



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

4th December 2020

Important Dates

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 7th DecemberWednesday 9th DecemberMonday 14th DecemberFriday 18th December | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Governors MeetingYear 9 Mindset WorkshopYear 11 Parents Evening(virtual)Term Ends – 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:

With the arrival of winter and an increase in the number of cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), it is more important than ever that we all take steps to reduce the spread of infection in the community.

This guidance is for:

- people with [symptoms](#) that may be caused by COVID-19 including those who are waiting for a test
- people who have received a positive COVID-19 test result (whether or not they have symptoms)
- people who currently live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has received a positive test result.

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

Face Masks

Your daughter **MUST** bring 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.





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School Information

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.

Free School Meals:

Receiving Free School Meals can save **£450** per pupil per year for families. We strongly recommend that you use the school website to check to see if your daughter is eligible; please see [FSM PowerPoint presentation](#) to see if you are able to receive this additional support. If you have any questions or need support with this process, please do not hesitate to contact school enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk.

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.

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

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.





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School Uniform:

- **Jewellery** – we allow one plain stud in the lower part of each ear and one small stud in the nose. Nose rings are not permitted. All piercings must be removed for PE. We suggest that any new piercings are done at the start of the summer holidays. Pupils can also wear a watch. (Smart watches or the equivalent are not permitted)
- **Nails, Make-Up, Hair** – nails should look natural and be an appropriate length for school. False nails and coloured nail polish are not allowed and, as such, will need to be removed. Pupils at KS4 may wear discrete natural make up. Hair should be natural in colour and tied back for practical activities. Appropriate hair accessories e.g. hair slides can be worn but should be black to compliment the school uniform. No fashion accessories should be worn.

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.

School Gateway

Our main method of communicating with parents is via emails send via 'school gateway'. It is essential that you check emails daily, especially given the current situation. If your email address changes, please let your daughter pastoral manager know immediately.

It would greatly help if all parents download the school gateway app. This way you can see all communication in one centralised location. The school gateway app also allows you to see your daughters timetable and provides a permanent record of their school reports.

If you are uncertain how to register for the app, please use the help section on the school website (<https://www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk/school-gateway>) or contact the school office who will be able to assist.





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GCSE Pod: Pupils have watched 1413 pods over the last week, and we have moved to 5th position out of 114 similar schools in our area for usage with an average of 10.49 pods watched per KS4 pupil since 1st November.

Individual year group figures are as follows:

Year 7	79%	pupils with active accounts; 533 pods watched; History, English Literature and RS are the most accessed subjects
Year 8	85%	213 pods; History, English Literature, Physics
Year 9	94%	233 pods; English Literature, Biology, History
Year 10	97%	348 pods; History, RS, English Literature
Year 11	99%	86 pods; History, Geography, Biology

- **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:** '**Diversity**' see [PowerPoint](#) presentation and [video](#).
- **Job of the Week:** '[Health Visitor](#)'. Click on the link for more information.

English Department/Library



Reading Across the Curriculum

Stemettes is an organisation set up to help combat the lack of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (known collectively as STEM).

Stemettes has created a list of reading recommendations, for all ages, to inspire and support young women into STEM careers and aspirations.

<https://stemettes.org/recommends/>

PE Department

- Why not set yourself a fitness challenge over December, click on the link and see how you could do this. [google slides document](#)
- Take part in the Fitness Advent calendar, taking on a different physical challenge every day.
- Let us know how you get on by emailing pictures into school with you and your family keeping fit together. s.barron@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk





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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/	
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.solihullsf.ac.uk	https://www.solihullsf.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





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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
- [Johnson Matthey: Learn about the Social Value of Science](#)
Dates: 9th December 2020
Age: 14+
Application Deadline: 6th December 2020
- [Johnson Matthey: Learn about Unconscious bias and stereotyping](#)
Dates: 11th December 2020
Age: 14+
Application Deadline: 9th December 2020

For a full list of placements - [sign in here to search and apply.](#)

Please find the link below to a careers advent calendar, click on the box each day to reveal a new career related activity each day.

- <https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=72fef629060fc8d5aa702125232cf73b>

Law and Politics Summer Internships: Ages 12-18 The Ultimate Work Experience - London 2021. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience up to 10 days of interactive, immersive work experience in Law or Politics next summer. Students will:

- Advocate before a judge in the Supreme Court
- Privately network with MPs in the House of Commons
- Meet corporate lawyers in an iconic London skyscraper
- Work alongside UN and Foreign Office staff in "Model UN"
- Cross-examine witnesses in a high-stakes murder trial





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Students can register before 31st December and use the code INTERN15 to receive 15% off. You can download a PDF [here](#).

Labour Market Information (LMI) can be used to inform pupils choices about their careers. It refers to data gathered directly from the labour market and / or employer surveys on a geographic and / or sector basis to provide a statistical picture of current and likely future employment and skills trends. For more information please click on the link below:

- <https://www.lmiforall.org.uk/careerometer/>

What are T Levels

For pupils in Year 11 applying to post 16 provider, it might be worth thinking about doing a T Level. T Levels are new courses which follow GCSEs and are equivalent to three A levels. These 2-year courses, which launched September 2020, have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study. T Levels offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). For more information, click on the link below:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels>

The Smallpeice Trust:

For pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 who are interested in Cyber Security, there are excellent free learning opportunities at February half-term.

Year 8 CyberFirst Trailblazers

A free online course for students who wish to start their CyberFirst journey. This is the first in a series of CyberFirst courses which start students on the exciting path to considering which GCSEs they will take and how computer science can play a key role in their career prospects. Click on the following dates for details;

- [8-9 February 2021](#)
[11-12 February 2021](#)
[15-16 February 2021](#)
[18-19 February 2021](#)

Year 9 CyberFirst Adventurers

This has been created to highlight the varied roles and jobs that exist and involve technology in the workplace. The course is aimed at students who have not yet made their GCSE choices, so that they get the opportunity to see how studying computer science could potentially enhance their future career paths.

- [8-9 February 2021](#)
[11-12 February 2021](#)
[15-16 February 2021](#)
[18-19 February 2021](#)





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To book a place, students should click on one of the links above and will be transferred to The Smallpeice Trust website which will have full details of these CyberFirst courses and how to apply. Spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis, so students will need to act fast to apply for a course if they are interested in attending.

To attend a virtual course, students will require access to a computer and an internet connection. Please note: To apply for one of these courses, students will need to be on half-term for the full duration of the course and be able to attend on both half-days.

- **If you have any questions please contact the CyberFirst team at cyberfirst@smallpeicetrust.org.uk.**

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

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.

SEND BRIEFING PARENT WEBINAR

Parent/Carer Webinars take place regularly throughout the year and cover a number of different topics. Each webinar should last approximately one hour and take the format of a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions. Click on the [poster](#) for further information.

Tuesday 8th December at 2.00pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/salt-top-tips-for-talking-suitable-for-early-years-children-tickets-130235005407>





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Wednesday 9th December at 10.00pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/salt-top-tips-for-talking-suitable-for-primary-age-children-tickets-130255322175>



**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.

A message from: **The Sparkhill Foodbank Team - A Trussell Trust Network Foodbank**

“Thank you to everyone at Hodge Hill Girls School for their generous donations, staff, pupils and families who contributed to the Harvest collection. We love to acknowledge all the hard work and dedication involved.”

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: -

- Friday 4th December - Healing After Loss of a Loved One
- Wednesday 9th December - Looking After Your Wellbeing
- 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.**

