

# Weekly Bulletin

9 October 2023 - 13 October 2023

Important Dates	
16 October	Year 10 West BTEC Sport Assessment Day
26 October	Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations
30 October-3 November	October Half-term
20 November-24 November	Year 11 Creative Design Practical Mock Exams
27 November-8 December	Year 11 Winter Mock Exams
11 December-15 December	Year 11 Creative Design Practical Mock Exams

## The School Day & Entry/Exit Points

Monday: 8:30am - 3:45pm | Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30am - 2:30pm | Friday: 8:30am - 1:30pm

Year 7, 8 & 9: Technology Gate, Bromford Road | Year 10 & 11: Top Gate, Bromford Road

## Our Community and the Cost of Living

Now more than ever, with the rising cost of living, many families are feeling the squeeze. As a school, we are actively seeking to do whatever we reasonably can to support our students and their families with these rapidly growing pressures.

We are continuing to open West Canteen to pupils every morning before school between 8:00am and 8:30am to provide a free breakfast including toast and hot drinks. Please encourage your child to attend this, particularly if they arrive early to school in the morning, as it is a supervised space with access to games and other activities.

If you are facing particular hardships, please feel free to get in touch with us here at Hodge Hill College at [householdsupport@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk](mailto:householdsupport@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk). All requests will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and we will look at what support we are able to practically provide. Previous support has included supermarket vouchers, new uniform, school shoes and PE kit.

Further information about support being provided by Birmingham City Council for the cost of living crisis can be found on <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/livingsupport> and this may be of use to you in signposting where you can get help, support, and advice if you are affected.

We have a second-hand store of pre-loved uniform items, all washed and ready if you need them. Please get in touch with the school at the email address above if you would like to take advantage of this.

## Useful Links



[Hodge Hill College](#)



[ParentPay](#)



[MyEd](#)



[Birmingham City Council](#)



# Autism Services for All

Supporting autistic adults, young people, children, parents, carers & families (diagnosed or non-diagnosed) in  
Birmingham & Solihull

A searchable website enabling you to find support services

Grants averaging £5,000-£20,000 available to organisations that help individuals to lead happier, healthier and more independent lives



For more information please visit our website  
[www.aadirectory.co.uk](http://www.aadirectory.co.uk), email us at [aaa@landau.co.uk](mailto:aaa@landau.co.uk) or pick up a flyer!

## Flu Vaccinations

Your child is due to receive a nasal flu vaccination offering protection against winter flu. Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children causing fever, stuffy nose, dry cough, sore throat, aching muscles and joints, and extreme tiredness. Some children can get a very high fever, sometimes you may need to go to the hospital for treatment. Serious complications of flu include a painful ear infection, acute bronchitis, and pneumonia.

The vaccinations will take place in school on Thursday 26 October 2023. Pupils will be required to attend school as normal and will be called out of lessons for the vaccination. The vaccination is a simple spray up each nostril – quick and painless. Only pupils with parental consent will be vaccinated.

Should you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the Immunisation Team on 0121 466 3460.

## Extra-curricular Activities & Clubs

At Hodge Hill College, our enrichment and extra-curricular provision provides our pupils with a breadth and balance of activities designed to broad their horizons, allowing them to develop their own interests and talents. The programme is an extension of the school's curriculum and builds on our CARE brand whilst instilling British Values.

We offer quality provision which provides our pupils with a number of opportunities to develop their resilience, character and performance. Our sports provision has continued to improve to develop pupils physically and mentally.

**Please note, that all pupils must sign in at reception upon arrival for before-school sessions each morning.**

For more information and the activities timetable, please visit: <https://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/extracurricular>.

## Uniform Donations

As the new school year begins, we kindly request your help in supporting other families in need. If your children have outgrown their old school uniforms, please consider donating them to the School Office. We will collect all donated uniforms and distribute them to students who would greatly benefit from them. Even a single donated item can make a significant difference.

Please make sure to wash the uniforms before donating and ensure they are in good condition. You can send the uniforms with your child or drop them off at the School Office yourself. We appreciate anything you can provide to help clothe and equip students whose families are facing financial difficulties.

Together, we can ensure that all our students feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn in the new school year.

## Medication

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs and be involved in developing and reviewing their child's individual healthcare plan.

If your child has any medical needs or is required to take medication during school hours and you are yet to inform us of them, please visit the School Office to complete a Parental Medical Consent Form and drop off any medication you would like us to keep in school.

