



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

21st December 2018

Diary

| Date | Information |
|--|---|
| 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. |
| Thursday 17 th January | 'CBSO Dissected' Educational Visit Year 11,FR2, French speaking examination practice |
| Friday 18 th January | Year 11 Spanish speaking examination practice |
| Monday 21 st January | Governing Body Meeting for Site, Finance and Premises. |
| Thursday 24 th January | Year 11,FR1, French speaking examination practice |
| Sunday 27 th January | Holocaust Memorial Day |

Notices

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – We hope that all our families, pupils and staff have an enjoyable holiday and a happy and prosperous new year. Pupil safety is always of paramount importance, please ensure that you have read the Christmas Safety letter, which has been developed in partnership with West Midlands Police. A copy of the letter is available on [this link](#).

New School Caterer – We are pleased to announce our new school caterers, Taylor Shaw. Copies of the new menus are available now on our school website and on [this link](#). We hope pupils will enjoy our new school meals. As an incentive to try our new caterer, pupils who spend £1.00 or more each day for one week between Monday 7th to Friday 11th January will be entered in a draw to win an iPad.

'CBSO Dissected' Educational Visit - We will be taking a visit to Symphony Hall on Thursday 17th January for 35 Year 7 pupils to see the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra perform their 'CBSO Dissected' concert. The visit is fully funded and we will be offering places on a first-come, first-served basis to Year 7 pupils who stated in their Year 6 Induction Questionnaire – this was completed by pupils on the Year 6 Induction Day – that they had never seen a live orchestra. Further details will be given to pupils after the Christmas holiday; if you would like your daughter to be given a letter and consent form about this visit, please ensure they see Miss Middlehurst on Monday 7th January.

Science Live Conference Educational Visit – On Monday 4th February Year 10 pupils have the opportunity to visit the GCSE Science Live Conference at the Symphony Hall. This is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to hear five of Britain's top scientists (Prof Robert Winston, Prof Andrea Sella, Prof Jim Al-Khalil, Dr Maggie



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

Aderin-Pocock and Prof Alice Roberts) all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms. The trip also includes GCSE examination tips, inspiration for the application of science and explain opportunities study science at A level and beyond. There are currently a number of places available for pupils to join this visit. Parents can make the voluntary contribution on Parent pay and pupils should see Dr Malik for more information.

GCSE Pod – GCSE Pod is now being consistently used by all year groups, with pupils watching a wide range of pods across many subjects. As a result, we are now in **first place** in the GCSE Pod games. This is a fantastic reflection of our pupil efforts. The challenge is to retain this position until the end of February.

Please continue to encourage your daughter to watch a couple of the pods a day over the school holidays. This will help her to consolidate her learning from this term and ensure that she is ready for next term's new learning. It is important for future success that pupils are revising and revisiting previous learning 'little and often'; please encourage your daughter to make regular use of GCSE Pod to support this process. Subject teachers inform pupils of the relevant pods to support learning.

Learning will also be enhanced by family members discussing the learning from the pods watched. Here are a few general questions that may help to start a conversation:

1. What did you learn from watching the pod?
2. What will you remember?
3. Tell me 3 keywords you have learnt from the pod.
4. Tell me everything you know on the topic.
5. How confident do you feel on the subject?
6. Do you think you need to learn more on that subject?
7. What part of the pod interested you the most?
8. What was your favourite part of the pod?
9. Teach me what you've learnt?
10. Where you surprised by what you've learnt?
11. What was your least favourite part?

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](#).

Year 7 Maths Whizz Reports - As you are aware, this term, Year 7 pupils have been enrolled on to Maths Whizz. They have been encouraged to use Maths Whizz for at least 30 minutes per week. On the last day of term, pupils will have their Maths Whizz reports in their blue homework books. Please ensure that your daughter has shared her report with you, as it outlines; their Maths age compared to their actual age, their usage, how much progression they have made and a breakdown of their Maths age for particular topics.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Ainge. Many thanks.

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.

Year 10 Work Experience – Aspirations day was also the launch of our work experience programme to Year 10. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to gain valuable experience of working in a career of interest. The Christmas Holiday is the ideal opportunity for Year 10 pupils to continue to work on their applications and proactively contact various companies to request work experience.

Forthcoming Examinations or Assessments

Year 10 Religious Studies – The assessments for the topic, Philosophy of Religion assessment will be completed during week beginning 7th Jan 2019.

Year 9 Science – Week commencing 7th January Year 9 will have exams in their science lessons covering all the topics they have studied so far this year in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Year 10 Science – Year 10 will also have science exams for all the content covered in Tuesday 8th January.

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. 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.

| <i>Subject</i> | <i>Day/date</i> |
|----------------|---|
| Urdu | Tuesday 5 th , Wednesday 6 th or Thursday 7 th February. |
| 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.

Year 11 SEND Transition Evening - Joseph Chamberlain College will be hosting their annual SEND transition evening on January 30th, 2019. The college will be open to Year 11 students with additional educational needs, and their parents/carers. Please come along if a child in your care with SEND is considering Further Education. You will have the opportunity to:

- Tour the College
- Meet other students with SEND
- Meet our Learning Support Team
- Discuss and plan additional learning support
- Meet our Pastoral Support Team
- Meet with specialist teachers from the Local Authority

The college building is fully wheelchair accessible with ground floor step-free access, lifts to all levels, spacious disabled toilets and reserved parking bays. If you have any additional needs, please let us know so we can arrange suitable adjustments for you.

For further information, email their Learning Support Manager, June Underwood: junderwood@jcc.ac.uk. To register for the event, please visit their website: <https://www.jcc.ac.uk/events/send-evening-2019/>.

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 |

| College | Date of next Open Event | Website address |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 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 |