

# Weekly Bulletin

16 March 2026 - 20 March 2026

## Important Dates

30 March-10 April	Easter Holidays
20 April-30 April	<u>Year 11 Creative Design Practical GCSE Exams</u>
20 April-8 May	Year 11 MFL Speaking GCSE Exams
4 May	Early May Bank Holiday (School Closed)
13 May	Year 9 SLB Immunisations
25 May-29 May	May Half-term
1 July	New Year 7 Induction Day & Welcome Event
3 July	Staff Training Day (School Closed)
6 July-16 July	New Year 11 Work Experience
17 July	New Year 11 Work Experience Debrief & End of Summer Term
20 July-31 August	Summer Holidays

### Year 11 GCSE Examinations

The timetable, rules, and regulations for this year's GCSE examinations are now available on our school's website: [Hodge Hill College - GCSE Examinations](#).

### Fidget Toys vs Sensory Toys

An increasing number of pupils are bringing sensory toys to school to use during lessons, often calling them fidget toys. These sensory toys typically light up or make repetitive sounds, which can draw the user's attention away from their surroundings and help them regulate their emotions when feeling overwhelmed. However, when used in class, these toys can distract pupils from their learning.

Fidget toys, on the other hand, are designed to be quiet and small enough to be fidgeted with discreetly, such as under a desk or in a pocket. They help users focus better on their surroundings, allowing them to engage more effectively in their lessons. The best fidget toys tend to be simple, like a small piece of Blu Tack or a bit of ribbon.

If a pupil brings a sensory toy to class, they will be asked to put it away in their bag. If a fidget toy is used repeatedly during the same lesson, the teacher may take it away.

### Useful Links



[Hodge Hill College](#)



[ParentPay](#)



[MyEd](#)



[Birmingham City Council](#)



## When Something Goes Wrong Online — A Simple Action Plan for Parents

### 1. Stay Calm First

If your child tells you something worrying:

- Thank them for telling you
- Avoid blaming or panicking
- Reassure them: "We'll deal with this together."

### 2. Keep the Evidence

- Take screenshots (include usernames and dates)
- Save messages
- Keep profile links



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online

### 3. Use Official Reporting Routes

Grooming or exploitation – CEOP: [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)

Illegal images – Internet Watch Foundation: [www.iwf.org.uk/report](http://www.iwf.org.uk/report)

Nude images shared (under 18s) – Report Remove: [www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove](http://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove)

If in immediate danger, call 999.

### 4. If You Feel Overwhelmed - Use Structured Support

You can use free ChatGPT to help structure next steps.  ChatGPT

Free access: <https://chat.openai.com> Example prompts:

- My child received inappropriate messages. What steps should I take in the UK?
- How do I report online grooming?
- What should I say to my child after cyberbullying?

**Important:** ChatGPT is a support tool and does NOT replace official reporting or police action.



### 5. Ongoing Protection at Home

- Keep regular, calm conversations
- Review privacy settings together
- Monitor gaming contacts
- Encourage early disclosure

Children will make mistakes online, just as they do offline.

Trust and communication protect them more than punishment.



**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

**Skips Educational** Email: [info@skipsed.com](mailto:info@skipsed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



## NHS Pharmacy First Service




Local Community Pharmacists can offer free, confidential advice for a range of minor illnesses. If appropriate, they can also provide treatment without the need for a GP prescription\* for the following seven common conditions:

- Urinary tract infection (women aged 16–64)
- Sinusitis (adults and children aged 12+)
- Sore throat (adults and children aged 5+)
- Earache (children and young adults aged 1–17)
- Infected insect bite (adults and children aged 1+)
- Impetigo (adults and children aged 1+)
- Shingles (adults aged 18+)

Using the Pharmacy First service can help parents, staff and students avoid GP wait times, get treatment sooner, and return to school more quickly.

For more information on how your Community Pharmacist can help visit [Think pharmacy first: NHS Birmingham and Solihull](#), or watch the Pharmacy First video for parents by clicking here: [Think Pharmacy First- for parents](#).

\*Usual prescription charge rules apply.

