

# Weekly Bulletin

6 May 2024 - 10 May 2024

Important Dates	
7 May-18 June	<u>BTEC/GCSE Exams</u>
3 July	Year 6 Induction Day & Welcome Event
5 July	Staff Training Day (School Closed to Pupils)
8 July-18 July	Year 10 Work Experience
19 July	Year 10 Work Experience - Debrief & End of Summer Term
22 August	GCSE Results Day
2 September	Start of Autumn Term & Staff Training Day (School Closed to Pupils)
3 September	Year 7 & 11 Start School
4 September	Year 8, 9 & 10 Start School

## Important Reminder: Changes to School Day Timings from September 2024

We are committed to providing the best educational experience for our pupils. With this in mind, we would like to gently remind you of the changes to the school day timings that will take effect from September 2024.

The Department for Education has set a new minimum expectation of a 32.5-hour school week. To meet this requirement, Hodge Hill College will return to our pre-Covid start and finish times, as follows:

	School Start Time	School Finish Time	Total Time
Monday	08:30	16:10	7 hours 40 minutes
Tuesday	08:30	15:10	6 hours 40 minutes
Wednesday	08:30	15:10	6 hours 40 minutes
Thursday	08:30	15:10	6 hours 40 minutes
Friday	08:30	13:40	5 hours 10 minutes
			<b>32 hours 50 minutes</b>

All pupils will have two breaks from Monday to Thursday throughout the day depending on their year group. The school canteens will be open during both break periods, and pupils' free school meal entitlement will not be affected.

For more information, please read click [here](#).

## Year 11 BTEC/GCSE Examinations

Year 11 BTEC/GCSE examinations will commence on 7 May 2024. The full timetable is available to view at <https://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/exams>.

## Useful Links



[Hodge Hill College](#)



[ParentPay](#)



[MyEd](#)



[Birmingham City Council](#)

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MISSING ITEMS

Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to tell the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supposed 'seller', it can be quite difficult to get back.

### SCAMMERS AND PHISHING

Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include cancelling shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking to conclude the chat and payment outside of the app, where the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This should, naturally, be avoided at all costs.

### DATA MISUSE

Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Lately, certain apps have been under scrutiny for using spyware to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.

### FAKES OR REPLICAS

It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be falsely marketed as luxury items, using misleading pictures or clever wording. These disingenuous sales are sometimes outed by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of bagging a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will outshine any suspicions they may have.

### SLOW REFUNDS

While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis) that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.

### MISLEADING DESCRIPTION

Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. This isn't a reliable means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially not for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practices even exist. While it's illegal to advertise one thing and sell another, plenty of shady traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP

It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss. Such regulations can't protect you, however, if you didn't do the deal through the app in question.

### BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing emails to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.

### CHECK REVIEWS

Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.

### KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER

Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it didn't arrive to secure a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.

### Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps)

## 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>.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/parentpay)
- More information: [www.parentpay.com](http://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](http://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

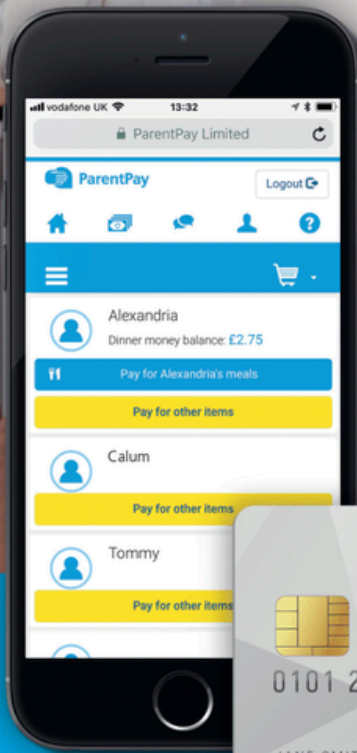


Commitment to ongoing  
environmental improvement.

# 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](http://www.parentpay.com)



**ParentPay**  
COUNT ON US

**VISA**

**VISA Checkout**



## Food Bank Donations Welcome



The graphic features the Hodge Hill College logo at the top, followed by the text 'HODGE HILL COLLEGE' in a spaced-out font, and 'FOOD BANK Donations Welcome' in large, bold letters. Below this, it states: '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 welcome the following donations: Pasta | Rice | Cereal | Soup | Tinned Vegetables | Tinned Fruit | Tinned Fish'. At the bottom, there is an illustration of various food items including cans of Baked Beans, Kidney Beans, Sweet Corn, Tomato Soup, and Macaroni, along with a jar of Pineapple Slices and a container of Pineapple.

### 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](mailto: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

Throughout the year, 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.

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>**



## 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](#)

# 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](http://www.myedschoolapp.com)

## **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.

Click [here](#) to continue reading.

## **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.

# We Help Families

The early help service supports children, young people and families across the Hodge Hill Locality.

**If you live in any of the following areas we can support you:**

Shard End, Glebe Farm & Tile Cross, Bromford & Hodge Hill, Bordesley Green, Small Heath, Bordesley & Highgate, Heartlands, Alum Rock, Saltley, Ward End and Washwood Heath

**Use our Free and confidential**

service, all you need to do is complete a **Family Connect Form** and we will do the rest. Scan the QR code to take you to the form.

You can get support with filling in a Family Connect Form. Ask your School, Health Visitor, Children's Centre, GP, Community or Faith Centre or ring the Early Help Team, details below.



**SCAN ME**

**How to use the QR Code with your smart phone or tablet:**

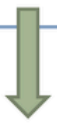
1. Open the camera app on your phone/tablet.
2. Make sure your device is connected to the Wi-Fi or data.
3. Focus the camera on the QR code.
4. Follow the link that appears at the top of your screen.

Phone/ Text/ WhatsApp us on: **07976199894**  
Email: [earlyhelp-hodgehill@family-action.org.uk](mailto:earlyhelp-hodgehill@family-action.org.uk)  
Facebook: Family Action Hodge Hill Early Help

# We Can Support You With...

PARENTING	MONEY & DEBT ADVICE	EDUCATION	FOOD	HOUSING
RELATIONSHIPS	DOMESTIC ABUSE	UNIFORM & CLOTHES	SEXUAL HEALTH	UNDER 5'S SUPPORT
BEREAVEMENT	MENTAL HEALTH	SPECIAL NEEDS	PHYSICAL HEALTH	DATA & IT

Phone/ Text/ WhatsApp us on: **07976199894**  
Email: [earlyhelp-hodgehill@family-action.org.uk](mailto:earlyhelp-hodgehill@family-action.org.uk)  
Facebook: Family Action Hodge Hill Early Help





# 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.

