



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

11th December 2020

Important Dates

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 14th DecemberFriday 18th December | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 11 Parents Evening(virtual)Term Ends – Pupils finish school
Non-Uniform Day |
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**PROTECT OTHERS BY KEEPING YOUR DAUGHTER AT HOME IF
DISPLAYING ANY COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

**CONTINUE TO CHECK SCHOOL GATEWAY/EMAILS AND THE SCHOOL
WEBSITE FOR REGULAR UPDATES**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The festive period is an important time for many people of all faiths who come together over the holidays. The UK Government recognise that people will want to be with their friends and family over Christmas, particularly after an incredibly difficult year. When following these guidelines, we must each continue to take personal responsibility to limit the spread of the virus and [protect our loved ones, particularly if they are vulnerable](#).

For all the latest information go to <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Face Masks:

Your daughter **MUST** wear a face mask into school every day which must be worn as pupils move around the school building and in communal areas. Please inform us if your daughter is exempt from the existing face covering obligations, due to an underlying health condition, if so, she will continue to be exempt from these new obligations.

School Information

Year 11 virtual Parents Evening on Monday 14th December:

A reminder for all parents/carers to log on to the following link to book a 5-minute session with their subject teachers.

- <https://hhgs.schoolcloud.co.uk/>





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Attendance – Reporting a student absence:

If your daughter is going to be absent from school for any reason it is vital that you contact the school **before 8:30** on the first day of absence. When you call, you will be directed to leave an answer machine message. Please can you ensure that you clearly state the **students name, form and the reason for their absence**. Please can you be as specific as possible when explaining the reason for absence to enable us to code the absence correctly. It is important, where possible to give the **expected period of absence**.

If the reason is due to your daughter experiencing COVID symptoms you will be required to book a test for your daughter as soon as possible, Your daughter will need to remain off school until the results are known - even if they start to feel better. Once the results are known it is essential that you contact the school immediately.

If the reason is due to someone else in your household experiencing symptoms, please book a test only for the person experiencing symptoms. Again, it is vital that your daughter remains off school until the outcome of the test is known. Once the test results are received please contact the school for further guidance.

Class Charts:

Parents can now see how many positive behaviour points have been awarded to their daughter by logging on to their Class Charts account. You will be able to see what the points have been awarded for and in which subjects they were awarded.

Class Charts is an online platform that we use to share home learning activities with students. If your daughter is asked to self-isolate for any reason, the work will be uploaded on to this platform for them to complete.

If you have a smart phone or a tablet, the Class Charts Parent App can be easily downloaded. The advantage of the Parent App is that it reduces the number of times you are required to log on and allows you instant access to home learning, positive behaviour points, attendance and announcements. You will also receive push notifications when teachers send announcements to students/parents.

If you require support in accessing your Class Charts account please use the help section on the school website (<https://www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk/parents/supporting-your-daughter-learning>) or contact the school office who will be able to assist.

End of Term Friday 18th December 2020:

Will be a non-uniform day. Students may wear appropriate non-school uniform clothes, with an item added, which represents their house colour and sensible footwear. Students can make £1 donation to support a charity as nominated by the School Council. The timings for the last day of term:

- **12.05pm for Year 11**





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- 12.20pm for Year 8
- 12.35pm for Year 7
- 12.50pm for Year 9
- 13.05pm for Year 10

Free School Meals:

We are currently in the process of arranging FSM funding for the Christmas holidays in line with government guidance. If your daughter is in receipt of FSM, please ensure that we have the most up-to-date email address in order to arrange for delivery of the voucher. Vouchers will be coming from Edenred which is the scheme many families will be familiar with from the lockdown and summer holiday period.

Parent/carers FAQs

https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/Select/clients/SelectGrocery_FSM_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf

School Gateway:

All school related **communication, bulletins, newsletters, reports, timetables, attendance figures** and **club bookings** go through School Gateway. It is the central hub of information for our parents – so to stay up to date with what is going on at school you must download the 'School Gateway' app for free from your app store. **COVID** alerts are also sent via School Gateway and it is important that you are constantly checking your email account for updates. You can click on the link for further details on how to activate your account or contact reception.

School Office:

Due to the national lockdown and guidance regarding not undertaking unnecessary journeys, parents and carers must not visit the school site unless specifically requested by a member of staff. Please contact school reception on 0121 4643094 or email enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk should you need to get in touch with school.