If your child has asthma, we advise that they always carry an inhaler on them. Please drop an inhaler at School Office for us to keep in case of emergency and complete the consent form.

## Medical Appointments During the School Day

To ensure your child does not miss out on learning, we strongly advise that non-urgent appointments at the GP, dentist or optometrist are made out of school hours.

If your child has a hospital or specialist appointment, please notify the school in advance. You may do this by sending a photo of the letter via MyEd or bring it to the School Office where a copy will be sent to your child's AC and AAC for authorisation.

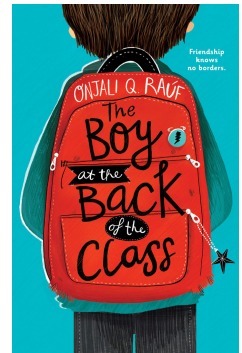
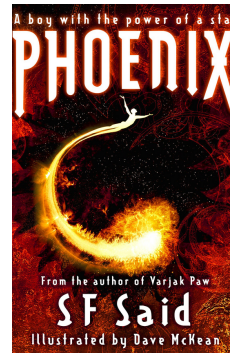
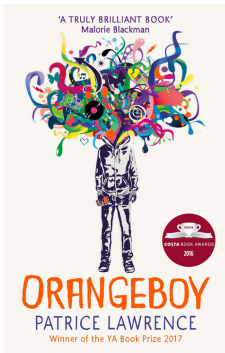
## Reading at School

Hodge Hill College offers a unique reading lesson to students in Years 7 and 8, where they acquire new vocabulary, read together as a class, and engage in various activities to ensure comprehension. Our school is dedicated to increasing reading in all subjects, with a particular focus on Key Stage 3. We have also implemented a Reading Reward badge on Class Charts to recognise students' reading efforts in all classrooms. Moreover, our school has an impressive library with books categorised by genre, including ones that celebrate diverse cultures, sci-fi and horror, dystopian novels, and non-fiction books.

## Reading at Home

We kindly request your assistance in promoting reading at home by encouraging your child to read more. Allow them to choose what to read as they will be more engaged in the story if they have selected it themselves. Reading with them, listening to them reading, and reading to them are all effective ways to foster a love for reading. Additionally, incorporating reading into everyday activities such as having your child read out the recipe while you cook or the TV listings while you watch TV is a great way to encourage reading. You can also read yourself, whether it's a newspaper, magazine, cookbook, poetry, romance or detective novel. Consider giving books as presents and suggest your child and their friends swap books to read new stories and discuss them. Finally, visiting the local library together is an enjoyable way to discover new books and keep an eye out for special author events at the library or local bookshops. Your child will undoubtedly love meeting their favourite authors.

## Recommended Reads



**HH** Hodge Hill College

# Recommended Reads



Kai, Zak and Orla grow up near the Rec, an abandoned piece of wild land in the countryside. It's a safe paradise when they are children. But then a series of tragedies strike and Kai is knocked off course and into a downward spiral while the Rec is threatened by housing developers.

## Year 11 After-school Tuition

As Year 11 pupils prepare for their important GCSE exams, we are pleased to offer after-school tuition sessions on Thursday afternoons from 2:40pm-3:30pm. Our teachers have designed these bespoke sessions to equip pupils with the skills and knowledge needed for exam success.

Regular participation in these sessions will give pupils that extra push when it matters most. We would like to see every pupil reach their full academic potential and achieve the strongest exam results possible.

Attendance at Thursday's after-school tuition is compulsory for all Year 11s. Please support your child by ensuring they attend each week.

This term's tuition timetable is available at <https://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/tuition>.

## B.Y.O.B - Bring Your Own Bottle



**B.Y.O.B**  
BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE

As part of our move towards sustainability, single-use plastic cups are no longer available in school.

All pupils must take responsibility for bringing in their own reusable water bottle.

**HH** Hodge Hill College

**C.A.R.E.** courtesy achievement respect excellence

Reusable water bottles with straws are now available to purchase via ParentPay for £3.50 each (while stocks last).

## Detentions

Hodge Hill College operates a detention system. If your child is late, misbehaves or doesn't hand in their homework on time, they will be given detention at lunchtime or up to 30 minutes at the end of the day. You will usually get a text or an in-app message on MyEd to inform you. Please ensure your contact details are up to date. For more serious matters, staff can issue an hour's detentions after school without giving parents/carers notice.

