



Hodge Hill Girls' School

Newsletter

Summer: May 2020



“Know how to learn. Then, want to learn.” –
Katherine Johnson, Space Scientist, NASA.

Educating Tomorrow's Women Today

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe, well and adjusting to the current 'lockdown' situation. Many of our school community are observing the holy month of Ramadan in lockdown and will be preparing for the forthcoming Eid celebration. We wish you all a very 'Happy Eid 2020.'

This has been a half term like no other and where normally we would be showcasing all the fabulous work from our time in school, we are instead sharing with you some of our news and work from the last few weeks.

In this time of great uncertainty one thing that can be guaranteed is the dedication of our staff who are working in school with children in priority groups, providing learning opportunities for those at home as well as offering support on a wider scale to individuals and families. We value your feedback and understand that every child and every family is different and that we are all trying our best in our own circumstances. This can be a time of mixed emotions and some children will find being away from their friends and normal school routine difficult. Our website has a wealth of resources to support wellbeing, safeguarding and academic work. Please let us know if we can assist in any way.

Before the end of the summer term in July we are looking to celebrate pupils' achievements in our PACT challenge through achievement points, praise certificates and prizes. Encourage your daughter to keep sending in examples of her time in lockdown doing something Physical e.g. cycling, walking, trampolining etc., Academic e.g. a piece of work that you are proud of, Creative e.g. a painting, film, photograph, Partnership e.g. working with others this could be around the house. Who knows your daughter may be one of our Hodge Hill Girls' School Distance Learning Heroines and win a wonderful prize. Good Luck!

You will be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement about the national roadmap to coming out of the lockdown situation and the possibility of some face to face interactions with identified year groups before the end of the summer term, this would be Year 10 pupils. Like all schools across the city and country we will act on the necessary guidance to ensure that any change to our current offer will be well planned and take into consideration all the necessary requirements. We will update you in due course what this will mean for Hodge Hill Girls' School when we are in a position to do so. At present and on 1st June we will be continuing with our current provision.

We look forward to a time when we can open our doors and welcome our pupils back into school. Until then take care of yourselves and your loved ones and keep safe.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

S Adu

Mrs S Adu
Head Teacher



Message from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are heading into the final half term of the school year and while school is still open to a select group of pupils, as set by government guidelines, we are operating in a very different way to normal. This will be one academic year that we will not forget, but hopefully pupils will value the routine of school and will be ready to come back to school when the time is right. We continue with our planning for return and as you can imagine this takes time and due consideration as we negotiate the set advice and guidance.

The Governing body has continued with planned meetings and this half term the Pastoral and Curriculum committee met as per the school calendar. Staff have been very busy during this period, not just providing work, but ensuring that all the necessary tasks behind the scenes enable the school to function, meet our obligations and prepare for the new academic year. This is in addition to negotiating the challenges that working from home brings and responding to everchanging educational updates. The Governing Body fully appreciate and recognise the continued safeguarding and teaching support which is being provided by the leadership team and other school team members in a very challenging environment.

After consultation with pupils, parents, and staff the school uniform policy has been updated. The overwhelming feedback was for a smarter uniform with a blazer and tie, keeping to our school colours of burgundy and black. Further details are set out in the newsletter. Thank you to everyone who took part in this process. I look forward to seeing our pupils wearing their uniform with pride around the school building in the future.

I am in regular contact with Mrs Adu, the Headteacher at the school throughout this time, although as you would expect our face to face meetings have been put on hold for now.

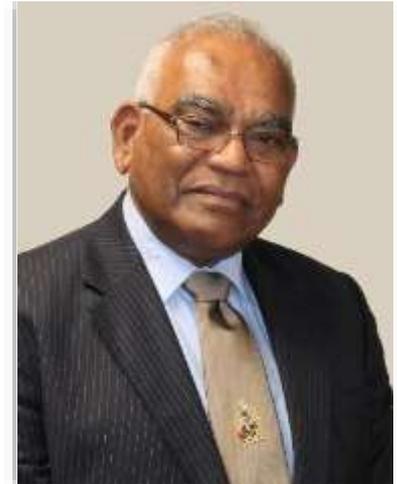
May I take this opportunity to wish our Muslim families 'Eid Mubarak' and hope that you all remain safe and well.

I look forward to seeing you back in the school building in the future. Until then may you all be safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Mr K Siva Yogaiswaran
Chair of Governors



Dear Liam Byrne,

I am writing to inform you of the damage and effects plastic is having on our community and our world. It is ruining our landscapes including the sea. Did you know that every year 100 million marine animals are killed because of plastic. WE need to stop this together as a community!!!

