

Weekly Bulletin

17 October 2022 - 21 October 2022

Important Dates

24-28 October: October Half-term | 28 November-9 December: Year 11 Winter Mock Exams
16 December: Staff Training Day & End of Term | 19 December-2 January: Christmas Holidays
3 January: Staff Training Day | 4 January: Pupils Return to School

School Office & Telephone Line Opening Hours (Term Time Only)

A polite reminder of our School Office opening hours:

- Monday to Thursday: 8:00am-4:30pm
- Friday: 8:00am-2:00pm

Our phone lines are open during these hours except on a Friday when the lines close at 3pm.

Any confiscated items must be collected on a Friday between between 12:30pm and 1:30pm.

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

Single Use Water Bottles - A Reminder

A reminder that single use water bottles are not permitted in school. If pupils wish to have water for their lessons or exams, they must use the reusable school water bottles that they have been provided with.

Useful Links



[Hodge Hill College](#)



[ParentPay](#)



[MyEd](#)



[Birmingham City Council](#)

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>.

Year 11 After School Tuition

Year 11 after school tuition will run every Thursday from 2:40pm to 3:30pm in the autumn term:

- 8 September: History, Geography & Creative Design
- 15 September: Computer Science & Science
- 22 September: Health and Social Care, French, RE & PE
- 29 September: Maths (East) & English (West)
- 6 October: English (East) & Maths (West)
- 13 October: History, Geography & Creative Design
- 20 October: Computer Science & Science
- 3 November: Maths (East) & English (West)
- 10 November: English (East) & Maths (West)
- 17 November: History, Geography & Creative Design
- 24 November: Health and Social Care, French, RE & PE
- 1 December: Computer Science & Science
- 8 December: Maths

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.

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.

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.

Road Safety

Each year thousands of pupils are seriously injured on Britain's roads whilst out walking or cycling. Can you please remind your child once again of the protocols they should use when travelling to and from school to keep them safe:

- Choose a safe place to cross a road, where they can see traffic and can be seen
- Wear something bright so that they can be seen on dark mornings and nights, such as a reflective strip
- Plan a safe route to school with your child, ensuring your child uses pedestrian crossings where ever possible

Pupils must never run out into the road and should never be encouraged to dodge or cross a busy street. To help us reduce road traffic injuries, please support us in taking the time to discuss road safety with your child.

If you collect your child, please use the crossing points with your child to model good crossing behaviours and do not encourage them to run across or enter the road in an unsafe manner to get into your car.

You can ensure the safety of all our children by making sure of the following:

- Driving at the speed limit for the type of road and your type of vehicle
- Cars should not be parked on the zig-zags or yellow lines, across driveways or on pavements because this obstructs the view of oncoming vehicles and children who are trying to cross the road
- Please remember those families who need to walk past with a buggy and our neighbours
- Please ensure that you model the highest safety standards with your child by walking them to/from the pedestrian crossing if you are dropping them off or collecting them from school

We are very grateful to all the parents/carers who have been supportive and hope that we can all continue to work together to make the journey to and from school a safer one.

Lost Property

Please ensure your child's name and tutor group is on their uniform, PE kit, footwear and bags. This will help us locate and return items if lost and found. If your child has recently lost any items in school, please enquire or visit the School Office.

Please note, any items not claimed are donated to a local charity at the end of each school term.

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.

Please ensure you support the school and your child by reviewing the policies below:

- [Behaviour for Learning Policy](#)
- [School Uniform](#)

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.



