Weekly Bulletin

4 March 2024 - 8 March 2024

Important Dates	
27 February-8 March	Year 11 Spring Exams
13 March	Year 10 Parents' Evening
25 March-5 April	Easter Holidays
15-19 April	GCSE Speaking Exams
22 April-3 May	GCSE Creative Design Exams
6 May	Early May Bank Holiday (School Closed)
7 May-18 June	BTEC/GCSE Exams

Supermarket Vouchers

All Priority 1 contacts were sent a text message on 6 February 2024 containing a voucher link which they should redeem as soon as possible. If you have not received your voucher, please check your text message spam/junk folder. You must redeem the voucher before 18 March 2024.

Should you require any help and support or would like your voucher to be re-issued, please call Pluxee on 0800 505 3924 - the lines are open every day between 8am and 6pm.

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

A polite reminder of our School Office and telephone line opening hours:

	School Office	Telephone Lines
Monday	8:00am to 4:45pm	8:00am to 4:45pm
Tuesday & Wednesday	8:00am to 4:15pm	8:00am to 4:00pm
Thursday	8:00am to 4:30pm	8:00am to 4:15pm
Friday	8:00am to 2:30pm	8:00am to 2:30pm

Apprenticeships Guide 2024

Success at School is a national careers website for pupils aged between 13-19, as well as teachers, careers advisors, and parents/carers. Young people can learn about their future career options through no-nonsense careers advice related to their own experience.

Click here to access the detailed flipbook Apprenticeship Guide 2024.

Useful Links

Hodge Hill College

ParentPay

MyEd

Birmingham City Council

courtesy
achievement
respect
excellence

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

RESTORATIVE APPROACHES – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

We are aware that conflicts can occur in the school setting, between students, which can evoke a strong emotional response within the students themselves, and also their wider family. It's important that this emotional response doesn't escalate matters into incidents of violence either within school or out in the wider community.

You 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 also 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; provide additional support, and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to remind our parents/carers and students about the following: -

- **Tell Somebody:** If you have concerns that you, or a member of your family, are being targeted with threatening or abusive language/behaviour, either face to face or via social media, speak with the school to share these concerns at the first opportunity.

- **Help to Resolve Matters:** There are a range of options to support you with this, including speaking with our *School Intervention & Prevention Officer from the Police*, who can listen to your concerns and offer advice on formally reporting the matter, accessing additional support, or arranging a restorative conversation to look at possible resolutions agreeable to both parties, without the need for further police intervention.

- **Taking Matters into Your Own Hands:** We understand that receiving abuse of any kind can be deeply unpleasant/upsetting for many of us, and it is only human to have an emotional response to such things. However, by acting on these emotions you could further escalate issues, and quickly find yourself out of your depth - We want everyone to keep themselves safe and avoid getting a criminal record wherever possible.

- **Social Media:** Don't allow your use of social media to put you at risk of grooming, exploitation, or regret in the future. Use social media positively and avoid being negative about anyone online as comments/actions may be traced back to you and you will be held accountable.