Plastic is not biodegradable so it will not decompose like other materials. Also, most plastic is only used once. People litter and this will harm millions of innocent and beautiful sea creatures. WE need to get rid of the unnecessary waste!!! WE could fine companies that use and make plastics that cannot be recycled.

I generally believe that your power could change things and life in our area and then hopefully around the world.



I hope you understand my point of view

Your sincerely,

Aaliyah O (Year 9)

Aaliyah O (Year 9) and Ruqayyah H (Year 7) - Wrote a letter to the local MP Liam Byrne as they are concerned about the effects of plastic pollution.

Dear Liam Byrne,

I am writing this letter to inform you about one of the most important issues, which is pollution. There are many different forms of pollution but the specific one I am talking about is marine pollution. This is becoming a real issue and I feel we need to do something to help solve this problem. If we as humans come together, we can achieve something great as we have seen in the past, so why not bring the community together to help those who truly cannot do anything.

Marine animals are the most helpless animals out there. All they are doing is staying in their habitats and us humans are throwing plastic on the floor which is going into the sea and affecting marine animals. A person such as I can only do so much but someone like you can help to make a change such as putting price tags on plastic bags which we have already done. This has made a major change, but it is not enough. Still 1 million sea birds die every year and 100,00 marine animals die due to our careless actions. Although there are many negatives like I have listed, many people have changed their normal day to day things just to save these helpless animals like using reusable straws such as metal ones.

If we come together as a community to make a change, we could possibly revolutionise the future and maybe even end up helping the less fortunate. Please keep all my points in mind and the next time you go out for a coffee please take your own cup!

Yours sincerely Ruqayyah

In Geography we have received some amazing work from our students. For Earth Day on the 22nd May students completed a range of activities based around protecting the planet.

Here are a few examples:

Zara J (Year 7) investigated how far her food had travelled.



Food item	Country of origin	Distance
1. Chicken	Britain	1125 miles
2. Beef	USA	3400 miles
3. Pork	USA	3400 miles
4. Lamb	Spain	2700 miles
5. Lamb	Spain	2700 miles
6. Lamb	Spain	2700 miles
7. Chicken	Spain	2700 miles
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99. Chicken	Spain	2700 miles
100. Chicken	Spain	2700 miles



Alishba A (Year 8) has produced a fantastic piece of work about the Kashmir Earthquake.

Ramla S (Year 7) - Predicted what the future climate of the UK will be like in a postcard from the future.

A post card from the future.

Post Card

To the past me,

I remember my amazing life in 2020 in the UK. There was a cool breeze which followed you everywhere you went. Today is nothing like that. The UK is nothing like how it was before. Its boiling hot, both inside and outside. Who's to blame you may ask? Us guys, the people from 2020. Climate change affects my life for many reasons, one being that you are always too hot or always too cold and there is not an in between.

The average climate of the UK in 2020 is 21 degrees in summer and 2-7 degrees in winter. The average climate of the UK now in 2080 is 40 degrees in the summer and we receive a 1/5 less rainfall. However, in winter rainfall has gone up 16%. The reason why these drastic changes in the climate have taken place is due to greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane being released into the atmosphere which has caused the Earth to warm. The most common causes of greenhouse gases are the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and factories.

From the future you (Ramla S – Year 7)



All work completed received an online praise postcard. Well done everyone.

Mr L Hathaway - Teacher of Geography & History





The Spring Term has been an exciting time for our pupils and their reading habits. So far, we have seen real growth and acceleration in the reading culture of Years 7 and 8 pupils. The table below charts the number of words read.

Number of words read by pupils

Number of pupils who have reached this reading target

Over 4 Million Words	1
Over 3 Million Words	4
Over 2 Million Words	9
Over 1 Million Words	25
Over 900,000 Words	8
Over 800,000 Words	9
Over 700,000 Words	7
Over 600,000 Words	13
Over 500,000 Words	12
Over 400,000 Words	17
Over 300,000 Words	20
Over 200,000 Words	42
Over 100,000 Words	45