19 October 2022

Happy, Safe Halloween/Bonfire Night – Reminder from West Midlands Police

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would also like to remind our students about the following:

- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour, and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death!
 - West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper. Information about firework safety is available at www.saferfireworks.com
- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying a knife will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **E-Scooters:** In the UK, you must be at least 18 years old and hold a provisional or full driving licence to ride a hire e-scooter. A privately owned e-scooter can only be used in a private place with the landowner's permission; they are illegal to use on a road or in a public place.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Yours faithfully,

Hannah Herrmann
Headteacher
Hodge Hill College

Mat Shaer
Chief Superintendent - East NPU
West Midlands Police

Richard North
Chief Superintendent - West NPU
West Midlands Police

Lunch Menu for First Week Back After Half-term

Lunch week 1

All our ingredients are locally sourced and delivered fresh by local suppliers. Our eggs are free-range and Red Lion stamped, our fish is sustainably sourced and MSC approved and our meat is British Red Tractor accredited wherever possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL FROM £1.90	CHEESE BURGER IN A BUN	CHICKEN ENCHILADAS TOPPED WITH CHEESE AND SERVED WITH SOUR CREAM	SPAGHETTI BOLOGNAISE	BBQ CHICKEN SERVED WITH PILAU RICE	BREADED FISH & CHIPS
ALL SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES & POTATO OR RICE DISH OF THE DAY					
PLANT BASED / VEGETARIAN FROM £1.90	VEGETABLE BURGER IN A BUN	VEGETARIAN CHILLI SERVED WITH SAVOURY RICE	BROCCOLI PASTA BAKE	VEGETABLE CURRY SERVED WITH PILAU RICE	CHEESE & TOMATO QUICHE
ALL SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES & POTATO OR RICE DISH OF THE DAY					
STREET FOOD FROM £2.35	HOT SPICY CHICKEN PANINI	CHICKEN THIGH BURGER IN A BUN	CHICKEN GOUJONS IN NAAN BREAD	SPICY LAMB WRAP	HOT SPICY CHICKEN WRAP
TAKEAWAY TUBS FROM £1.75	Nachos & Cheese				
PIZZA SLICE FROM £1.45	MARGHERITA	MARGHERITA & BBQ CHICKEN	MARGHERITA & HOT CHICKEN	TOMATO, CHILLI, MOZZARELLA HOT MARGHERITA	MARGHERITA & BBQ CHICKEN
JACKETS From 0.95p	TRY OUR DELICIOUS FILLINGS FOR 35p EACH				
DESSERTS 0.95p	BANANA CAKE	DROP PANCAKE WITH STRAWBERRY SAUCE & ICE CREAM	KEY LIME PIE	APPLE CRUMBLE & ICE CREAM	ICED SPONGE

Meal Deal

Main Meal
With Vegetables
And Dessert

+
+

£2.40

All Of Our Main Meals,
Sandwiches & Desserts Are
Freshly Made On Site Every Day

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.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know About WHATSAPP

16+
in UK & EU;
12+ rest of
world.

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, and making voice and video calls. The app offers end-to-end encryption, meaning messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient(s). Not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 reportedly caused millions of users to leave the app. But the new policy was widely misinterpreted: it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

'Prize' Scams

WhatsApp users occasionally receive messages from unauthorised third parties or fraudsters pretending to offer prizes – encouraging recipients to click a link to win. A common scam involves a warning that someone's WhatsApp subscription has run out: aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details. Other scams include instructions to forward a message to earn a gift or reward.

Enabling Fake News

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India, some outbreaks of mob violence were reported to have been sparked by false allegations shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Connections with Strangers

To start a WhatsApp chat, you need the mobile number of the person you want to message (they also need to have the app). WhatsApp can also access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts use WhatsApp. If your child has given their mobile number to somebody they don't know, that person could then use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

Disappearing Messages

By enabling 'Disappearing Messages', users can set messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Users are also able to send photos and videos that disappear after the recipient has viewed them. This media can't be saved or forwarded, making monitoring what children are talking about problematic. Equally, if your child is sent an inappropriate message, it makes it difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot, saving the media as a photo.

'Only Admins' and Cyberbullying

Group chats and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

Live Location Sharing

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Indeed, it is a useful method for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. But if your child is in a chat with people they *don't* know, it means they will be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Report Potential Scams

Advise your child not to engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report that number as spam. They can also report a contact or a group as spam by tapping on the contact or group name to open their profile and scrolling down to 'report spam'.

