



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

14th December 2018

Diary

Date	Information
Wednesday 19 th December	Christmas Lunch End of Term Rewards Trip
Thursday 20 th December	Parent Workshop - How is attendance celebrated in school and what can I do to help?
Friday 21 st December	Non-Uniform Day for Unicef End of Term – School will be closing early on this day with pupils leaving at 12:05pm. Click here to view the letter to parents.
Monday 24 th December to Friday 4 th January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed
Monday 7 th January	First day of the new term. School open for all pupils with the start of the school day at 8:25am as normal.
Monday 14 th January	Year 11 Parents Evening, 4:00pm to 6:30pm Click here to view the letter to parents.

Notices

Final Donations to Stechford Food Bank – In December we have been collecting donations for Stechford Food Bank. This has been a great way for us to think of others and provide practical help for members of our community in need. **Monday morning** is the last opportunity for your family to support our collection. Please place long life/non-perishable food in the collection box by **Monday morning**.

Thank you to parents, pupils and staff for donating items and supporting this worthy cause.

Parent Workshops – We hope parents have found our “Parent Workshops” series useful this term. On Thursday 20th December, our last workshop will look at “**How attendance is celebrated in school, and what I can do to help**”. As with previous workshops it will start at 9:00am and finish at 9:45am.

Booking is recommended, please ring the school on 0121 464 3094 to book your place. It may be possible to join at the beginning of a workshop and sign in.

Last Day of Term – Pupils have received a letter with the arrangements for the last day of term. On this day pupils are invited to donate to UNICEF and wear something different to school. UNICEF is a charity that works in 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.

Please note that school will be closing at 12:05pm.



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Christmas Safety – Please use [this link](#) to read a letter that has been developed in partnership with West Midlands Police. It contains advice and ways to remain safe during the Christmas holidays and throughout the new year.

School Attendance – As we approach the end of term, we have received an increase in requests for leave in term time for holidays. We are unable to authorise these requests. When your daughter is absent from school she misses valuable learning opportunities and lessons. Good school attendance is vital for your daughter to achieve her full academic potential and consequently have better chances in life.

As a school we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to improve school attendance. The target for this school year is for pupils to achieve an attendance of at least 96%. To support this, parents are requested to ensure that any planned holidays or trips abroad are organised to happen during the school holidays.

End of Term Rewards Trip – We are extremely proud of the good behaviour and attitude of all our pupils. Throughout the term pupils are awarded positive behaviour points recognising their efforts, behaviour, attitude and contribution to school life. 100 pupils, who have achieved the highest number of points will be attending a special celebration afternoon on Wednesday. Congratulations to all our pupils attending.

We are continuing to award positive behaviour points throughout school. All pupil balances have been reset, and our pupils are now collecting positive behaviour points towards the next celebration event.

GCSE Pod – GCSE Pod is an excellent resource to support learning for pupils in all years. It is especially valuable for our pupils in Years 10 and 11 to continually revise their learning and prepare for GCSEs. Pupil usage of GCSE Pod rose again this week, with 80% of pupils now having an account, and we're seeing Year 7 and 8 usage increase. This week, our school moved from 4th place to 2nd place out of 72 schools for the GCSEPod Games (Midlands Region).

Please continue to encourage your daughter to use GCSE Pod as part of their home learning regime. Further information for parents on GCSE Pod is available on [this link](#).

Textiles – In the new year pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 are starting a new project in Textiles. The focus of the project is **Re-use and Looking After the Environment**, with one of the activities to create a long-lasting textile bag. Pupils will be asked to bring something that can be re-used and add to the fabric collection. Please consider suitable textile materials that your daughter may be able to bring into school in January.

Forthcoming Examinations

Year 7 to Year 10 Mathematics – Maths assessments are taking place during the next week. Please encourage your daughter to practice her maths as she prepares for her assessment. Pupils are also encouraged to speak to their teacher if they are unsure of what is on the test.

Monday 10th December – Year 8

Tuesday 11th December – Year 10

Wednesday 12th December – Year 7

Thursday 13th December – Year 9

Year 9 Humanities – Year 9 will have their spring assessments in Geography, History and Religious Studies during January.

Year 11 Languages - In February, Year 11 pupils will be completing their mock speaking examinations in foreign Languages. It is important that pupils practice talking and answering questions in preparation for their mock examination.

<i>Subject</i>	<i>No. of pupils</i>	<i>Day/date</i>
Urdu	51	Tuesday 5 th , Wednesday 6 th or Thursday 7 th February.
Spanish	25	Monday 11 th or Tuesday 12 th February.

French	38	Wednesday 13 th or Thursday 14 th February.
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Activities for children with autistic or sensory needs - There are a variety of activities for children with autistic or sensory needs in our local area during December and at the beginning of 2019. This includes relaxed theatre productions, autistic friendly cinema screening, café and quieter times to shop. More information is available on [this link](#).

Post 16 Preparations

The following table contains a list of some of the forthcoming open events. These are a great opportunity to visit colleges and sixth forms to support post 16 choices.

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	Wednesday 6 th February, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.bmet.ac.uk
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College	Thursday 24 th January 2019, 6:00pm to 7:30pm	www.jcc.ac.uk
South and City College	Wednesday 23 rd January, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	www.sccb.ac.uk
The Sixth Form College Solihull	Thursday 28 th February, 5:00pm to 7:00pm	www.solihullsf.ac.uk
University College Birmingham	Saturday 26 th January, 11:00am to 3:00pm	www.ucb.ac.uk
University of Birmingham School	Wednesday 9 th January 2019, 5:30pm to 8:00pm	www.uobschool.org.uk