



# Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## Diary

| Date   | Information   |
|--|---|
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April                                   | Year 7 Parents' Evening   |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April                                | Rewards Trip for pupils with the highest positive behaviour points  |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April                                  | Recognition Assemblies<br>Last day of this term and Charity Non-uniform day                               |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April | School closed for Easter Holidays   |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April                                  | School open for all pupils<br>Governors meeting – Curriculum and Pastoral<br>GCSE Photography examination |
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April                                 | GCSE Speaking examination in French and Urdu<br>GCSE Fine Art examination                                 |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May                                  | GCSE Speaking examination in French and Urdu  |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May                                   | GCSE Speaking examination in French and Urdu<br>GCSE Fine Art examination<br>GCSE Photography examination |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May                                     | GCSE Speaking examination in Spanish and Urdu<br>GCSE Photography examination                             |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May                                     | School closed for May Bank Holiday  |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May                                    | GCSE Speaking examination in Spanish  |

## Notices

**Last day of term** – Please note that the last day of term is a normal school day, hence the start of the school day is 8:25am, with the finish at 2:45pm. It is a charity non-uniform day for WaterAid. An international charity that works with the poorest communities in the world to provide clean water and sanitation. A recommended donation of £1.00 will be collected next week. Please note that while pupils may wear something different to their school uniform, pupils must wear sensible clothing and shoes that are appropriate for their normal school lessons. PE kit is required for PE lessons on this day.

**GCSE Pod** – GCSE Pod have just published a guide for parents and carers on smart studying and cognitive learning techniques. A copy of this guide is available on [this link](#). They have also published series of pods to support the development of study skills that are available for your daughter to watch within GCSE Pod at



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Website: [www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk](http://www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk)  
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<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/studysmart>. Please encourage your daughter to watch these pods to see if there are techniques which may help her further with her studying and revision.

Last week our GCSE Pod usage increased, with 1228 pods watched between 24<sup>th</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> March. 37 pupils were awarded positive behaviour points for watching more than 10 pods, with Year 10 watching over half the pods watched during the week. The most watched subjects across the whole school were English Literature, History, and English Language.

**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 7 Parents' Evening** – Year 7 pupils are currently making appointments for their parents/carers to meet their teachers at the forthcoming Parent's Evening. This will be the first Parents Evening for our Year 7 pupils and is an excellent opportunity to share achievements, progress and discuss any concerns. Letters have been distributed and are also available on [this link](#).

**Year 7 - visit to see Sheku Kanneh-Mason at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday 16th May** - We have a limited number of spaces for Year 7 pupils to take part in this exciting visit to Birmingham Town Hall. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested Year 7 pupils need to attend a meeting in Room 4 on Thursday 11th April at 9.50am. Please encourage your daughter to attend the meeting if you think she would find this visit a valuable learning experience.

**Year 7 - The Punctuation Show** - All Year 7 pupils participated in 'The Punctuation Show' as part of their STEAM Week of activities. Accurate use of punctuation is crucial for examination success. We have a work booklet to support Year 7 pupils with their learning about punctuation; please ask your daughter to see Miss Sagheer if you would like her to have a copy to work through over the Easter holiday

**Rewards Trip** – Throughout the term pupils are awarded 'Positive Behaviour Points' for excellence in attitude, behaviour, effort, helpfulness, quality of work, making a positive contribution to school life etc. At the end of this term the top 100 pupils are invited to celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to all pupils, who have earned the highest number of Positive Behaviour Points. They have been selected for this term's celebration and will be enjoying a visit to the Cinema.

**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](#).

**Year 11 GCSE Modern Foreign Languages** – The official MFL GCSE Speaking examinations are happening after the Easter Holidays. These examinations account for 25% of the potential GCSE marks. It is vital that pupils attend their exam at their allocated time slot as we are not able to accommodate pupils at an alternative time. The dates for the examinations are as follows:

- Tuesday 30th April, Wednesday 1st May, Thursday 2nd May/ Urdu and French
- Friday 3rd May/ Urdu and Spanish
- Tuesday 7th May / Spanish

**Year 11 GCSE Fine Art** – Parents and pupils are reminded that the GCSE Fine Art Examinations are on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. It is essential that all pupils complete their preparation work during the first day of the exam. Valuable extra support is available for pupils 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.

**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** – 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"> <li>• Catch-Up Maths</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Catch-Up Maths</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>• Badminton</li> <li>• Catch-Up Maths</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Craft and Design</li> <li>• Catch-Up Maths</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• Fine Art</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Homework Club</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Netball Club and Fixtures</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Urdu</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French</li> </ul> |

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.

**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](#).

**Easter Holiday Opportunity** – *It's Lit Link Up* is back to hold a weeklong programme for young people, aged 13-19 years old, which will take place during the Easter School Holiday. The aim and purpose of *It's Lit Link Up* is to engage young people in creative arts, music and digital media, whilst developing their interpersonal skills, confidence and instigate positive learning and working well with others. During the week of activities there will be various creative practitioners from the music industry, arts and dance community to give advice and support at each session. 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](#).

**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 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](#).