this time. A number of pupils are not making their way directly into school in a morning. Please reinforce with your daughter the importance of being on time and in the right place at the right time.

**Hay fever** - As the seasons change some pupils will suffer with hay fever. Medication should be taken before school if needed. As the Year 11 begin their preparations for the GCSE's please ensure that they have any necessary medication throughout this period.

**Year 8 Parent Evening** – Letters have been sent home for the Year 8 Parent Evening on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Please discuss this evening with your daughter, who will make appointments for you to see her teachers. A copy of the letter is available on [this link](#). Please ensure that the reply slip is returned to school by Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**GCSE Pod** – Many of our pupils used the Easter Holiday to further support their learning with GCSE Pod. A total of 1281 pods were watched by our pupils, of which Year 11 watched 420 and Year 10 watched 412 pods. This graph shows the GCSE Pods watched by subject.



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](#)'

**Year 7 to Year 10 Internal Examinations** – Year 7 and Year 8 will have a week of examinations w/c 20<sup>th</sup> May. The exam timetable and lists of topics to revise will be made available to pupils shortly. Please encourage your daughter to continue her revision throughout the time before her examinations.

Year 9 and 10 will have their examinations during w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Exam timetables and lists of topics to revise will be made available to pupils shortly after the Easter holidays. Both year groups should be using the Easter holidays to support their revision. 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.

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.

**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.

**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. The exams are taking place on 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

This term there are new PE clubs for basketball, rounders and cricket. These are open to all pupils and are part of our ‘This Girl Can’ activities to promote exercise and fitness amongst our pupils. To join one of these clubs, pupils should collect a letter from the PE teacher and return the signed consent form to our Admin Office.

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 (from 7<sup>th</sup> May)</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• Health and Social Care</li> <li>• History Ambassadors</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Rounders (from 8<sup>th</sup> May)</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Spanish</li> <li>• Urdu</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Craft and Design</li> <li>• Cricket (from 9<sup>th</sup> May)</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• Fine Art</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Science</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.

**First World War Centenary** - ‘5 years of extraordinary art experiences’ is a new video of highlights from 14-18 NOW's 5-year arts programme for the First World War centenary. It shows the diverse art and activities that engaged 35 million people in reflecting and remembering the First World War. This follows on from assemblies and activities held within school to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1 during the Autumn Term. The video is available on [this link](#).

**Years 10 and 11 Summer Residential Courses** – Smallpeice Trust have lots of exciting residential courses taking place this summer. These courses provide a great opportunity to learn about computing or engineering subjects, give pupils a taster of life on campus at a UK university and can help enhance UCAS applications. A full list of courses provided by the Smallpeice Trust is available 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](#).

**Leonardo da Vinci Exhibition 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](#).

**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 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.