## What the Law Allows

- Teachers have the power to issue detention to students (aged under 18)
- Schools must make clear to students and parents/carers that they use detention (including detention outside of school hours) as a sanction
- The times outside normal school hours when detention can be given (the 'permitted day of detention') include:
  - any school day where the student does not have permission to be absent
  - weekends - except the weekend preceding or following the half-term break
  - non-teaching days – usually referred to as 'training days', 'INSET days' or 'non-contact days'
- Parental consent is not required for detentions
- As with any disciplinary penalty, a member of staff must act reasonably given all the circumstances

The Government's summary on behaviour and discipline in schools can be read online at: <https://bit.ly/39yoRFb>.

## ParentPay

### Cashless Payments

We operate a biometric cashless catering system in school. In addition to school meals, we do not accept cash payments for trips or uniform (ties, badges and hijabs).

### Activation

If you are yet to activate your ParentPay account, please do so as soon as possible. If you would like another copy of the activation letter with your username and password, please call us on 0121 783 7807 or send a message via MyEd.

### Outstanding Balances

If you have an outstanding balance on ParentPay for your child, we would appreciate if you could arrange for it to be paid immediately by logging into your account.

If you would like assistance with activating your account or adding credit, please visit the School Office between the following times (term-time only) along with your debit card:

- Tuesday to Thursday: 3:00pm-4:00pm

## Free School Meals

### Who is eligible for Free School Meals?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

### Apply for Free School Meals

We encourage you to apply for Free School Meals through the online service found on our website: [www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/freeschoolmeals). You can also telephone (0121 783 7807) or come into school and complete a Free School Meals application online with a member of staff if you prefer.

Please make sure you have the National Insurance Number with you for the named person who receives either working tax credit/child tax credit and we will be happy to help.

## Uniform & Standards

As part of the school's continued drive to improve standards, we would like all pupils to consistently adhere to the expectations on appearance, conduct and equipment. We are a professional environment and as such, we need all pupils to look smart, professionally conduct themselves and come equipped for their learning.

If a pupil does not meet the standards consistently, they will sit a 30-minute detention. We must have your support to raise our standards collectively. Please can we remind you that pupils are not permitted to wear nose studs and patterns and lines are not to be shaved into hairstyles or eyebrows.

If there are any problems in acquiring uniform, please contact the school and we will endeavour to work with you to address these issues. Such cases will be treated with due sensitivity and confidence.

Our full school uniform and PE kit list can be found at <https://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/uniform>.

# flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

## 1. Protect yourself

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

## 2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

## 3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

## 4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

## 5. Avoid lost opportunities

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

For more information visit  
[www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

**Flu**  **mmunisation**

Helping to protect you against flu



# MY Ed

Connecting parents, students and schools



## Download our school app NOW

Step 1: Go to your app store

1



Step 2: Search for My Ed

2



Step 3: Download the app

3

**FREE**  
Download

## Information about your student and school direct into your pocket.

95%

### Attendance

Keep up to date with your child's attendance details.



### Forms

Fill in forms securely on your app and return them directly to school.



### Timetables

Get regular updates on timetables.



### Key Dates

Important dates the school needs you to know.



### News

Access the latest school news.



### Info Packs

Digital information packs reduces time, hassle & paper.



**GET THE APP HERE**

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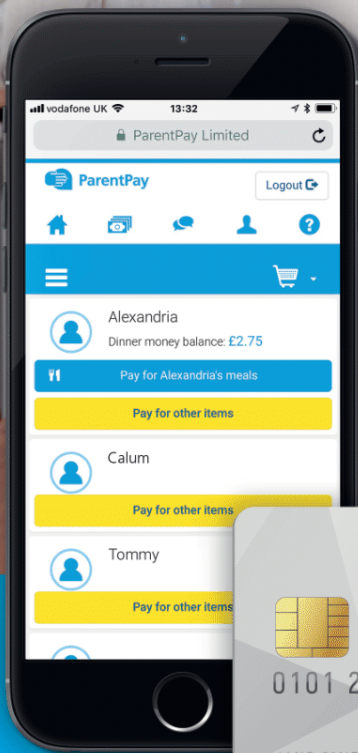
Find out more

[www.myedschoolapp.com](http://www.myedschoolapp.com)

# THE EASY WAY TO PAY

We're using ParentPay so parents can easily pay online for school dinners, trips and clubs.

**No stress, hassle free.**



**SIMPLE  
QUICK  
SAFE**



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