 <p>RED</p>	<p>If your child has any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Is going blue around the lips</li><li>■ Has pauses in their breathing (apnoeas) or has an <a href="#">irregular breathing pattern</a> or starts <a href="#">grunting</a></li><li>■ Severe difficulty in breathing - too breathless to talk or eat/drink</li><li>■ A harsh noise as they breath in (<a href="#">stridor</a>) present all of the time (even when they are not upset)</li><li>■ Becomes pale, mottled and feels abnormally cold to touch</li><li>■ Becomes extremely agitated (crying inconsolably despite distraction), confused or very lethargic (difficult to wake)</li><li>■ Develops a rash that does not disappear with pressure (the '<a href="#">Glass Test</a>')</li></ul>	<p><b>You need urgent help.</b> Go to the nearest Hospital Emergency (A&amp;E) Department or phone 999</p>
 <p>AMBER</p>	<p>If your child has any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Has laboured/rapid breathing or they are working hard to breath - <a href="#">drawing in of the muscles below their lower ribs</a>, at their neck or between their ribs</li><li>■ A harsh breath noise as they breath in (<a href="#">stridor</a>) present only when they are upset</li><li>■ Seems dehydrated (sunken eyes, drowsy or not passed urine for 12 hours)</li><li>■ Is becoming drowsy (excessively sleepy) or irritable (unable to settle them with toys, TV, food or picking up - especially if they remain drowsy or irritable despite their fever coming down</li><li>■ Has extreme shivering or complains of muscle pain</li><li>■ Continues to have a fever of 38.0°C or above for more than 5 days</li><li>■ Is getting worse or if you are worried</li></ul>	<p><b>You need to contact a doctor or nurse today.</b> Please ring your GP surgery or contact NHS 111 - dial 111 or for children aged 5 years and above visit <a href="https://111.nhs.uk">111.nhs.uk</a></p>
 <p>GREEN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ If none of the above features are present</li></ul>	<p><b>Self Care</b> Continue providing your child's care at home. If you are still concerned about your child, contact NHS 111 – dial 111 or for children aged 5 years and above visit <a href="https://111.nhs.uk">111.nhs.uk</a></p>



**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. The NHS guidance can be accessed online via the [NHS Guidance](#) page.

## 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.

# MY Ed

Connecting parents, students and schools



## Download our school app NOW

Step 1: Go to your app store

Step 2: Search for My Ed

Step 3: Download the app

1



2



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)

## Help Your Child Get the Most from Work Experience - Monday 6 July 2026 – Thursday 16 July 2026

This summer, students will have the exciting opportunity to take part in a work experience placement from Monday 6 July 2026 to Thursday 16 July 2026. We would like to encourage all parents and carers to support their child in finding a suitable placement that interests them.

Work experience is a valuable step in preparing young people for the world beyond school. It gives students the chance to explore different careers, develop confidence, and gain real-life skills that can't always be learned in the classroom. Whether your child already has a career in mind or is still figuring out their interests, this experience can be incredibly beneficial.

Parents play a vital role in this process. A quick conversation at home, asking relatives, friends, neighbours, or local businesses, can often open doors that students may not feel confident approaching on their own. Placements don't need to be in large companies—small local businesses, community organisations, schools, charities, and workplaces you already know can all provide excellent learning experiences.

During their placement, students will develop key skills such as communication, teamwork, time-keeping, and problem-solving. These are qualities employers value highly and will support your child in future education, training, and employment. Many students also find that work experience boosts their motivation and helps them make more informed decisions about their next steps.

We ask that you begin discussing work experience options with your child as early as possible to allow plenty of time to secure a placement. Further guidance will be shared by the school, but your encouragement and support at home can make a huge difference.

Thank you for helping your child make the most of this important opportunity. Together, we can ensure that every student gains a positive and rewarding work experience this summer.








### Attendance - Why It Matters

**HH** Hodge Hill College

## ATTENDANCE - WHY IT MATTERS

Persistent absence means pupils who miss more than 10% of the school every year

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<h3 style="color: red;">-£750</h3> <p>For each additional day of absence between Years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out an average of <b>£750</b> in future lifetime earnings</p>	<h3 style="color: red;">-£10,000</h3> <p>Persistently absent pupils in Year 10 and 11 could earn <b>£10,000 less</b> on average at age 28, compared to pupils with near perfect attendance</p>		
<p>This rises to almost <b>£20,000 less</b> on average at age 28 for those who are severely absent</p> 	<p>For employability over a sustained period, people age 28 were around:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="text-align: center;"><p>Less likely to be employed when <b>persistently absent*</b></p></td><td style="text-align: center;"><p>Less likely to be employed when <b>severely absent*</b></p></td></tr></table> <p><small>*Compared to their peers with near perfect attendance</small></p>	 <p>Less likely to be employed when <b>persistently absent*</b></p>	 <p>Less likely to be employed when <b>severely absent*</b></p>
 <p>Less likely to be employed when <b>persistently absent*</b></p>	 <p>Less likely to be employed when <b>severely absent*</b></p>		