CONGRATULATIONS

to our

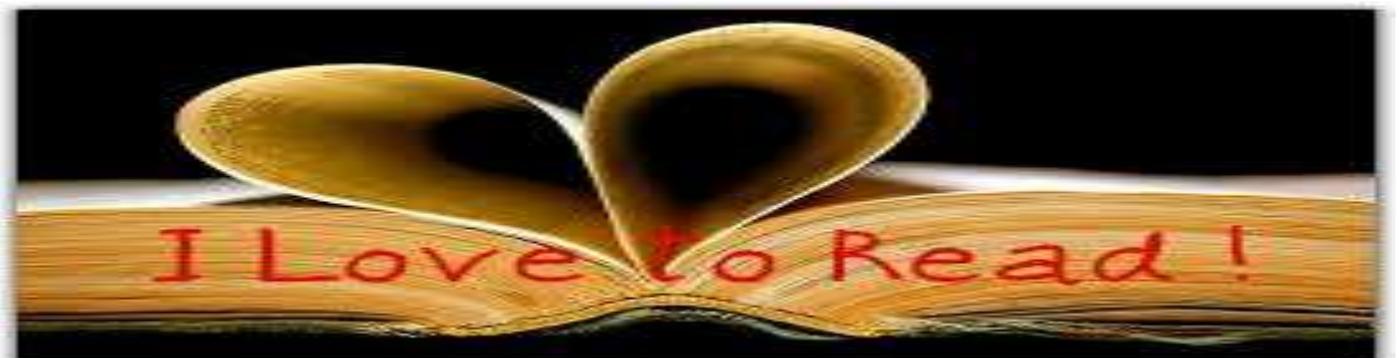
WINNERS!

Top three pass rates for Reading Quizzes in Year 7	Class	Pass Rate
	7H1	89%
	7G1	81%
	7H2	73%

Top three pass rates for Reading Quizzes in Year 8	Class	Pass Rate
	8H3	72%
	8H1	71%
	8G1	70%

Year 7 and 8 Reading

Number of books read by Years 7 and 8	5,960
Number of words read by Years 7 and 8	144,559,186
Number of books read by Year 7	3,796
Number of words read by Year 7	89,046,234
Reading pass rate for Year 7	70%
Number of books read by Year 8	2,164
Number of words read by Year 8	55,512,952
Reading pass rate for Year 8	70%



Well Done!

Highest Number of Words Read Since Lockdown

Top Five Classes

7H1	1,315,596
7H2	353,941
7G1	267,517
8G1	160,506
8H1	93,213



Rewind to 2019



Highest Number of Words Read during Christmas Holiday

Top Five Classes

7H1	3,556,759
8H2	1,542,291
8G2	944,646
8H1	568,690
8G1	521,542

Ms F Mohammed – Teacher of English / Library





Maths-Whizz[®]

by **whizz** EDUCATION

Maths Whizz:

All students in Year 7 have attempted to complete at least three progressions a week on Maths Whizz. So far during lockdown: **185** hours of Maths Whizz Learning.

- Highest achieving classes were **7h/Ma1** and **7s/Ma1**
- Highest Achieving students were **Annie C, Zara J, Dejonelle L and Zunaira H**.
Keep up the good work.

It was nice to see that many of our pupils had been working hard on Maths tasks during the Covid-19 lockdown. Since the lockdown began Year 7 had completed 155 hours of work on Maths Whizz whilst all other year groups had done **1447** hours of work on Hegarty Maths.

Well done to **8g/Ma1** who were leading the way by spending the most time on Hegarty Maths, closely followed by **7h/Ma1, 9g/Ma1** and **9h/Ma1**. All these groups had achieved over 100 hours of learning at home. Well done and keep up the good work.

Congratulations to 7G1 and 7H1 for the highest Maths Whizz usage in the first half of the Spring term. Well done too to 7S who worked hard to achieve third place.



Soffiyah in 7G achieved the most progressions in the half-term, averaging 15 progressions per week- an outstanding effort. She received a £5 gift voucher for her efforts. Well done!

Ms M Ainge – Teacher of Mathematics/Science



Hegarty Maths:

During the week commencing 4th May the students had completed **285** hours of learning on Hegarty Maths and answered **9923** questions correctly.

The top three students were:

Afnan H Year 7 - 9.1 hours	Amal A Year 9 - 6.6 hours	Alina I Year 9 - 5.4 hours
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The top three classes: **10X/Ma1, 8h/Ma1 and 10Y/ Ma1**

Ms M Anige – Teacher of Mathematics/Science

Hegarty Maths:

Students with the most hours spent doing skills work were **8G1** with **202** hours.

The top five groups were:

1. 8G1	2. 9G1	3. 7H1	4. 9H1	5. 10Y1
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Well done👍 Keep up the good work. Parents/Carers remember to ask to see your daughter's 'My Scores' page to see how they are progressing.