School Uniform:

Hodge Hill Girls' School is a uniformed school, and it is therefore expected that all our pupils will wear the correct school uniform every day and that parents will support this. A smart uniform promotes a sense of pride in the school and oneself as well as promoting a feeling of community and sense of belonging. Click on the following link [Uniform](#) for further details.

Support with Computer Access at Home:

We have supported 64 families with computer access at home since the start of the pandemic. We regularly remind pupils of the need to let us know if they are having difficulty accessing a computer or the internet at home, and we are extremely grateful to parents who have completed our forms to update us on the home situation with regards to access or have contacted us directly. Please do continue to let us know if further support is needed; we are aware that many families are sharing a device between several family members and we may be able to help if you think this is impacting on your daughter's learning. Contact us via telephone on 0121 4643094 or enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk if you would like to discuss this further.





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GCSE Pod:

Pupils have watched 2218 pods over the last week with English Literature, History and Biology the most watched subjects. We are currently in 5th place out of 114 schools of our size in our area for pod usage since 1st November with an average of 16.12 pods watched per KS4 pupil.

Individual year group figures are as follows:

Year 7	81%	pupils with active accounts; 794 pods watched; History, English Language and Biology are the most watched subjects
Year 8	87%	320 pods; English Literature, History, Combined Sciences
Year 9	94%	245 pods; English Literature, Biology, Chemistry
Year 10	97%	490 pods; English Literature, History, Maths
Year 11	99%	369 pods; Biology, History, Combined Science

The 5 pupils in each year group who watch the most pods for all of December will receive a GCSEPod pin badge as well as positive points which are awarded as follows:

- 1 point to each of the top 10 users in the whole school
 - 1 point to each of the top 5 users in each year group
 - 1 point to each pupil who watches 5 or more pods a week
-
- **Value of the month** – December '**GRATITUDE**' Please discuss this value with your daughter. To support please use the following link. [Poster](#) and [30-day of Gratitude](#).
 - **Thought for the week: 'Service'** see [PowerPoint](#) presentation and [video](#).
 - **Job of the Week: 'Acupuncturist'**. Click on the [link](#) for more information.

Notices

(CEIAG) Post 16 virtual Open Events:

You may need to register to take part. Click on the following links to see the next virtual open day. Start planning your future for 2021.

Institute	Link
Click on the link for all Post 16 colleges and Sixth Forms open days	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/open-days/	





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Joseph Chamberlain – Sixth Form College www.jcc.ac.uk	https://www.jcc.ac.uk/voe/
BMet www.bmet.ac.uk	https://www.bmet.ac.uk/open-events-enrolment/virtual-open-events/
UCB www.ucb.ac.uk	https://www.ucb.ac.uk/open-days/college-open-days/
Solihull college www.solihull.ac.uk	https://www.solihull.ac.uk/news-events/virtual-open-event/
Solihull Sixth Form College www.solihullsfc.ac.uk	https://www.solihullsfc.ac.uk/
South and City College www.sccb.ac.uk	https://www.sccb.ac.uk/about-us/open-days
Bournville	https://www.opendays.com/institutions/bournville-college
Bordesley Green Girls' School & Sixth Form	http://www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk/applying/
Sutton Coldfield Grammar School & Sixth Form	https://www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk/sixthformapplications
Aston University Sixth Form www.auea.co.uk	https://auea.co.uk/sixth-form/courses
Access Creative College	https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/open-events December virtual open events

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair

Wednesday 27th January 12:00 - 18:00

Perfect for Years 11, 12 & 13 this event is designed to allow students to explore a wide range of universities, colleges and apprenticeships, whether you are just starting your research or making your final decisions. There will also be a new webinar line-up, and a competition!

Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event

Wednesday 10 February 12:00 - 19:00

Designed for students aiming to study at a Russell Group university, this virtual event will allow you to explore all 24 Russell Group Universities and chat to their representatives. You can also





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take part in 13 live and interactive webinars throughout the day, including a new Parent and Teacher Support session.

Click on the following link on how to register for both events: [Virtual Events](#)

Join online the interactive UK University Search Virtual Fair. The event will feature universities and colleges from across the UK as well as ten live webinars on essential topics such as UCAS personal statements, clearing, and student finance.

- <https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/>



Careers – Virtual Work Experience:

All students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to have the best chance of success. Opportunities may close early if many applications are received. You can email n.nazish@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk for further information.