### Year 9 School Leaver Booster (SLB) Vaccination

Pupils in Year 9 will receive their School Leaver Booster vaccine on **13 May 2026**. The vaccinations will take place on school premises, and pupils will be required to attend school as usual. They will be called out of lessons for the vaccinations. Please note that only pupils with parental consent will be vaccinated.

If you need more information about the SLB vaccine, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/3-in-1-teenage-booster/>. If you need help or advice completing the consent form, please contact the Birmingham SAIS team on the phone at 0121 466 3410 or via email at [bchnt.hpvyteamcentral@nhs.net](mailto:bchnt.hpvyteamcentral@nhs.net).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

### RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm to children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

### SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

### CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



# #WakeUpWednesday

The National College

## **Ofsted Inspection Report – December 2025**

As you're aware, our school was inspected by Ofsted on 2 December 2025 and 3 December 2025. The report has now been published and is available to read on our school website using the link below:

<https://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/ofsted>

## **Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies – Now Available to Order**

Leavers' hoodies for Year 11 pupils are now available to order online. Parents have been sent a letter containing a unique code to place their order.

All orders must be made directly with the company via their website: <https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/shop/hoodie>. The deadline for placing orders is 27 April 2026, and each hoodie costs £28.99.

## **Year 11 Extra Tuition Available Throughout the Week**

We are pleased to offer extra tuition sessions for Year 11 pupils throughout the week to help support their learning and exam preparation. We encourage all parents to check the [Year 11 Extra Tuition Timetable](#) for more information.

## **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.

The Key Stage 3 and 4 gates will close at 08:37, 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. 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 latest school policies and important documents on the [policies page](#) of our website.

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.



**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Chicken Biryani

or

Chickpea & Vegetable Biryani

Served with  
Vegetable Samosa

Carrots and Peas

Kheer with Sultanas (Rice Pudding)

## 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. 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 on our website and provide an overview of the menu items that will be served each day.



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



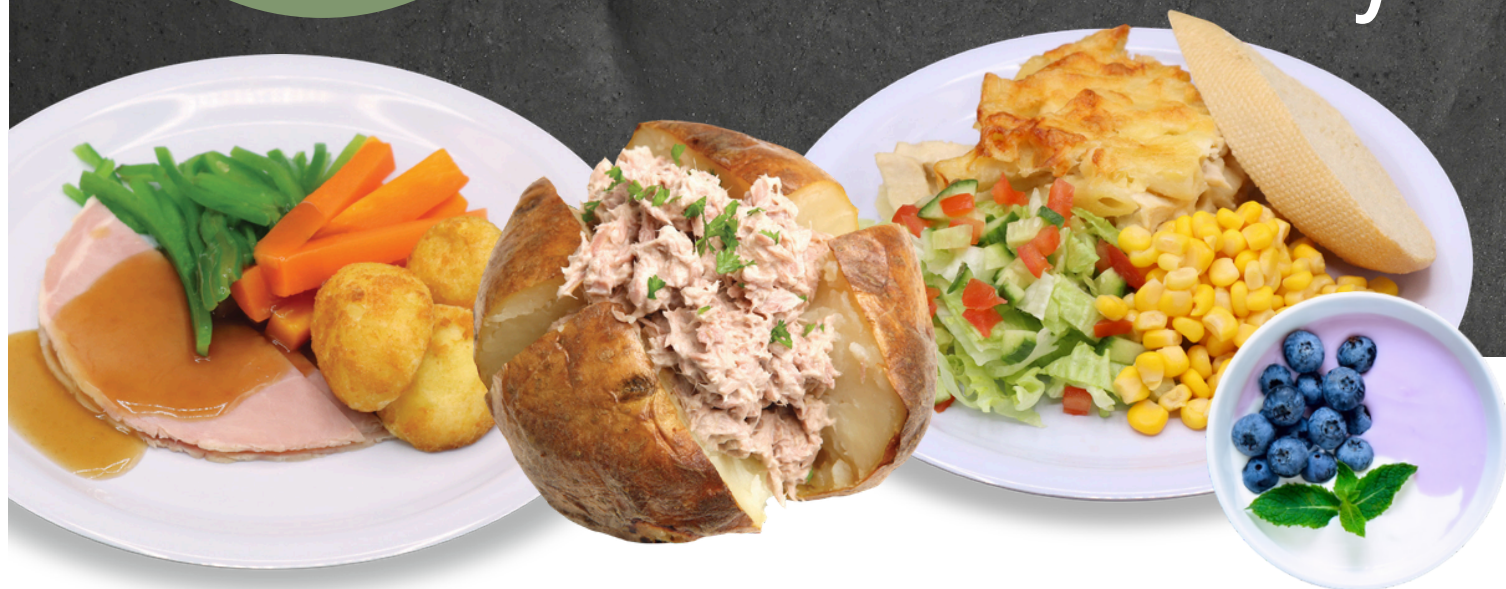
Commitment to ongoing  
environmental improvement.