The top 15 students with the most hours were:

Alina I	Humiya M	Zara D	Afnan H	Ramla S
Hamnah M	Amal A	Malihah M	Misbha A	Mariam A
Umaymah R	Liyba S	Aminah A	Zara K	

Ms N Akram – Teacher of Mathematics





Tassomai Online Study Programme

As you may be aware, we have subscribed to a fantastic online revision programme called Tassomai. This programme is an excellent resource as it provides learning for English and Maths at Key Stage 3 and Science at Key Stages 3 and 4. It will significantly help them in their preparations for their GCSEs in Science.

During COVID-19 we have encouraged all pupils to use Tassomai more often. The Tassomai mobile app is available for all pupils to download from Google Play and the App Store.

Each syllabus has been broken down into quizzable micro facts, covering everything for pupils to know for their exams. Tassomai's unique algorithm adapts itself to the user, targeting their weaknesses, and tailors the quizzes accordingly. We recommend pupils complete Tassomai four times a week for ten minutes a day to keep up with their targets and complete the course in time for their exams.

Targeted repetition, done little and often, is the most effective and efficient way to implant knowledge and prepare for exams. The aim is that all pupils will be given weekly targets to achieve and, as with all homework, the expectation is all pupils should complete these targets.

The key to success with the programme is regular online testing and keeping the progress wheel blue/green i.e. on or ahead of track. When pupils do not use the programme regularly, their progress wheel will show red i.e. behind schedule. Pupils log on via their email address with a password they set themselves. The password can be recovered via their email should they forget it. If they cannot access the programme their teacher can recover their login and password for them.

Each week the performance of every year group was monitored. A total of **16,043** questions had been answered in one week in May. Below is an example of the year groups that were ranked in order of the number of questions answered correctly:



1	Year 10	5,504
2	Year 8	3,394
3	Year 9	3,369
4	Year 7	2,498
5	Year 11	1,278

'Using Tassomai builds knowledge, boosts confidence and reduces exam stress.'

The parent bulletin will be updated each week with the performance of every year group of how many questions have been answered. This term the winners are Year 10! Well done!

Miss H Sattar – Teacher of Science



Flake experiment by Marwa Z – Year 8



Students were encouraged to keep up their practical and scientific measuring skills each week with a series of experiments which can be done at home with common household items. A challenge was how much force is needed to break a flake! One of our keen Year 8 student gave it a go and came back with some surprising results! Here are some of the photos from her experiment:



Each week there was a new challenge set through the link that was published in the weekly Parent Bulletin.

Well done to everyone who took part in the challenge! Every student that emailed their results received positive points for their efforts from Miss Pitts.

Miss J Pitt – Teacher of Science



Ready, Steady Bake

During the COVID-19 lockdown the pupils of Hodge Hill Girls' School have been very busy baking.



Safaa in Year 7 has sent in a few examples of her success in the kitchen. The pupils have been very proactive with their cooking skills. We look forward to receiving more delights. Well done!



Looking Smart, Thinking Smart

In the new academic year 2020/2021 Hodge Hill Girls' School pupils will be looking even smarter in an updated uniform. The new uniform will be compulsory for all new Year 7 pupils, but all other year groups will be able to wear it too. The next school year will be a transition year and all parents/carers will receive a letter from us after half term with the updated policy. Look out for these letters as they will include vouchers to be redeemed against new uniform items.



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Pupils from KS3 have been working on various PE projects from researching their favourite sports, looking at rounders and tennis aspects, to investigating fitness and nutrition.

Pupils have been sending in some lovely work, the PE department would like to say a big well done to Zara J (Year 7) , Alina A, Amina K, Zara K, Maryam S (Year 8) for completing all work set so far.

The next PE project will be based on completing a home pentathlon that all the family can get involved in. Let us see how many pupils can get active with this task. The PE department will be looking forward to seeing their results.



Miss S Walker – Physical Education



Pupils have been actively taking part in the weekly wellbeing bingo that is also linked in the Parent Bulletin. Pupils have emailed me saying that it has encouraged them to reach out to friends more and take part in family activities.

One pupil loved that tiktok was on there because they learnt a hard dance and were proud of themselves.

Another one said that to complete her Wellbeing Bingo she needed to say thank you to someone, so she rang her friend to say thanks for being a great friend and it made her friends day.

Another pupil had got her family members involved and turned it into a competition.

I have given achievement points to all pupils that have emailed me to say they have completed the Wellbeing Bingo.



Mrs S Barron – Physical Education

