

# Weekly Bulletin

1 September 2025 - 5 September 2025

Important Dates	
8 October	Year 7 Settling-in Evening & Open Evening
27-31 October	October Half-term
7 November	Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations
24 November	Staff Training Day (School Closed to All Pupils)
25 November - 19 December	Year 11 Creative Design & Winter Mock Exams

## The School Day & Entry/Exit Points

Monday: 8:30am - 4:10pm | Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30am - 3:10pm | Friday: 8:30am - 1:40pm

Year 7, 8 & 9: Key Stage 3 Gate, Bromford Road | Year 10 & 11: Key Stage 4 Gate, Bromford Road

## Road Safety

Each year thousands of pupils are seriously injured on Britain's roads whilst out walking or cycling. Can you please remind your child once again of the protocols they should use when travelling to and from school to keep them safe:

- Choose a safe place to cross a road, where they can see traffic and can be seen
- Wear something bright so that they can be seen on dark mornings and nights, such as a reflective strip
- Plan a safe route to school with your child, ensuring your child uses pedestrian crossings where ever possible

Pupils must never run out into the road and should never be encouraged to dodge or cross a busy street. To help us reduce road traffic injuries, please support us in taking the time to discuss road safety with your child.

If you collect your child, please use the crossing points with your child to model good crossing behaviours and do not encourage them to run across or enter the road in an unsafe manner to get into your car.

You can ensure the safety of all our children by making sure of the following:

- Driving at the speed limit for the type of road and your type of vehicle
- Cars should not be parked on the zig-zags or yellow lines, across driveways or on pavements because this obstructs the view of oncoming vehicles and children who are trying to cross the road
- Please remember those families who need to walk past with a buggy and our neighbours
- Please ensure that you model the highest safety standards with your child by walking them to/from the pedestrian crossing if you are dropping them off or collecting them from school

We are very grateful to all the parents/carers who have been supportive and hope that we can all continue to work together to make the journey to and from school a safer one.

## Useful Links



[Hodge Hill College](#)



[ParentPay](#)



[MyEd](#)



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

## Absence Reporting

If your child is going to be absent from school, please let us know before 08:30. You can do this by sending an in-app message (free of charge) to the Absence Hotline via our MyEd app or calling 0121 783 7807.

Parents/Carers may be asked to provide medical evidence where there are repeated absences due to reported illness.

## Punctuality

All pupils must arrive on time each day to run the school efficiently. Pupils are expected to be on school premises by 08:30.

Any pupil who arrives after 08:40 will be considered late and marked accordingly by the staff members present at the gates. The main school gates will close at 08:40, and any pupil who arrives after this time will need to sign in via the School Office.

If a pupil is late for school, they will receive a 30-minute detention on the same day. Similarly, if a pupil is late for a lesson, they will receive a 30-minute detention on the same day. If a pupil is marked late more than once in a day, the detention time will be increased on the same day.

## 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 needs to replace their calculator, you can either provide one or purchase a new one through ParentPay/the School Office for £15 (cashless).

Empty learning wallets are also available to purchase through ParentPay/the School Office for £1.70 (cashless).

## School Policies & Documents

Parents can access the school's policies and documents via the school's website at [Hodge Hill College - Policies](#).

Parents can view the school's stance on prominent issues that may affect their child and see the codes of conduct that their child should adhere to as a member of the school student body.

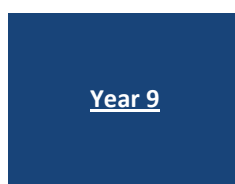
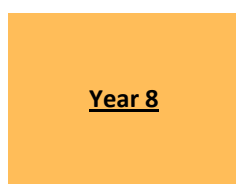
## Personal Development Curriculum

As a part of your child's education at Hodge Hill College, we promote personal well-being and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme.

PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, strategies and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

Our PSHE programme is delivered through form-time activities to all year groups and through our Personal Development weekly lessons to pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Please note, that the pages linked below are updated with resources regularly.





# 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.

## 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 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.

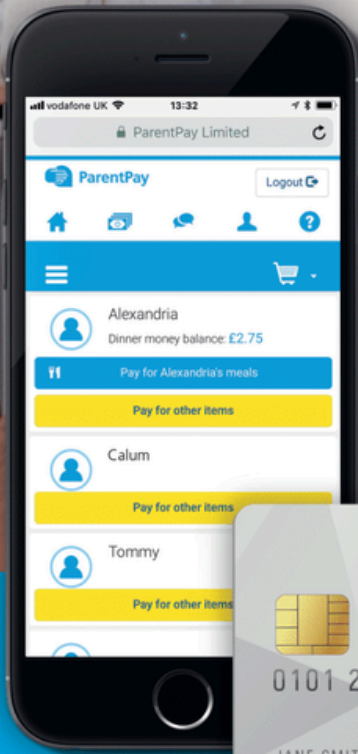
**Please note, that all pupils must sign in at reception upon arrival for before-school sessions each morning.**

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



**ParentPay**  
COUNT ON US

**VISA**

**VISA Checkout**



## 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. Your child will need to bring their own packed lunch and they will not be able to use the school canteen until the account is topped up and the debts have been cleared.

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.



**DONATIONS  
WELCOME**

**HH** Hodge Hill College

# Food Bank

**BE PART OF OUR HELPING HANDS**

**OPEN EVERY THURSDAY FROM  
3:10PM TO 3:30PM  
IN THE STUDIO**

**0121 783 7807**

**HOUSEHOLDSUPPORT@HODGEHILL.BHAM.SCH.UK**

**TO REQUEST SUPPORT, KINDLY COMPLETE  
AND SUBMIT THIS FORM: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3UXZI4X](https://bit.ly/3UXZI4X)**

## 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.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

### COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

### DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

### BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

### REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

### FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

### USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

### PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

### Key Stage 3 Assessment and Core Vocabulary Booklets

This term's assessment and core vocabulary booklets are linked below. These booklets feature key vocabulary that pupils will learn this term, along with definitions. They are organised by subject area for easy reference. This will support pupils in their comprehension and language development.

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)

### Curriculum Handbook

You can find detailed information about the curriculum and the specific subjects and skills your child will be learning each year by visiting the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/ch14jan25>.

### 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.

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.

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

## 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.

## 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](#)