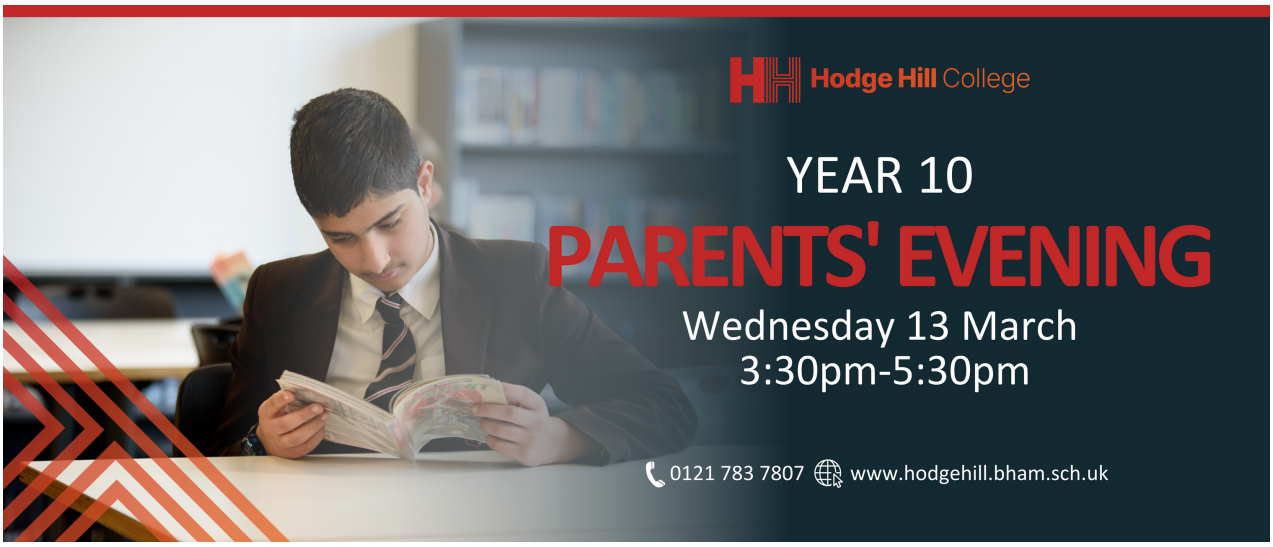
Whilst we hope that everyone enjoys safely socialising with friends and family, we also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from any harm. Additional information on keeping safe can be accessed from the following links: ONLINE SAFETY | policeandschools.org.uk | BULLYING | policeandschools.org.uk | RESTORATIVE APPROACHES | policeandschools.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Hannah Herrmann
Headteacher
Hodge Hill College

Richard North
Chief Superintendent – Birmingham LPA
West Midlands Police

Year 10 Parents' Evening - Revised Timings



Parents' Evening is very important for all parents/carers, students and teachers. The evening will provide teachers with an opportunity to discuss your child's academic progress and crucially give advice on suggested next steps to secure further improvements.

We place a huge emphasis on working in partnership with families and, therefore, you must take this opportunity to discuss with teachers how your child is performing in relation to their potential and what could be done together to further support your child.

All students will be given their latest report during the evening and this should form the basis for discussion around attainment and effort. Teaching staff will be available from 3.30pm and 5.30pm to meet with you.

Please note: if you wish to see all of your child's teachers, please allow at least an hour and a half and arrive no later than 4.30pm.

Year 10 Department for Work & Pensions Presentation

We extend an invitation to all Year 10 students and their parents/carers to attend the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) presentation on Wednesday 24 January at 4:30 pm, during the Year 10 Parents' Evening. The presentation is expected to last approximately 50 minutes, and will be followed by a Q&A session.

Personal Develepment

Last week, pupils in Key Stage 3 learned about the difference between banter and bullying in their Personal Development lessons. Pupils discussed how bullying is a negative behavior that is repeated, while banter is simply friendly teasing between friends. They also examined situations where banter can turn into bullying.

This week, pupils focused on cyberbullying. The lesson addressed the issue of how words and phrases used online can have real-life consequences. Pupils watched a video that demonstrates the reactions to online comments in real life scenarios. Additionally, pupils reflected on their past online behavior and explore ways to improve their future conduct.

If you have any questions about Personal Development lessons, please contact the school office at 0121 783 7807. A member of the Personal Development Team will be happy to call back and assist you.

Bring it on Brum!

If your child is between the ages of 4 and 16 and qualifies for benefits-related free school meals, they are entitled to access Bring it on Brum! holiday clubs for FREE. To book your holiday activities through the Bring it on Brum! website or directly with the holiday club of your choice, you will need your Bring it on Brum! code. The Bring it on Brum! codes were sent via email to all eligible parents/carers this week.

