



# Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Important Dates for your Diary

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June</li><li>• Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspire Art competition closes</li><li>• Father's Day</li></ul> |
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**CHECK SCHOOL GATEWAY AND SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR REGULAR UPDATES**

### FSM update

You may have heard over half-term that the government has now decided that it would cover the cost of the Free School Meals' vouchers over the May half-term holiday; further to our previous communication, this means, at this point in time, that you will continue to receive a voucher for each week of the school closure. There is absolutely nothing to suggest that vouchers will be provided in any future school holidays; you will be aware that this is the case 'normally' and there is no provision for free school meals during holidays or other school closures.

As we have referred to previously, we have a number of vouchers showing as not yet redeemed; please redeem your vouchers and keep an eye on the expiry date. There is nothing we can do if your voucher has expired.

If you think your daughter may now be entitled to Free School Meals, please complete the online form on our website. If your daughter is eligible, we can order vouchers from the time that we receive notification of eligibility. You will need to complete the form for each sibling.

- If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, please also make sure that you complete the Free School Meals application form on the school website. If you have not yet completed this, you may be missing out on additional support for your daughter.

### School Provision

This is just a reminder Hodge Hill Girls School is still open to students if you require childcare during the school closure. In line with government guidance, you must meet one of the following criteria to access this provision:

- Families where **all** adults in the household are Critical workers, they are required in work during school hours and the children are **not** old enough to take care of themselves. In line with the guidance we will be asking parents to provide evidence that they are key workers providing their services at the time that childcare provision is being requested.
- EHCP students if required
- Children who would be considered vulnerable due to Social services involvement.

As you can imagine, we need to keep these numbers as low as possible to protect the children attending and the staff required on site to oversee this provision.



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Please can you therefore consider carefully if you require childcare provision. If you require provision during June please can you email the school, giving at least 48 hours' notice to provision being required so we can ensure adequate staffing is available on site.

We are very aware that this is a challenging time for all concerned. If you require additional support to that offered above, please contact the school office via the following email [enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk) and we will endeavour to help where we can

- **Value of the month – 'Selflessness'** Please discuss this value with your daughter. To support please use the following link. [Poster link](#).
- **Thought for the week: 'Environment'** see [PowerPoint](#) presentation and [video](#).
- **The First News Magazine:** Please see the link for this week's edition. [Click here](#).
- **The Week Junior:** [Click link](#).

## **Additional Resources:**

We will look to share with you some additional sites that may be useful each week. There are so many wonderful websites to assist learning at home.

**GCSE Pod** continues to be used by many pupils to support learning and, where appropriate, teaching staff use this to support home learning. Parents may find [link](#) useful for ideas on how to support their daughters with GCSE Pod. Similarly, pupils may find [link](#) beneficial to their learning with GCSE Pod.

**Further Education:** See the attached link to a website which includes dates to all local colleges and universities open days, many of these are now virtual open days, scroll down and click on the College/University which you have an interest in.

<https://www.opendays.com/search/>

All applications for September 2020 start for Post 16 places have now closed. You can still send in a late application by going onto the Post 16 providers website of your choice and downloading an application form, however, there is no guarantee they will be able to offer you a place.

Learn live is a fantastic resource. They have a live chat section in which pupils can chat to employers from a wide range of sectors. There is information about how to prepare a cv and how to prepare for an interview. You can also access a wide variety of live broadcasts. See the link: <https://learnliveuk.com/careers/>



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## **A career in Transport & Logistics – Rail.**

Success at School is the place for young people to explore careers, get the lowdown on top employers, and search for the latest jobs, courses and advice. Click on the link for more information on careers within the Railway sector.

<https://mailchi.mp/successatschool/careers-in-rail-1277047>

**National Museum of African American History and Culture Releases “Talking About Race”** The Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture has launched Talking About Race, a new online portal designed to empower individuals, families, and communities to discuss racism, racial identity and the way these forces shape every aspect of society, from the economy and politics to the broader American culture. See link for further details [National Museum](#).

Each week the performance of every year group is monitored. A total of **11,128 questions** have been answered! Below are the year groups ranked in order of the number of questions answered correctly:

1. Year 10- 3,916
2. Year 8- 2,597
3. Year 9- 2,261
4. Year 7- 2,062
5. Year 11- 292



Well done to Year 10.