New Virtual Work Experience Opportunities:

- [Work Experience Week - Nursing](#)
- Dates: 15th – 19th February 2021
- Age: 16+ Application Deadline: **25th January 2021**

- [NHS Meet the people behind the masks: Midlands](#)
- Date: 9th February 2021
- Age: 14+ Application Deadline: **19th January 2021**

Labour Market Information (LMI) can be used to inform pupils about their career choices. Typical details for a software developer:

Weekly Pay	Annual Pay
£890	£46,280
Hours/Week	Hourly Pay
36h	25
Growth	Replacement
5.9%	40.3%

The workforce is projected to grow by 5.9% over the period to 2027, creating **17,500** jobs. In the same period, 40.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating **118,900** job openings. You might find this job in

- Computer programming





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- Legal & accounting
- Financial services
- Head offices
- Publishing activities

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Incidents outside of school premises:

School staff are on duty on the school site at the start and end of the school day. They do not supervise beyond the immediate perimeter of the school.

Students should report any potential incidents to staff members during the day so that steps can be taken to prevent this.

If you see an incident happening further away from the school the police should be called using 999. Police will attend incidents where members of the public are concerned young people are in potential danger.

Keeping your daughter safe online:

All parents/carers need to be aware of what their daughter are accessing when online. Young people often access sites that are not appropriate for their age. Click on the school website for further guidance on staying safe online.

- <https://www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk/parents/online-safety>

Check your security and privacy settings

- Adjust privacy and safety settings to increase security and control the personal data you share. Look for the 'privacy and security' or 'settings' on the app or website.
- [Review the security settings](#) on your 'smart' devices. If your device is using a default or easily guessable password, change it.
- [Set up two-factor authentication](#). This is a free security feature to stop unwanted people getting into your accounts. You will receive a text or code when you log in to check you are who you say you are.
- [Update your devices](#). Using the latest version of software and apps can immediately improve your security.



Food On
Our Doorstep

Family Action has launched FOOD (Food on Our Doorstep) Clubs in Birmingham to provide families with good-quality food at a low cost, while also reducing food waste. It costs just £1 a year for your family to become a member. [Read me](#) for further information.





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All staff and pupils at Hodge Hill Girls' School have also been busy collecting non-perishable foods and toiletries for the local community. If you wish to donate, please send your donations in with your daughter to the Pastoral Office. Thank you for your continued support.

Action for Happiness Calendar: these calendars have been translated into many different languages. Click <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars> to download a calendar of your choice.

Thank a Teacher/Staff: Click on the link and type the name of the teacher, teaching assistant, headteacher or support staff that you would like to thank. You can also thank your school as a whole, or a single department. If you would like to do that, just enter the details in the relevant box.

- <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>

Kooth.com: Worried or unsure. Kooth is available 365 days a year and remains accessible over the Christmas period. To access to self-help materials and daily online counselling click on the link <https://www.kooth.com/>

Opening hours over the festive holidays:

- Thurs 24th Dec Christmas Eve 4 - 8pm
Fri 25th Dec Christmas Day 4 - 8pm
Sat 26th Dec Boxing Day 4 - 8pm
- Thurs 31st Dec NYE 12 - 8pm
Fri 1st Jan New Year's Day 4-8pm

Please note the upcoming Live Forums on Kooth for young people to access during December are as follows: -

- Monday 14th December - Alternative Ways to Celebrate the Holidays
- Wednesday 23rd December - Holiday Social Takeover
- Monday 28th December - Reflecting on Positives from 2020





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If your child develops symptoms associated with Covid-19 whilst at **home**, please keep them at home and follow the process outlined below. If your child develops symptoms associated with Covid-19 whilst **at school**, we will isolate them immediately, providing the support and reassurance they will require. We will contact you and require that you collect them immediately from school. Please take them straight home and follow the same process outlined below.

Step One: CONTACT

the NHS and request a COVID-19 Test from them online or by calling 119. Do not visit your GP, pharmacy, hospital or other healthcare provider. Call 999 if emergency care is needed.

Step Two: ISOLATE

Your child should isolate for 10 days after symptoms appear and other people in your household should isolate for 14-days.

Step Three: TEST

Get a test. Keep your child at home until she gets her results.

Step Four: RESULTS

You should receive your results within 72 hours. If the test is negative, your daughter and household may stop isolating although they must not return to school until they are well. **Please inform us of a negative test result immediately.**

Step Five: A POSITIVE TEST RESULT

If your child tests positive for Coronavirus, contact tracers will contact you to inform you of the isolation regulations you will need to follow. **Please inform us of a positive test result immediately.**