Hodge Hill College

HODGE HILL COLLEGE

FOOD BANK

Every Friday from 1:30pm to 3:00pm in the Studio

At Hodge Hill College, we have established a food bank specifically for the families of our pupils in light of rising food prices and the cost of living.

We have the following items available:

Pasta | Rice | Cereal | Soup
Tinned Vegetables | Tinned Fruit | Tinned Fish

CLICK BELOW TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
https://bit.ly/3Uxzi4X

Donations Welcome

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.

Help in Brum - Cost of Living Crisis

The cost of living crisis is impacting people across Birmingham and we know this is a worrying time for many families. On each page of this booklet, you'll find useful organisations that can offer support if you are affected by the increased costs of living.

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.

MY Ed

Connecting parents, students and schools

Download our school app NOW

Step 1: Go to your app store

1 Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play

Step 2: Search for My Ed

2 My Ed

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.

28

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

SCAN ME

Find out more

www.myedschoolapp.com

Translate Our School Website Using Google Translator on Chrome

If you need help understanding information on our school's website, Google Chrome has a built-in translation feature that can translate the pages into your preferred language.

To use this, first make sure you have the latest version of Google Chrome installed on your device. Then navigate to our school's website and click on the three-dot menu icon in the top right corner of Chrome. Select "Translate" from the menu. This will bring up a sidebar where you can choose which language you want to translate the page into. Click on your desired language and Chrome will automatically translate everything on the webpage.

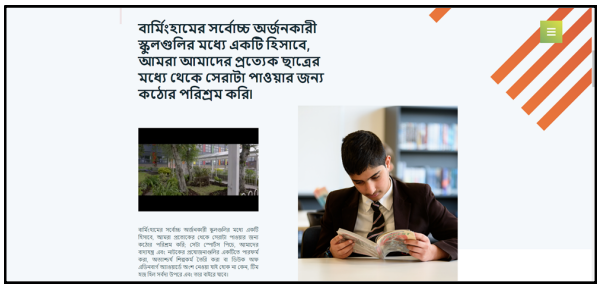
The translation may not be completely perfect, but it should help convey the key information and allow you to understand important updates from teachers or the school administration.

This feature works for dozens of popular languages - just select the one you feel most comfortable with.

Examples:

Arabic

Bangla



Chinese

Romanian

Polish

Urdu

Homework - Useful Links

SAM Learning | ClassCharts | MathsWatch | My GCSE Science | myON

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying – so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.

2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings – perhaps from your own experiences – that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.

3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING

Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice – and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling – be it anger, sadness, fear or something else – as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "enraged" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.

4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY

Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences – so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.

5. CALL A TIME OUT

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.

6. STAY INFORMED

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers to help your child, depending on the specific situation.

7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE

Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.

8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.

9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken – and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.

10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.

Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/786040/survey_of_pupils_and_their_parents_or_carers-wave_5.pdf https://www.oecd.org/education/talis/talis2018tables.htm | https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621070/Health_Behaviour_in_School_age_Children_cyberbullying.pdf

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.02.2024

Zero Tolerance

Please note that Hodge Hill College operates a zero-tolerance policy about 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.

Is my child too ill for school?

We know that, at this time of year, children pick up winter bugs and illnesses. However, please remember that children can come to school with some illnesses if they feel well enough. NHS guidance is available at http://bit.ly/3hD7ryQ.

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.

Contact Details

Please remember to inform the school of any changes to your contact details. This is important because we may need to contact you if your child is injured or taken ill, to provide you with information about trips and closures or to send you reminders and cancellations of any event. Please update and submit any new details via the Change of Pupils Details Form on the MyEd app. Alternatively, you may visit the School Office to complete an electronic/paper copy of the form.

Confiscated Items

If a pupil has an item confiscated, their parents/carers can pick it up from the Main Office after school on the same day. If they cannot collect it on the same day, the parent/carer must pick it up on another day after school. Pupils are not permitted to collect the item.

