

Weekly Bulletin

7 November 2022 - 11 November 2022

Important Dates

21 November-9 December: [Year 11 Winter Mock Exams](#) | 30 November: Year 8 Parents' Evening
15 December: Year 9 Options Information Session (Year 7-10 Finish at 11am & Year 11 at 12:30pm)
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

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>.

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

Useful Links



[Hodge Hill College](#)



[ParentPay](#)



[MyEd](#)



[Birmingham City Council](#)

08 November 2022

Year 9 Guided Choices

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's the time of year when Year 9 pupils will start thinking about what their choices are for subjects to study in Key Stage 4 (GCSEs & BTECs).

At Hodge Hill College, we want students to continue with a broad and balanced curriculum for as long as possible therefore Year 9 pupils will not start their GCSE courses until after June 2023. We also want pupils to be as successful as possible in their studies so encourage pupils to choose subjects based on their personal strengths, as well as those qualifications which open doors to further study at both post-16 and university levels.

The short-term timeline of the process is as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| W/B 7 November 2022 | Year 9 Assembly on Guided Choices Tutor time activities around subject choices and how the process works |
| Thursday 15 December 2022 1:30pm – 3:00pm | Year 9 Guided Choices Event Year 9 pupils and their parents are invited into school to find out more about the subjects they can study in Key Stage 4 and the guided choices process |
| Wednesday 8 February 2023 3:30pm – 6:30pm | Year 9 Parents Evening Year 9 pupils and their parents are invited into school to discuss their current progress and make their initial subject choices for KS4 study. |
| May 2023 (Spring 2 Half-term) | Final pathways and subject choices for Year 9 pupils communicated to parents |

Over the next few weeks, please ensure you and your child have a conversation about the choices that they might make and that the selection is based on good reasoning and their strengths.

We look forward to seeing you for the Year 9 Guided Choices event in December; a reminder for this and further information will be sent out to you over the next few weeks.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Herrmann
Headteacher

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.

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.

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

Medication

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

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

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

Medical Appointments During the School Day

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

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

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

Next Week's Lunch Menu

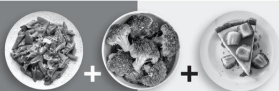
Lunch week 1

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.



HelpinBrum

Find Help In Brum Are you concerned about the rise in cost of living?

Find some helpful contact details for advice and support.

Birmingham City Council and partners are working to support and offer guidance to our residents during the cost of living crisis in the UK.

We want to support as many of our residents as possible across key areas which are outlined in this leaflet.

Warm Welcome:

We are working with the local community and a partnership of voluntary and community sector organisations to expand a network of warm spaces. These spaces will be available for people to use and visit during the winter period and beyond.

There are several existing Warm Welcome Spaces within local communities across the city. Warm Welcome Spaces are:

- inclusive and non-judgmental
- heated and free to access

The services at each space will vary but may include:

- information on further support and available guidance
- opportunities to participate in activities and learn new things
- free internet access, computers and charging points
- a friendly environment to connect with others within the community

You can find details of our current Birmingham Warm Welcome Spaces at www.birmingham.gov.uk/warmwelcome

Keeping checking back online as more spaces will be launched weekly.

Food Support:

The cost of living crisis has made it much more difficult for many people to afford food. If this is something you are experiencing, there are several information points below which can help.

Foodbanks:

We know that accessing a foodbank or other projects for the first time can be daunting. However, the volunteers do their utmost to make visitors feel welcome.

With one visitor saying *"It was just a small personal touch that made you feel welcome and on the occasions where I was on a tiny budget, it also felt like somebody did care that times were tough."*

To find a foodbank or other food support please visit <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/foodhelp>

Healthy Start card

If you are 10 weeks pregnant or more, have a child under four years old, or you or your family get certain benefits, you may be able to qualify for a Healthy Start card.

The card has money on it to be used in shops to buy: plain liquid cow's milk; fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables; fresh, dried, and tinned pulses; and infant formula milk based on cow's milk. You can also get free vitamins.

To find out more and way to apply visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/healthystart

Free School Meals

You can also check if your child can get free school meals, visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/school-meals to see if you are eligible. (This will also automatically register you for the Holidays, Activities and Food Programme.)

More Information Available

Even more information is available on the Birmingham City Council website www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum which can guide you to various organisations depending on the help you may require. Alternatively, phone 0121 303 9944 and one of our customer service team will be able to help you.

Benefits and Money Advice:

During the cost of living crisis, it is also important to ensure you have access to the right benefits and money advice for you. There are several information portals below which can help.

To find out what benefits you are entitled to, it is best to use the Benefits Calculator provided by the Government. Find out more by using this link www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support

Birmingham City Council has also developed several support factsheets which provide useful information on a range of debt related issues. You can view and download Information on www.birmingham.gov.uk/debtadvice

If you are struggling with debt and need advice and support you can also visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum which can help direct you to the right information.

There are also other services who offer free and confidential advice:

- The Project - Benefit, debt and housing advice
0121 453 0606 | www.theprojectbirmingham.org
- Citizens Advice Birmingham - Advice on benefits, debt, housing and more
0344 477 1010 | www.bcabs.org.uk
- Disability Resource Centre - Advice and advocacy services for disabled people
03030 402 040 | www.disability.co.uk

Energy Efficiency:

As energy costs rise we are committed to reducing energy bills and helping everyone to keep warm as we head into the winter months.

