

Weekly Bulletin

11 December 2023 - 15 December 2023



Important Dates

21 December	Year 9 Options Information Session
22 December	Staff Training Day & End of Autumn Term (School Closed to Pupils)
8 January	Staff Training Day
9 January	Pupils Return to School
24 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening

Arrangements for the End of Term

All pupils will be dismissed for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 21 December 2023 at 11am.

Year 9 pupils will be expected to return to school at 1:30pm for the Options Information Session.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in 2023.

Here at Hodge Hill College, we wish you a restful festive period and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 8:30am.



Medical Appointments During the School Day

In order to ensure that your child's learning is not disrupted, it is strongly recommended that non-urgent GP, dentist, or optometrist appointments are scheduled outside of school hours.

If your child has a hospital appointment or requires specialist medical care, please inform the school in advance. You can do so by sending a photo of the appointment letter via MyEd or by submitting it in person to the School Office. A copy of the letter will then be sent to your child's AC and AAC to authorise the absence.

Medication

As a parent or carer, it is your responsibility to provide the school with accurate and updated information regarding your child's medical needs. You should also be involved in developing and reviewing your child's individual healthcare plan.

If your child has any medical needs or needs to take medication during school hours, please visit the School Office to complete a Parental Medical Consent Form and drop off any medication that needs to be kept in school.

If your child has asthma, we highly recommend that they always carry an inhaler with them. Please provide us with an inhaler by dropping it off at the School Office in case of any emergencies, and completing the consent form.

Useful Links



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Birmingham
City Council

[Birmingham City Council](#)

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Timetables

Get regular updates on timetables.



Key Dates

Important dates the school needs you to know.



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HH Hodge Hill College

**YEAR 9
OPTIONS
INFORMATION SESSION**

Thursday 21 December
1:30pm-3:00pm

0121 783 7807  www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk

In the new year, pupils in Year 9 will start to make choices about the courses they will study for their GCSEs.

As part of this process, we are inviting pupils alongside their parents/carers to come to school to find out more about the choices available to them.

These are important choices for your child as they will study the subjects for two years and the decisions that they make now can impact the options available to them once they leave Hodge Hill College.

Important Measles/MMR Update from Birmingham Public Health

Measles cases have been confirmed locally in Birmingham. Measles outbreaks can happen when not enough children have been vaccinated.

Education settings are asked to pass the below information to parents and encourage them to check that their child has been vaccinated. Parents can check the personal child health record (the Red Book) or if this doesn't help, speak to their GP surgery. Parents can contact their GP surgery to catch their child up, at any age, or indeed, for themselves.

About measles

Measles is highly infectious (it can spread easily from person to person). While most people recover completely within a couple of weeks, measles can cause serious illness and in rare cases it can be fatal. Vaccination with two doses of MMR is the only way to give people maximum protection.

The first signs of measles are:

- high temperature
- runny or blocked nose
- sneezing
- cough
- red, sore, watery eyes
- rash usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body)

Measles can cause complications, especially in certain at-risk groups that include babies and small children, pregnant women and people with weak immunity.

Further important information

The MMR vaccine

If your child has not received two doses of MMR vaccination as part of their childhood immunisation programme,

you should take up the offer of the MMR vaccine for your child now. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact your GP to check.

The MMR vaccination is the best way to protect against measles as it is:

- effective
- safe and
- free of charge

The vaccine provides effective protection against three diseases – measles, mumps and rubella. The first dose of MMR is given soon after the first birthday. A second dose is normally given before school entry. However, you can have the MMR vaccine at any age. If either you or your child are not fully protected against measles (two doses of MMR), you can contact your GP surgery to arrange vaccination. It is never too late to get vaccinated. Two doses of MMR are required to produce satisfactory protection against measles, mumps and rubella. If your family avoids pork, a MMR vaccine is available that does not contain any pork products.

This is especially important when measles is circulating because any child or adult who has not had at least one dose of MMR and comes into contact with a person with measles will have to be excluded from nursery, school or work for 21 days and stay at home.

What to do if you think your child has measles

If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your GP. You must contact the surgery by telephone before visiting and tell the reception staff that you think that your child may have measles and not attend the surgery unless you are asked to. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to others.

People with measles will remain infectious, and so be able to pass on the disease to others for 4 days after the start of the rash. Therefore, it is important that anyone with measles stays away from nursery, school, group activities, gatherings or anywhere with people outside of the household during that time.

Further information on the MMR vaccine can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

Year 9 School Leaver Booster Vaccination

Pupils in Year 9 will receive their School Leaver Booster vaccine on 25 January 2024. The vaccinations will take place on school premises, and pupils will be required to attend school as usual. They will be called out of lessons for the vaccinations. Please note that only pupils with parental consent will be vaccinated.