Year 9 SLB Vaccinations - Catch-ups

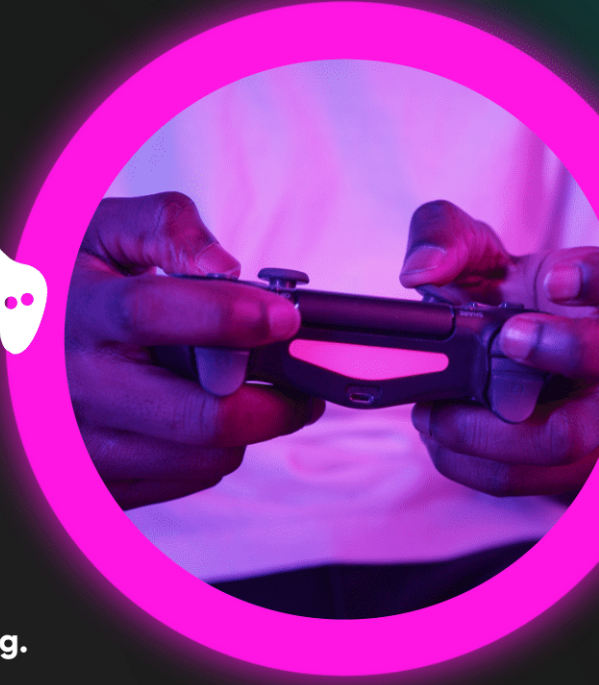
If your child missed their SLB vaccination in January, a catch-up session will be taking place on Friday 22 March 2024.

The vaccinations will take place in school. Pupils will be required to attend school as normal and will be called out of lessons for vaccinations. 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.

SAFER GAMING

TOP TIPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



1. Have a healthy balance between your online and offline activities. **Remember to take breaks for your well-being.**

2. Stay informed about the content you interact with. **Think about the PEGI age rating for a game and choose games that are suitable for your age and any other children in your family.**

3. Be kind and considerate when online. **Think about how your words can affect others, whether online or offline.**

4. Protect your personal information online. **Use strong passwords and don't share personal information.**

5. Think about your choices when playing games. **Stop and think before you buy things in games.**

6. Know how to report any issues online. **Use the reporting tools available and seek help from a trusted adult or friend.**

How do you balance your gaming with your other interests?
Talk to your friends about it.

Ygam

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.

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.

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 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.

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

www.parentpay.com

ParentPay
COUNT ON US

VISA VISA Checkout mastercard AMERICAN EXPRESS PayPoint

ParentPay

ParentPay enables parents/carers to make secure payments for their child's lunches and school trips.

ParentPay Activation

When pupils join Hodge Hill College, parents/carers are issued with a ParentPay Activation Letter that contains a temporary ParentPay username and password. As part of the account activation, the parent/carer will need to choose an email address and new password to use with ParentPay. Parents/carers should follow the instructions in the letter, and on www.parentpay.com to successfully activate their account. If you have more than one child at our school or have children in other schools that use ParentPay, you can create a single account to manage them all.

Forgotten Password

If a parent/carer can't get into their ParentPay account, they should go to www.parentpay.com > For Parents > Parent Login, and click on the "Forgotten password" link. Parents/carers should not need to contact school to regain access to ParentPay accounts.

Outstanding Balances

If you have an unpaid balance on your child's ParentPay account, we kindly request you to settle it as soon as possible by logging into your account.

If you need help with adding credit to the account, please visit the School Office with your debit card.

FAQs & More Information

- FAQs: www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/parentpay
- More information: www.parentpay.com
- Call the School Office: 0121 783 7807

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.

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.

Responsibly sourced, Safe British Produce, Good Animal Welfare. | Organic Product Suppliers | Healthy Food Fresh Ingredients 75% freshly prepared | Highest Standards in UK Egg Production | Wild fish or Seafood from Sustainable Fishing | FAIRTRADE Sourced Ingredients | Sustainably Farmed Products | Commitment to ongoing environmental improvement.

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.

Hodge Hill College

care courtesy achievement respect excellence

Hodge Hill College