Weekly Bulletin

2 September 2024 - 6 September 2024

Important Dates	
18 September	Year 7-11 Flu Immunisations
25 September	Year 11 Parents' Evening
30 September-4 October	Year 11 Autumn Mock Exams
9 October	Year 7 Settling-in Evening & Open Evening
28 October-1 November	October Half-term

The School Day, School Office & Telephone Line Opening Hours

	The School Day	School Office & Telephone Lines
Monday	08:30 to 16:10	08:00 to 16:55
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	08:30 to 15:10	08:00 to 16:10
Friday	08:30 to 13:40	08:00 to 14:40

For additional information regarding the school day, please visit: https://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/theschoolday.

Learning Wallets, School Bags & Equipment

All pupils have been given a learning wallet containing the equipment they need to bring to school to support their access to the curriculum. This needs to be brought into school every day in a school bag to ensure it is kept safe. Pupils without a bag have been provided with one. Failure to bring in the learning wallet or school bag will result in a 60-minute detention.

If pupils lose any of their equipment, they are responsible for replacing it. Stationery items are available for purchase at both canteens for a nominal amount of 10p per item (cash). If your child is in Years 8-10 and needs to replace their calculator, you can either provide one or purchase a new one through ParentPay/the School Office for £15 (cashless). If your child is in Year 11, they can obtain one from Mrs Millington. Empty learning wallets are also available to purchase through ParentPay/the School Office for £1.50.

Extend Your Child Benefit Claim for Your Teen Today

It's time for parents across the UK to extend their Child Benefit claim if their 16-19-year-old is staying in full-time non-advanced education or approved training.

HMRC sent 1.4 million letters between 24 May and 17 July to parents, explaining how to extend their claim. If you haven't received a letter, there's no need to worry. You can still extend your Child Benefit via the HMRC app or online where eligible.

We know how important Child Benefit can be to families, so let HMRC know by 31 August if your teen intends to stay in approved education or training.

Extending your Child Benefit ensures you won't miss out on any payments from 31 August. However, if your child changes their mind about further education or training, you can simply let HMRC know online or in the app and we'll update our records and adjust any payments as needed. For parents who can't extend their Child Benefit online, you can still do so by post or by phone.

Useful Links

Hodge Hill College

ParentPay

MyEd

Birmingham City Council

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Penalty Notices

From 19 August 2024, the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices will apply.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold to consider if a Penalty Notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span over different terms and school years.

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

Example: 2 parents with 3 children would receive a total of 6 Penalty Notices

1

First Offence

- £100 per parent, per child paid within 28 days
- Reduced to £60 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days
- Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days may result in a prosecution

2

Second Offence (within 3 years of the First Offence)

- Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice
- £100 per parent, per child paid within 28 days
- Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days may result in a prosecution

3

Third Offence and any further offences (within 3 years of the First Offence)

- The third time that an offence is committed for either a term time holiday and/or irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may be proceeded straight to prosecution under the Education Act 1996, Section 444
- If found guilty of the offence of "failure to secure their child's regular attendance at a school" the Magistrates can impose a fine of up to £1,000 and you will have a criminal record

Please Note

If you take any Leave of Absence PRIOR to 19 August 2024 (e.g. in July 2024) then the Penalty Notice will be at the old rate of £60/£120. Any Leave of Absence taken in or after September 2024 will be charged at the new rates as above.

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 certain times of the year, children pick up 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 School Office after school on the same day between the following times:

- Monday: 16:10-16:45
- Tuesday to Thursday: 15:10-16:00
- Friday: 13:40-14:30

If parents/carers cannot collect it on the same day, they must pick it up on another day after school. Pupils are not permitted to collect the item.



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 bottles.

Reusable water bottles are available to purchase from West Office using money on ParentPay.

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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

We have introduced a comprehensive new tuition model to support Year 11 pupils' academic progress. Pupils requiring additional help are identified early through mock exams and subject-led assessments.

Teachers use focused tuition sessions to provide targeted support in small groups. There are dedicated after-school sessions each week for Maths, English, Science, and other core subjects. Those making significant progress can move out of the tuition program, while those who require further support may receive more intensive interventions with subject specialist teachers.

This multi-layered approach aims to collect and utilise data effectively, allowing teachers to adapt and personalise tuition to meet individual pupils' needs throughout the academic year.

This 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.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WORRY AND ANXIETY

Worry and anxiety are common emotions experienced by children, often triggered by uncertainty or fear. While worry involves concern about future events, anxiety is a persistent feeling of dread or apprehension. Current statistics indicate a rising prevalence of anxiety disorders among children, and this guide has some expert advice on understanding and addressing these concerns.

UNDERSTANDING WORRY AND ANXIETY

Worry and anxiety are emotional responses to stress or uncertainty. Worry is typically associated with potential misfortune, while anxiety is characterised by feelings of fear, apprehension or unease. Both can manifest physically through symptoms such as restlessness, fatigue or muscle tension. Understanding the distinction between worry and anxiety is crucial for effectively addressing these concerns in children.