There are several schemes already available for residents, with full information and guidance available at www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyhelp

There has been a significant rise in energy scams linked to the cost of living crisis.

There is some helpful support on the Birmingham City Council website to avoid these scams.

www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyscam

Other Support Available

There is also a lot of support at a local and national level. Here are some key contacts if you need information or guidance:

Age UK Birmingham

Information, advice and helpline services for older people (50+), their families and carers
0121 437 0479 | www.ageuk.org.uk/birmingham

Birmingham Mind

Providing advice, information and signposting for people affected by mental health issues
0121 262 3555 | www.birminghammind.org

Moneyhelper

Advice to help improve your finances
0800 138 7777 | www.moneyhelper.org.uk

Stop Loan Sharks

Investigates and prosecutes illegal money lenders and provides support for borrowers
0300 555 2222 | www.stoploansharks.co.uk

Turn2Us

Information and financial support
0808 802 2000 | www.turn2us.org.uk

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid

Support for women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse
0800 800 0028 | www.bswaid.org

Shelter

Housing advice 0808 800 4444 | www.england.shelter.org.uk

The Active Wellbeing Society

Listen and Connect support people to feel heard, connect with others, be active, live well and access information
0121 728 7030 | www.theaws.co.uk/listen-connect

The Refugee and Migrant Centre

Advice on immigration, housing & destitution, welfare & health, employment & education, resettlement and citizenship
0121 374 0140 | www.rmcentre.org.uk

Spitfire Services

Advice on money, benefit, housing and employment issues
0121 747 5932 | www.spitfireservices.org.uk

WHY CHILDREN SHOULD TAKE A BREAK FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

 @BELIEVEPHQ



Switching off from social media could be good for your mental health. It could reduce feelings of anxiety, loneliness or jealousy



Switching off from social media could help you to get more things done



You will find yourself with more time to see friends, exercise or engage in hobbies

You will find yourself with more time to see friends, exercise or engage in hobbies



So that they can have more time to rest and recharge

Because it can negatively impact your self esteem



You will be more present with what you are doing

You will develop better relationships with friends and family



Switching off from social media could help to improve your sleep

Because by connecting with people in person is really important for our wellbeing



FREE TO
ANYONE
AGED
11-17

WEDNESDAY FOOTBALL SESSIONS

JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY
16:00 - 17:00

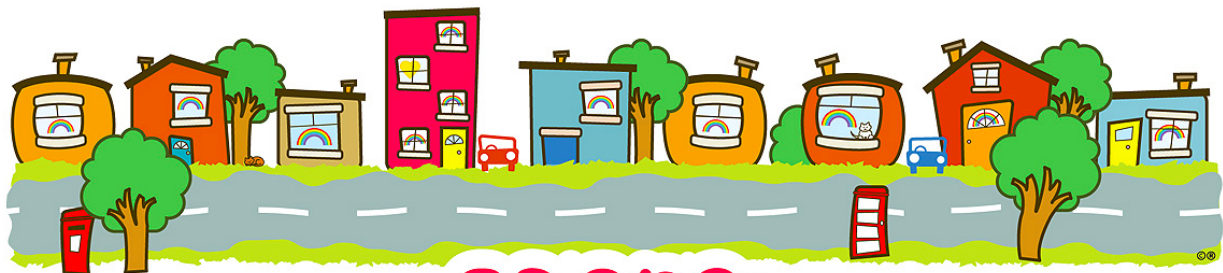
Hodge Hill College, 3G Pitch, Bromford Road,
Birmingham, B36 8HB

With a special visit from the West Midlands mayor,
Andy Street, on the 21st September!

DEVELOP SKILLS. MEET NEW PEOPLE. PLAY & ENJOY.



Fill your street with friendliness®



www.as-one.uk/birmingham

as one[®]

Local communities
in partnership with

Birmingham
City Council

MY Ed

Connecting parents, students and schools



Download our school app NOW

Step 1: Go to your app store

1



Step 2: Search for My Ed

2



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



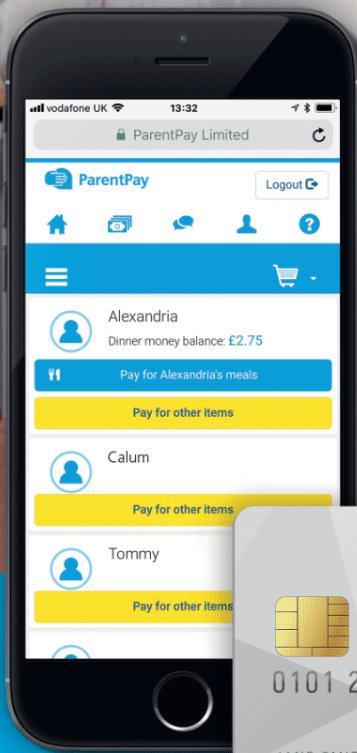
Find out more

www.myedschoolapp.com

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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