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

## **Get creative:**

**Art Department:** Calling all budding artists aged 12 or under! J.K. Rowling is inviting you to help illustrate The Ickabog for her. Every day when chapters of the story are uploaded, she will be making suggestions for what you might like to draw or paint to illustrate the story as it goes along. You should let your imagination run wild!

The best bit is, if you are between seven and twelve years old, your parent or guardian on your behalf can enter your drawings or paintings into the official competition being run by J.K. Rowling’s publishers, for a once in a lifetime chance to be featured in The Ickabog book, which is published in November.

<https://theickabogcompetition.com/>

Plus, you can read the story online. <https://www.theickabog.com/read-the-story>



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Take a look at an amazing piece of artwork created by internationally renowned street artist Josh Billingham, aka Gent 48, paying homage to the frontline professionals of the city who have worked tirelessly to ensure that life goes on as usual. This vibrant piece of street art can be seen on Meriden Street in Digbeth.

<https://www.birminghamupdates.com/birminghams-art-for-charity-launches-celebratory-forward-in-unity-mural/>

There is also the Birmingham Museums Learning at Home Activities - bringing museums to people virtually across a range of curriculum areas.

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/learning-at-home-activities>

Plus, from BOM which is a centre for art, technology and science dedicated to creative innovation with purpose. An online collection of games and activities celebrating the art of mark making and drawing.

<https://www.bom.org.uk/doodle/main.php>

**Arts Council England:** Take a look at these fun creative activities. All you need is a pencil or a pen and some paper. [Let's create pack](#)

**Colouring pages by Emma J Shipley:** Here is a link for some free download colouring sheets by artist Emma J Shipley who has joined forces with Clarke & Clarke who are a global leader in the home furnishings market. Shipley's designs present quirky designs for wallpapers and fabrics based around nature but with a twist.

<https://emmajshipley.com/collections/colouring-pages>

**The Smallpeice Trust:** have sent information about their latest 'Engineering at Home' challenge; this one is the 'Drink Carbonator Challenge'. Please [click here](#) to watch the instructional video and [click here](#) to see written instructions which explain how to make your drink carbonator.

## Safeguarding and Wellbeing

We are aware that this may be a worrying time for adults and children. We have therefore extended the resources on our website around Safeguarding and Wellbeing.

**Pause:** Need someone to talk to? Struggling to cope with feelings? Pause is here for you if you are under 25 and have a Birmingham GP. [Click Poster for details.](#)

They offer a non-judgemental listening ear, self-help strategies plus skills for managing difficult situations and feelings. They are open 10am-6pm, seven days a week.



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Drop them an email on [askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk) or call 0207 8414470 and they will arrange for one of their friendly team to call you back.

For more info check out <https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/>



Next week is Child Safety Week and they have produced [new resource](#) which focuses on safety and first aid. Below is a taster of what you can expect with differentiated activities for primary and secondary learners.

- **Safety in the home** - think about the [dangers in the home](#) and learn some simple first aid skills to help with a bleed, burn or head injury.
- **Sharing skills** - what new skills have been learned in lockdown? Encourage children and young people to [share their skills](#) with a sibling or parent with these creative ideas.
- **Looking to the future** - What can we learn from this experience? What are our hopes for the future? **Get creative** with writing and drawing.

The whole family can learn some simple first aid skills through a brand-new learning site, [First aid champions](#). They have created specific activities to help parents navigate their way through the site.

**Wellbeing Bingo Week 5:** [Click on link](#).

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As you will be aware through news coverage the Government is frequently updating their response to the global issue of Coronavirus. Keep up to date and follow the latest guidance during this period at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

- Keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- Wash your hands regularly
- Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

### **Staying Safe Online:**

While your daughter is away from school take particular care to monitor her online and social media usage. Do you know who she is contacting? Are the platforms she is using appropriate for her age? Are you aware of the content/images that she is posting? Further guidance can be found on our website at this link <https://www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk/parents/online-safety>

**STAY ALERT AND STAY SAFE**