DIFFERENTIATING WORRY FROM ANXIETY

While worry and anxiety share similarities – in that they both involve concerns about possible trouble – anxiety tends to be more constant and overwhelming. Worry may come and go depending on circumstances, whereas anxiety can linger regardless of the situation. It's essential to recognise when the former crosses into the latter, as anxiety can significantly impact a child's daily functioning and wellbeing.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

Untreated worry and anxiety in childhood can have potentially lifelong impacts on a person's mental health and wellbeing. Chronic anxiety may increase the risk of developing anxiety disorders, depression or other mental health conditions later in life. Additionally, unresolved worry and anxiety can negatively impact self-esteem, confidence and overall resilience. It's essential to address these concerns proactively and provide appropriate support and intervention.

THE EMOTIONAL TOLL

The emotional impact of worry and anxiety on children can be significant, affecting their overall quality of life and wellbeing. Children experiencing chronic worry or anxiety may feel overwhelmed, irritable or helpless. They may also withdraw from social activities or avoid situations that trigger their anxiety, leading to feelings of isolation or loneliness. Addressing these concerns early can help prevent long-term emotional distress and promote healthy coping strategies.

THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Excessive worry and anxiety can have profound effects on children's mental and emotional health. It may interfere with their ability to concentrate, sleep or participate in daily activities. Chronic worry and anxiety can also lead to physical symptoms such as headaches, stomach aches or difficulty breathing. Left unchecked, these concerns can escalate and potentially contribute to the development of anxiety disorders later in life.

ACADEMIC & SOCIAL IMPACTS

Impacts on the academic performance and social interactions of children and young people are very possible. Frequent worry or anxiety may impair concentration, memory and problem-solving skills, making it difficult for children to succeed in education. Anxiety can also hinder social development by causing children and young people to avoid social situations or to struggle with communication and interpersonal relationships, potentially leading to feelings of isolation or exclusion.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Parents and educators can foster a supportive environment by encouraging children to express their worries and anxieties openly. Actively listening and acknowledging young people's emotions can help them feel understood and supported, reducing the situation's intensity. Creating opportunities for regular check-ins and discussions about one's feelings can promote healthy coping strategies and strengthen communication bonds.

CREATE A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Parents and educators play a crucial role in creating a supportive environment that promotes emotional wellbeing. Establishing routines, providing predictability and offering reassurance can help relieve anxiety and create a sense of security for children. Foster a culture of empathy and understanding, where children feel safe enough to express their emotions and seek support when needed.

TEACH COPING STRATEGIES

Empowering children with effective coping strategies is essential for managing worry and anxiety. Encourage the use of relaxation techniques such as deep breathing, mindfulness or progressive muscle relaxation to calm anxious thoughts and promote a sense of composure. Additionally, teaching positive self-talk and problem-solving skills can help children develop resilience and confidence in managing challenging situations.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP

Recognising when to seek professional help is vital for addressing significant or persistent worry and anxiety in children. If worry or anxiety significantly impacts a child's daily functioning, interferes with their relationships or academic performance, or causes significant distress, it may be necessary to consult with a mental health practitioner. Early intervention can prevent long-term consequences and promote positive outcomes for children's psychological wellbeing.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which collaborates with schools on improving their mental health provisions.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.07.2024

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.

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

Food Bank 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.

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 pupils who would greatly benefit from them. Even a single donated item can make a significant difference.

We are happy to accept donations of new uniforms too. Whether gently used or brand new, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Please make sure to wash any used 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 pupils whose families are facing financial difficulties.

Together, we can ensure that all our students feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn.

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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.

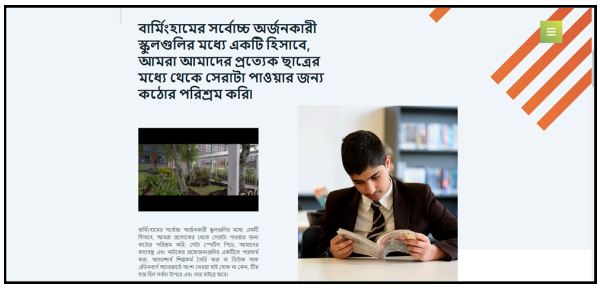
This feature works for dozens of popular languages - just select the one you feel most comfortable with.

Examples:

Arabic



Bangla



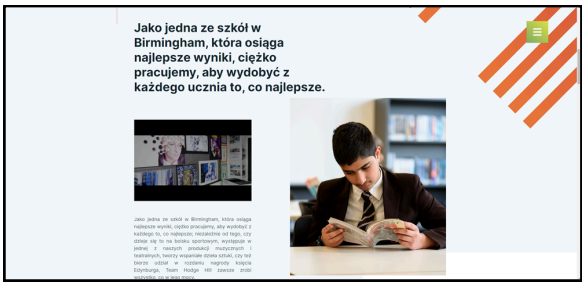
Chinese



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 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.

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

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