Create a Safe Profile

Even though someone would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra precaution it's worth altering your young one's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody.' Choosing one of the latter two ensures their profile is protected.

Use Location Features Sparingly

If your child needs to use 'live location' to show you or their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives 'live location' options of 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can manually choose to stop sharing their position at any time.

Fact-Check Messages

You can now fact-check messages that have been forwarded at least five times in WhatsApp, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was accurate or not. It's a good way to encourage young people to question things they see online.

Explain about Blocking

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – they would also need to be deleted from the device's address book. The option to block someone is on their contact info screen.

Leave a Group

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they no longer want to be part of, show them how to use the group's settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

Delete Accidental Messages

If your child has posted a message in the wrong chat or sent a message that they immediately regret, they can delete it. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' WhatsApp allows seven minutes to delete a message after it's sent – but it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



NOS
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Online
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#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: [https://www.statista.com/statistics/260819/number-of-monthly-active-whatsapp-users/#:text=As%20of%20March%202020%2C%20WhatsApp%20users%20dramatically%20increased%20in%20February%202020,](https://www.statista.com/statistics/260819/number-of-monthly-active-whatsapp-users/#:text=As%20of%20March%202020%2C%20WhatsApp%20users%20dramatically%20increased%20in%20February%202020,https://www.statista.com/statistics/268749/most-popular-global-mobile-messenger-apps/) <https://www.whatsapp.com/?lang=en>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_WhatsApp_lynchings, <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-latest-india-hoaxes-to-ward-messages-app-bloxx1ad-a6456011.html>, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-5241202>

FREE TO
ANYONE
AGED
11-17

WEDNESDAY FOOTBALL SESSIONS

JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY
16:00 - 17:00

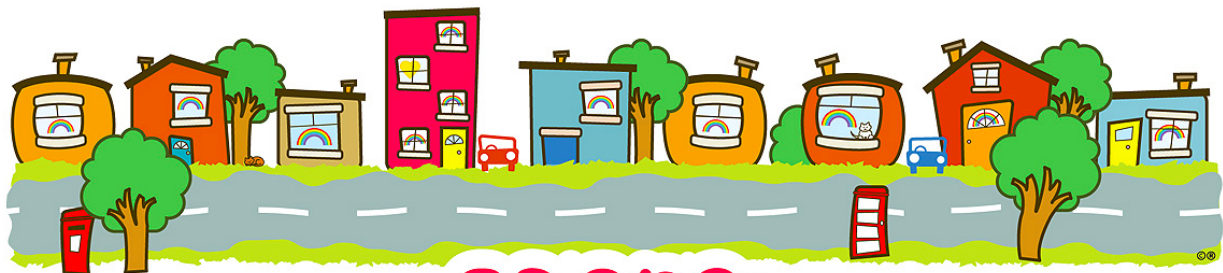
Hodge Hill College, 3G Pitch, Bromford Road,
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With a special visit from the West Midlands mayor,
Andy Street, on the 21st September!

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as one[®]

Local communities
in partnership with

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My Ed

Step 3: Download the app

3

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95%

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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.



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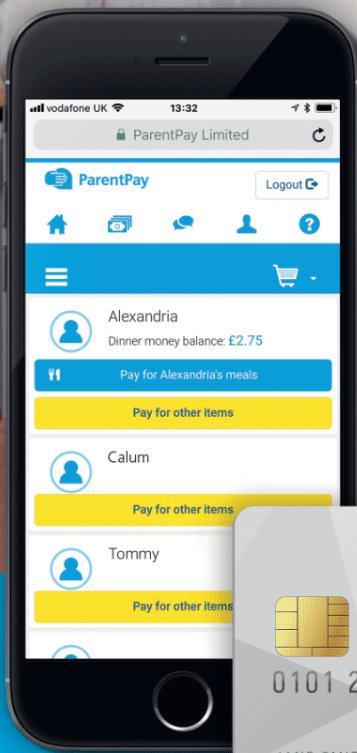
Find out more

www.myedschoolapp.com

THE EASY WAY TO PAY

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QUICK
SAFE**



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