



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

15th March 2019

Diary

Date	Information
Monday 18 th March	Governors Meeting
Monday 25 th March	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 26 th March	Spanish Play for pupils studying Spanish
Wednesday 27 th to Friday 29 th March	Mother's Day Gift Shop
Thursday 28 th March	Year 10/Year 11 Drama Theatre Trip to see Noughts and Crosses
Saturday 30 th March	Young People's Newsroom at School of Media at Birmingham City University

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 – Over the last three days there have been a wide variety of cross curricular learning opportunities and different activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Please take the time to discuss the importance of 'STEAM' with your daughter. A good understanding and a real interest in STEAM supports all aspects of learning and links to many future careers.

Voice Value Crew – We have an exciting new opportunity for pupils to participate and make a positive contribution to whole school life. There are a variety of roles within the Voice Value Crew that interested pupils may apply for. Pupils can collect applications and find out more by speaking to their Religious Studies teachers. The closing date for applications is 28th March. More information is available on [this link](#).

Netball Fixtures – Congratulations to our Year 7/Year 8 Netball Team. A superb win against Stockland Green School, with a score of 6-1.

International Women's Day - To mark International Women's Day pupils from Years 7 to 9 have designed artwork that is inspired by a famous female artist. The artwork is currently on display outside the Art Rooms, with a selection published on this website. Pupils also can vote for their favourite using a link on the Pupil Portal.

Maths Whizz - Congratulations to Safa and Faiza in 7X3 who have improved their Maths Age by over one year since starting Maths Whizz in October. This represents a phenomenal effort on their part.

Year 7 are encouraged to use Maths-Whizz to support their learning of Maths, complete the short interactive progression tests and work towards their individual goals. There are just a few weeks to go before the Easter holidays and it will be fabulous for more students to achieve this milestone.



Hodge Hill Girls' School
Bromford Road
Birmingham
B36 8EY

Website: www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk
Telephone: 0121 464 3094
Email: enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk

Young People's Newsroom – Birmingham City University (BCU) are running a free day-long Newsday for young people who are interested in trying out some journalism on Saturday 30th March. This is a fantastic opportunity to spend a day in radio studios, setting the news agenda and being a journalist reporting news stories. The workshop begins at 11:00am and runs until 4:00pm. Places are limited and must be booked in advance. To attend BCU will need written consent from your parents or carers. For more information or to book a place email diane.kemp@bcu.ac.uk or bob.calver@bcu.ac.uk.

GCSE Pod – GCSEPod gives every parent and carer access to quality educational support that effectively helps their child succeed. A selection of the resources available explain the many benefits and advantages for your daughter to use of GCSEPod, while others focus on general topics of interest such as exam stress and safe use of technology. Use [this link](#) to view the full range of parent resources.

GCSE Pod is a valuable resource for pupils that supports learning, enhance understanding of difficult topics and revision for assessments. Since September over 25,000 pods have been streamed by our pupils. Please continue to encourage your daughter to use GCSE Pod. 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](#).

Free School Meals – There are many advantages to claiming free school meals. Firstly, it can ensure your daughter receives a healthy meal during the school lunch break. Additionally, our school receives important additional funding to support the learning of our pupils on free school meals. This funding is used in a variety of ways, examples include additional targeted support and mentoring, assistance with educational visit costs, access to online study resources and books.

You may be eligible to claim free school meals for your child, up to the age of 19-years-old, if you (or your child) get one of the following:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit

For more information and to complete an online application form visit:

www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/apply.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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