



Hodge Hill Girls' School

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Ref: sad/bha

1st February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: <<Forename>> <<Surname>>, <<reg>>

I hope that this letter finds you all well. Children's Mental Health Week is taking place from 1st – 7th February 2021 and this lockdown period is a time where we all benefit from looking after our own mental and physical health. Staff have shared resources with your daughter to highlight the importance of positive mental and physical wellbeing and I hope that your daughter, and possibly your wider family, take the time to benefit from some of the activities shared with her.

This letter outlines a few brief updates, as well as wider school information. The weekly bulletin and school website are further sources of resources and information.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge well done to all pupils. The quality of work produced and participation in learning has been positively noted by staff. In recognition of this hard work pupils will be rewarded as part of our usual half termly routines. We are so proud of the way pupils have adapted and continue to try their best at this time.

The Prime Minister has announced that schools will not be re-open to pupils until Monday 8th March at the earliest, which means that our remote learning provision will resume after the half-term holiday. It therefore remains important that pupils continue with their positive efforts so far to complete the work set as part of their timetabled lessons.

Assessment weeks

Year 7 – Year 10 assessment weeks will be taking place as per the school calendar:

- Year 7 - w/c 8th February
- Year 8 - w/c 22nd February
- Year 9 - w/c 15th March (**TBC - depending upon any further announcements from the government**)
- Year 10 - w/c 1st March

Assessments will be uploaded to class charts in the usual way. If for any reason you cannot print off the assessments at home or complete them online (there will be the option to type up your answers), please contact your daughters Pastoral Manager who will arrange a pack that can be collected from school.

These assessments will help to inform grades awarded on your daughter's next report, so it is essential that they are completed and submitted as directed by the class teacher. They will also be used to inform teachers about how your daughter is progressing and any support she may benefit from. We therefore politely request that parents ensure that these assessments are undertaken in exam

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conditions e.g., in a quiet space, under timed conditions, without support from parents/siblings/textbooks/internet.

ClassCharts

When using ClassCharts, pupils should make sure that they customise the dates for their remote learning. The dates are automatically set to show the learning from the last week; where pupils are needing to go back to learning from over a week ago, this may not automatically show unless they change the dates. As ever, if pupils have any difficulties with accessing learning on ClassCharts, they should contact their Pastoral Manager.

COVID Testing

You might be aware that there has been a slight change in government guidance around COVID testing in schools over the last few weeks. Testing in schools will no longer be a substitute for the self-isolation of people identified as close contacts to a confirmed case. The Department for Education have confirmed that plans for the mass testing of all students when they return to school is still in place.

In preparation for this, please can you complete the following consent form if you are happy for your daughter to undertake COVID tests when she returns to school?

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

It is essential that we know how many students are requesting a test so we can ensure adequate staffing is in place.

Free School Meal (FSM)

Free School Meals vouchers continue to be emailed to parents. Following the government's announcement on Wednesday, we understand that Free School Meals vouchers will be available for all eligible pupils until schools reopen. We will continue to keep you updated.

Year 11 Mock Exams

We are currently in the process of adjusting plans for our second series of Year 11 mock examinations following the recent government announcement. Year 11 pupils should continue to complete their learning on ClassCharts and revision for their upcoming exams should be part of their learning routines; at this stage, we expect that mock exams will begin two weeks after Year 11 return to school in order to enable pupils to settle back into school routines and to work with subject teachers where clarification of knowledge and skills are required. A huge thank you to both parents and pupils for their understanding with this; we will follow government guidance and further changes to our current plans may be required depending on the wider circumstances at the time.

Year 10 will be sitting a full mock for English Literature with Year 11. They will be taking both papers- on 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' and 'An Inspector Calls'- students that have previously studied 'Macbeth' and 'A Christmas Carol' would be permitted to answer these questions as alternatives to the new texts. In addition, there are two unseen poetry questions, to include a comparison.

Year 9 Parents Evening Survey

Thank you to Year 9 parents who have completed our survey following the Year 9 Parents' Evening last week; if you have not yet had chance to complete this, please follow the link provided in School Gateway.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Adu".

Mrs S Adu
Headteacher