

Weekly Bulletin

11 March 2024 - 15 March 2024

Important Dates	
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. If you have not received your voucher, please check your text message spam/junk folder. You must redeem the voucher before 18 March 2024. These vouchers can not be used after their expiry date and there will be no replacements for any unused vouchers.

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

Personal Development

Last week in our Personal Development lessons, pupils in Key Stage 3 learnt about cyberbullying and reflected on their past online behaviors. This lesson reinforced the message that we should treat people the same way online as we do offline.

This week, we are focused on peer pressure. Our pupils learnt about how peer pressure can be both positive and negative. We provided them with various scenarios and they will have to analyse the problem, consequences, and take appropriate action. This will help them think before acting on any pressure from their friends, especially if the outcomes could be negative.

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.

Useful Links



[Hodge Hill College](#)



[ParentPay](#)



[MY Ed](#)



[Birmingham City Council](#)

H O D G E H I L L C O L L E G E
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.



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



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.



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](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TEKKEN 8

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 16

FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakens', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). Rival players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters: a useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as jiu-jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the games began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Source: https://www.pegi.info/en/search?query=tekken-8&platform=16&age=16&description=16&publisher=16&platform=16&newsear_year=2024&page=1&form_build_id=form-06N8uE0M0S1MZLW00Vg245kumP10u010202e-0&form_id=pegi_search_form

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/carers 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.

What to do:

Your child
can go to
school

Other
children are
at risk

Your child
cannot go
to school

What's it called?	What is it like?	Can my child go to school?	Getting Treatment	More Advice
Athlete's foot	White patches between toes		Pharmacy	Child should not be barefoot at school or share towels and socks or shoes
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Return to school at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over.
Cold sores	Fluid blister on mouth, then dries up and crusts over		Pharmacy	Avoid contact with sores
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Pharmacy	Encourage child to wash hands and use tissues and bin once used.
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)		Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading
COVID-19	Runny nose, headache, coughing, loss or change in smell or taste		Pharmacy	Child who has a positive test result should not attend school for 3 days after the day of the test
Diarrhoea and vomiting	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Don't send child to school until 48 hours after diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped.
Flu (influenza)	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pains, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Encourage child to wash hands and use tissues and bin once used.
Hand foot and mouth	Fever, sore throat, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)		GP or 111	Only need to stay off if feeling too unwell to attend
Head lice	Itchy scalp		Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Cluster of red bumps or blisters surround by are of redness		GP or 111	Return to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics.
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose and watery inflamed eyes Small red spots with white or white centers in the mouth, red blotchy rash		GP or 111	Back to school 4 days from onset of rash and well enough
Meningitis	Fever, headache, light sensitive, neck stiffness, vomiting sleepy		GP or 111	Only need to stay off if feeling too unwell to attend. If you are worried contact GP, 111 or 999
Mumps	Swelling and tenderness of salivary gland, pain		GP or 111	Child can return 5 days after start of swelling and if well enough.
Ringworm	Red ring-shaped rash, may be itchy, dry, scaly or wet and crusty		GP or 111	
Scabies	Intense itching, pimple-like rash, itching all over the body but commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows and arms		GP or 111	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, sore throat, rash pinhead in size and skin a sandpaper-like texture		GP or 111	Child can return 24 hours after start of antibiotics
Slapped cheek	Fever, runny nose, red rash to one or both cheeks and a spotty rash will appear		Pharmacy	
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus		Pharmacy	Encourage child to wash hands
Tonsillitis	Intense sore throat		Pharmacy	See GP if child had temperature lasting over 48 hours or can't swallow.
Warts and verrucae	Small lump on skin. Verrucae has black patch under skin		Pharmacy	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gyms and changing rooms.
TB	Night sweats, weight loss, fever, loss appetite, pain to joints		GP	TB team will inform when child can return.

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 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.

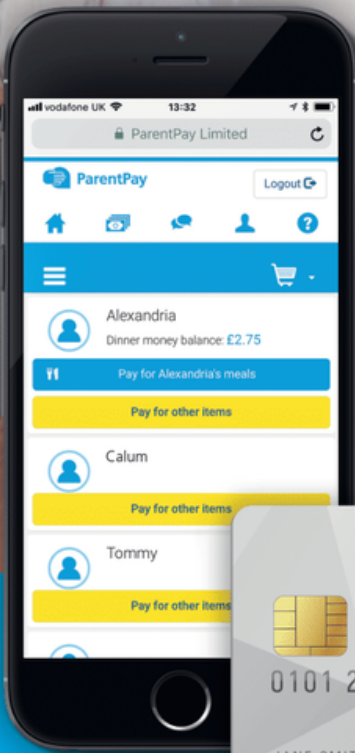
Please note, that all pupils must sign in at reception upon arrival for before-school sessions each morning.

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

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

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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.