If you need more information about the SLB vaccine, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/3-in-1-teenage-booster/>.

Should you have any questions or require further details, please contact the Vaccinations Team at 0121 466 3460.

Weekly Lunch Menu

The school lunch menus are available to view online and provide an overview of the menu items that will be served each day: <https://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/lunch>.

Zero Tolerance

Please note that Hodge Hill College operates a zero tolerance policy with regard to verbal and physical aggression.

If you become abusive towards a member of staff, we will need to:

- Close down any conversation and not speak with you any further
- Ask you to leave and come back another time
- If necessary, call the police for assistance

Please be respectful of our staff in the School Office team. They will do their best to help you but in a large school with several buildings, over 150 members of staff, and approximately 1200 pupils, they may not always be able to find out what you want to know or locate a member of staff immediately, so please be patient.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Menu

6th - Shortbread Stars

7th - Seasoned Roast Potatoes with Gravy Dip

8th - Gingerbread Men

11th - Festive Tikka Bap

12th - Cinnamon Buns

13th - Chocolate Christmas Puddings (Crispy Cakes)

14th - Christmas Wrap

15th - Snack Pot Spicy Chicken Wrap

18th - Homemade Festive Samosas

19th - Festive Cookies

Hodge Hill College Food Bank

As the cost of living and food prices continue rising, we want to support our pupils' families. That's why we've set up a food bank specifically for families of students who attend Hodge Hill College.

Our Year 9 pupil leaders have already begun collecting donated items for the food bank. We've also successfully obtained funding from Birmingham City Council to supplement these donations. This will allow us to provide food parcels similar to those offered by community food banks.

If you are interested in receiving a food parcel, please email householdsupport@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk and include:

- Your full name and contact phone number
- Your child(ren)'s full name(s) and date(s) of birth
- The number of adults and children in your household

Please note that we may not be able to fulfill all requests. If your request is approved, we will contact you to arrange food parcel pickup details.

If you have any other questions, please email the address above. We will respond as soon as possible.

We hope this food bank eases financial stress and helps provide nutrition during this difficult economic climate. Please don't hesitate to inquire if you could benefit from our support.

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. 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.

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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: https://help.disneyplus.com/help?id=esp_article_content&sys_kb_id=1f98dd3d3e4e4980f9eac63d92370103a | https://help.disneyplus.com/help?id=esp_article_content&sys_kb_id=752be1d1bd441d050f6e2e31981938 | https://help.disneyplus.com/help?id=esp_article_content&sys_kb_id=5982f2c6bd0ac9058c0d0c0191917770a | <https://help.disneyplus.com/legal/privacy-policy>

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>.

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 broaden 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>.

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

As part of our sustainability efforts to reduce waste, single-use plastic cups are no longer provided at school. Instead, all pupils are now required to bring their own reusable water bottles.

Having a reusable bottle is important for both health and environmental reasons. Staying hydrated helps pupils concentrate better, and bottles can be easily refilled at our water stations during breaks, and by using reusable options instead, we can significantly lower our plastic consumption.

To make the transition easier, we are making reusable water bottles with straws available for purchase via ParentPay for £3.50 each, while supplies last. Your child is welcome to bring any reusable bottle they may already have at home too, such as aluminium, stainless steel, or BPA-free plastic, as long as it has a sealable lid.

Please make sure all bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name.

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

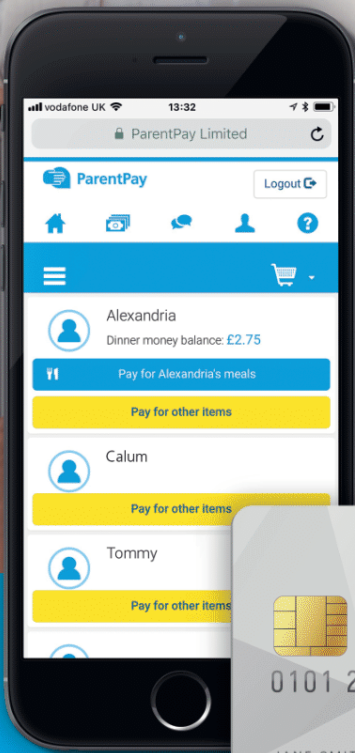
- Teachers have the power to issue detention to students (aged under 18)
- Schools must make clear to students and parents/carers that they use detention (including detention outside of school hours) as a sanction
- The times outside normal school hours when detention can be given (the 'permitted day 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>.

THE EASY WAY TO PAY

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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. 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>.