



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

8th February 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 11 th February	Year 11 Spanish Mock Speaking Examinations Year 9 Parents' Evening (Click here for the Parent Letter)
Tuesday 12 th February	Year 11 Spanish Mock Speaking Examinations
Wednesday 13 th February	Year 9 last day to return options preference form Year 10 The Maths Big Quiz – Pupils will leave school at 8:45am and return at approximately 3:00pm. Year 11 French Mock Speaking Examinations
Thursday 14 th February	Year 11 French Mock Speaking Examinations
Monday 18 th to Friday 22 nd February	Half Term Holiday – School Closed
Monday 25 th February	Beginning of new half term. School open as normal for pupils Governing Body Meeting – Curriculum and Pastoral
Wednesday 27 th February	Netball fixture against Erdington Academy

Notices

Year 9 Options – It was wonderful to meet so many parents at the Year 9 Curriculum Evening on Tuesday. Remember to ask your daughter to show you the Options Site, which is available on the Pupil Portal. This site contains a copy of the Curriculum Evening Presentation and lots of information on the subjects available to study in years 10 and 11 to help with the important options decision. Please note the following important dates:

- **Monday 11th 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 13th February** – Deadline for preference forms - all completed preference forms must be returned to Form Tutors.

Year 11 GCSE Food – The Year 11 GCSE Food pupils will be trialling cooking for their examination preparation during lessons 3 and 4 on Monday 11th February. If pupils want to practice over the weekend that would be great and beneficial. It is important that pupils bring the required ingredients and equipment for these lessons.



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On Friday afterschool all our Year 11 Food pupils are invited for extra support with their coursework and revision. It is essential that pupils return their consent forms so that they can join and benefit from these sessions.

Year 10 Maths Big Quiz – Good luck to our Year 10 pupils who will be competing against other schools in the Maths Big Quiz. This event is organised by Birmingham University with the aims to make maths fun, collaborative, competitive and incorporate a bit of challenge. Each round in the quiz will focus on different areas of mathematics and there will also be a specialist round. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to demonstrate their mathematical skills,

Year 10 Work Experience – Well done to all Year 10 pupils that have returned both their Parent Consent Form and Work Experience Placement Forms. There are currently 15 pupils who need to return the Parental Consent Form and approximately 50 pupils who need to return their Work Experience Placement Forms. Please note that these forms need to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible, definitely before **25th February**.

Trip to France – Parents of pupils going on the trip to France in March need them to apply for the EHIC as soon as possible and bring any paperwork missing for this trip. Any pupil who does not return this important documentation will not be able to go on the trip.

The link to apply for the EHIC is www.gov.uk/european-health-insurance-card.

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.

Children's Mental Health Week – This week (4th-10th February 2019) is Children's Mental Health Week. The week was set up by the children's mental health charity 'Place2Be' to highlight the importance of children and young people's mental health. Throughout this week we have focused on this year's theme: 'Healthy - Inside and Out'. During our assemblies, pupils have considered how we look after our bodies and minds. More information is available on the following links: [Tips for Parents and Carers](#) and [Tips for Pupils](#).

Online Safety – Tuesday 5th February was International Safer Internet Day. Throughout school there have been various activities around this year's theme, 'Together for a better internet'.

To continue the focus on internet safety, try this [quiz](#) to test your knowledge on the consent for sharing information online.

There is also a range of materials for this year's Internet Safety Day with Top Tips for staying safe online that are targeted at different ages on [this link](#).

GCSE Pod also produces internet safety advice around sharing online and the risk of phishing, which is available on [this link](#).

Year 11 Parent Coffee Morning – This week we held a successful coffee morning for Year 11 parents. There was an excellent turn out and a wonderful atmosphere that encouraged discussion. The Pastoral Team were able to answer parent's questions, give reassurance and advice on examination preparations, stress and what to expect during the GCSE period. With the success of this event, further coffee mornings will be organised and advertised in future editions of the Parent Bulletin.

Data Protection and Privacy Notice – Parents are reminded to review our [Data Protection Policy](#) and [Pupil Privacy Notice](#). These documents provide important information on how we maintain, manage and process the information we hold in our systems and how we fulfil our legal responsibilities.

Year 11 NCS Scheme – On Wednesday 6th February, Year 11 pupils had a special assembly by NCS (National Citizen Services). Pupils over 15 years are invited to apply to take part in this scheme over the summer. NCS is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to develop new skills, boost confidence and have new experiences, while also being enjoyable and fun. Taking part in this scheme can also boost university and job applications. More information is available at www.ncsyes.co.uk.

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.

GCSE Pod – This week we remain in 2nd place for the GCSE Pod Games, a competition running until the end of February that compares our use with 76 similar schools. As a school, the average number of pods watched is 39.37. The currently winning school has watched an average of 42.32. Over the last week our highest use of GCSE Pod was by Year 11, who watched 604 pods. This is an average of just over 4 pods per pupil during the week. The most popular subjects continue to be History and English Literature.

While GCSE Pod is a fantastic resource to support learning in all year groups across our curriculum, it also produces a number of resources to help with examination preparation. Dual coding is the theory that for successful retrieval of knowledge you need to combine both words and visuals for better revision. More information how it works, advice to get it right and how GCSE Pod can support learning and revision is available on [this link](#).

Please continue to encourage your daughter continue to use GCSE Pod. Remember that 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](#).

Online Homework – We have recently 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.

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 • 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.

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.

Subject	Day/date
Spanish	Monday 11 th or Tuesday 12 th February.
French	Wednesday 13 th or Thursday 14 th February.

Year 7 and Year 8 Religious Studies – Spring assessments will be completed during week commencing 11th 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 **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 – 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 nd February, 10:00am to 12.30pm & 1.30pm to 4:00pm	www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/birmingham/
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
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Thursday 28 th February, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	www.solihullsfsc.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Monday 11 th March, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk