



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

8th March 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Wednesday 13 th March	STEAM Day 1 – with many activities within school including: Bletchley Park Workshop First Aid Workshop Growth Mindset Workshops Shell Energy Workshops
Thursday 14 th March	STEAM Day 2 – with visits and many activities within school including: Visit to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery Visit Year 10 Geography Field Trip News workshop by the Punctuation Show
Friday 15 th March	STEAM Day 3 – with visits and many activities within school including: Let's Animate 'The Human Body' Portrait workshop with Artist John Denaro Visit to Engineering in Agriculture Workshop (Bull Farm) Visit to Year 9 visit to Big Bang Fair Health and Social Care visit to UCB
Monday 18 th March	Governors Meeting
Monday 25 th March	Year 10 Parents' Evening

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.

STEAM Week – Planning is well underway for a huge range of activities to support 'STEAM Week' in school on 13-15 March, which coincides with the nationally recognised Science Week. Over the three days there will be a wide variety of cross curricular learning opportunities and different activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Pupils will be learning about famous and inspiring scientists; learning about different kinds of energy; light and sound; food, nutrition, sport and our bodies; first aid; psychology; plus developing problem-solving skills and practical activities to enhance creativity alongside pupils developing goals and aspirations to name a few. Your daughter will be able to see which activities she is timetabled to take part in during the STEAM days on the Pupil Portal. A copy of the generic pupil information is also available on [this link](#).



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Please take the time to discuss the importance of 'STEAM' with your daughter. A good understanding and a real interest in these STEAM supports all aspects of learning and links to many future careers.

We are collecting Pringle (or similar) tubes – Please bring any empty pringle (or similar) tubes to IT1. 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.

Online Safety – The internet can be a powerful tool for learning and communication. However, it can also be a source of worrying or disturbing content for young people. When your daughter is using computers and technology within school, there are several systems in place that filter or monitor internet use to ensure all our pupils are safe online. These safeguards do not apply to personal devices and online activities outside school. It is therefore essential that parents are aware and encourage conversations with their daughter about her online activity. Some general advice on meaningful conversations about online activities includes:

- Ask your daughter for advice on how to do something online and use this as a conversation starter
- Ensure your daughter knows that she can come to you if she is upset by something she has seen online
- If your daughter comes to you with an issue, stay calm and listen without judging them
- Encourage your daughter to respect others online and think about comments before she posts. Set a good example with your own use
- Talk to your daughter about how much time they spend online and ensure that this is balanced with other activities

Here are some useful links for more information about online safety: [NSPCC](#) | [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) | [Childnet](#) | [Internet Matters](#)

Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition – The Year 11 GCSE food and nutrition practical exam is on Thursday 28th March. It is essential that on this day all pupils are prepared and ready, with their food ingredients, to cook 3 dishes from their chosen country. In addition, all pupils need to make sure the planning area of their coursework is complete as they will need use these documents during the exam. Pupils who need additional support need to inform the teacher as soon as they can.

There is an opportunity for pupils to practice their examination dishes in school on Wednesday 13th March. All pupils will need to bring their food ingredients for this final food choice mock practical.

All pupils have been briefed on the elements that they need to work on and have folders with a check list is at the front with targeted advice to support their preparation. Pupils are reminded that help and support is available at the intervention session, which are currently taking place on Fridays after school.

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 31st May and more information is available on [this link](#).

Year 9 Easter Residential Opportunity – The Smallpeice Trust have places available on an exciting residential opportunity to learn about automotive engineering via engineers from companies such as Aston Martin and Jaguar Land Rover. The course also provides a great taster of life on a university campus as a student. More information is available on [this link](#).

Year 10 - Unifest – Unifest is an excellent opportunity for Year 10 pupils to apply for a place at a University summer school. The summer schools are free of charge and provide an excellent way for pupils to learn more about university life and study general, with some summer schools specifically designed for pupils interested in certain careers and study options. Interested pupils should see Ms Middlehurst to discuss their application and eligibility. More information is available on [this link](#).

GCSE Pod – After our success in the Regional Pod Games we are now competing against 22 other regional winning schools in the Pod Grand Finals. We are currently in position 17 on the National Leaderboard with a score of 1.30. The team currently in first place has a score of 6.70, demonstrating a significantly higher usage of GCSE Pod.

The Regional Leaderboard has also been reset, regionally we are currently on 8th place against 77 similarly sized school.

Both the National and Regional Leaderboards will reflect use of GCSE Pod between 1st March and 30th June, which includes the GCSE examination period. Please continue to encourage your daughter to use GCSE Pod to support her learning, enhance understanding of difficult topics and a tool to aid revision. Learning can be further enhanced by asking your daughter to explain what she has learnt from watching a specific 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.

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

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 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

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