



## Hodge Hill Girls' School

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Ref: sad/bha

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are keeping safe and well. The start to the Spring term has not been quite as expected as we respond to ongoing and ever-changing government guidance. Thank you to the whole school community as you have adapted so quickly to the necessary changes. We are very proud of how our students are approaching the current challenges and are delighted to see some of the quality work produced.

We appreciate that it has been a challenging couple of weeks and thank you, our parents and carers for your support as we play our part in keeping our community safe and well.

You will be aware that lessons are up and running through our online learning platform which is accessed via Class Charts and that your daughter should be logging on each day and following her timetabled lessons. As this situation continues over the next few weeks, we will continue to refine our offer to ensure that your daughter has varied learning experiences. We are making regular welfare calls; this is an opportunity for you to feedback and we thank those who have provided some feedback already.

We receive frequent updates in school and share these and relevant information with you below.

### **COVID Testing**

In the first week of testing, we have successfully carried out 51 COVID tests at Hodge Hill Girls School. All those tested have commented on how simple the process is. The testing being undertaken in schools aims to identify those people who do not have symptoms but may be infected with COVID-19. The more people who sign up, the safer our community will be for everyone.

In line with current Government guidance, we will be offering mass testing to all students who have consented as they return to school, we also plan to offer serial testing to any student identified as a close contact once schools reopen. Students can then continue to access their education rather than having to repeatedly self-isolate.

If you would like to sign your daughter up for testing once she returns to school, please complete the following consent form:

- [COVID Testing - Consent Form - Pupils](#)

### **Year 10/Year 11 - GCSE/BTEC consultations**

The government have launched a consultation on how they propose to award GCSE/BTEC grades in the summer. We highly recommend all students and parents read the corresponding documents and contribute to the consultations.

*Educating Tomorrow's Women Today*

- [Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021](#)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-alternative-arrangements-for-the-award-of-vtqs-and-other-general-qualifications-in-2021>

It is very clear that they are planning on some form of externally set assessments and that teachers will be expected to assess students between now and the awarding period in the summer. It is therefore imperative that students are logging on to ClassCharts every day and completing work to the highest possible standard. They should also continue to revise all content covered so far so they are fully prepared for future assessments. It is not currently known which assessments will be included in the calculations and therefore students should assume that any work submitted 'could' count towards their final grade.

### **Free School Meals (FSM)**

There has been a change of approach from the government last week with regards to Free School Meal provision during this period of lockdown and, as has happened previously, vouchers will once again be issued. We are awaiting final details, but the government has said that the provision is from **18<sup>th</sup> January up to and including 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. We will order vouchers as soon as we are able to and these will be emailed by a company called Edenred to the email address that we use for School Gateway communications. We continue to encourage all families to check for eligibility for Free School Meals, particularly if there has been a change in circumstances, and this can be done via the school website; Free School Meals' support cannot be provided without proof of eligibility and the school receives immediate confirmation of both successful and unsuccessful applications. As ever, please do contact us with any queries and we will do our best to help.

### **Remote Learning**

Thank you to all parents and carers for the support being given to the many pupils who are continuing their learning at home; if you have problems with devices such as laptops or accessing the internet, please contact school on [enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk). We know that a number of pupils are at the stage, too, where new exercise books are needed as they have finished their previous one; again, please contact us at school so we can support. Use of all of our online learning platforms – Tassomai, Hegarty Maths and GCSEPod as well as ClassCharts where daily learning is provided – is monitored weekly, and regular use demonstrates commitment to learning as well as having a positive impact on progress made.

Curriculum enhancement opportunities continue during this period of lockdown; please do make sure you are reading the parental bulletin each week and encouraging your daughter to do so too. There are a number of additional learning opportunities provided by the school, and also by external providers featured in the bulletin. For example, some Year 11 pupils have accessed virtual work experience opportunities which are fantastic experiences and provide many additional learning opportunities as well as enhancing application forms for college, apprenticeships and university where appropriate.

As we all find ourselves continuing to spend so much time at home, the importance of reading has grown and grown for both our mental well-being and our learning. Pupils are provided with online access weekly to First News newspaper and a quiz to show their learning. If pupils require further reading books, they should email [s.clews@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk](mailto:s.clews@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk) and we will contact you to support this provision at this time.

### **Year 9 options**

You should have received a letter about Parents Evening and another one about selecting your daughter's GCSE options. Hopefully by now you have had the opportunity to listen to the Curriculum Evening presentation and have an idea of which options your daughter would like to select. Please do not return Curriculum Preference forms until after Parents Evening on Monday 25th January where you will have the opportunity to discuss these decisions with subject teachers.

If you have not received either of these letters, please contact the school office and someone will assist.

We recognise that working remotely and living under lockdown situations is challenging. Our website and weekly bulletin highlight resources available to help and support during this time. Let us know if you need any further assistance.

We will be sending out regular updates throughout this period. Thank you again for your support as we work together as a community to achieve the best for our students.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Adu  
Headteacher