Did you know...

The price of  
a supermarket  
packed-lunch is  
increasing?

# COME DINE WITH US

## Savetime & money!



## All our meals are freshly made!

We understand how important it is for every child to receive a healthy, nutritious meal.

Serving delicious menu options:

- Vegetarian & Special Diets
- Jacket Potatoes with a range of fillings
- Tomato & Basil Pasta
- Sandwiches & Salad Bar available daily
- Yoghurt, Jelly or Fruit
- Dessert of the Day

You could **save**  
**£400 a year** by  
not having to provide  
a packed lunch  
for your child!

Find out if your child is eligible for free  
school meals, visit the Government website:  
[www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals](http://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals)

• INSPIRED FOOD •  
*mint*  
• FOR EDUCATION •

## Personal Development Timetable

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 find below a table of topics pupils will be learning about in tutor time and Personal Development lessons:

W/C	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
23 February	What is democracy?	Basic banking	Mental health – impact of drugs and alcohol	Mental health - what is stress?	Exam stress
2 March	Introduction to UK government/ elections	Financial needs vs wants	Mental health – gambling	Mental health – Impact of social media?	Exam anxiety
9 March	What are laws?	What is debt?	Mental health – eating disorders	Mental health – what is loneliness?	Screen time and studying
16 March	What is Islamophobia?	What is Islamophobia?	What is Islamophobia?	What is Islamophobia?	What is Islamophobia?
23 March	What does an MP do every day?	Financial risks for young people	Mental health – dealing with emotions	How to look after mental health?	What does effective studying look like?

If you would like to discuss our Personal Development & Tutor Time curriculum, please email [personaldevelopment@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk](mailto:personaldevelopment@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk) and a member of staff will be in contact to arrange a meeting.

# REWARDS

EARN POINTS | CLAIM PRIZES | CELEBRATE SUCCESS!

## Prize Drawer Entries

£40 Uber Eats Voucher  
Raffle Ticket (*Termly*)

45

Laptop Raffle Ticket  
(*Yearly*)

75

Game Console Raffle  
Ticket (*Yearly*)

75



## Creative & Sports Equipment

LEGO Mini Figures

300

Colouring Book

350

Water Colour Paint Set

450

Felt Tip Pens

500

LEGO Technic Mercedes

800

Table Tennis Bat

400

Nike Football

850

Wilson Basketball

900



## Academic & Learning Supplies

Wobbly Fuzzy Head Pen

75

Book of Choice

250

Learning Wallet (*Empty*)

100

Calculator

500



## Audio Rewards

Wireless Headphones Bluetooth Speaker

1200

1300



## Experience & Lifestyle

Free Slush Pass

50

Jump the Queue Pass  
(*1 Day Only*)

75

Free Breaktime  
Snack or Drink

100



SAVE YOUR POINTS OR SPEND THEM - THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

## 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

This guidance is available on the Government's [Behaviour in Schools](#) page.

## 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 on the [uniform page](#) of our website.

## 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 timetable is available on the [tuition page](#) of our website.

## 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.**

More information and the activities timetable are available on the [extra-curricular page](#) of our website.



# 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.

### 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 on the [curriculum page](#) of our website.

### 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 can be found on their [cost of living crisis](#) page on their website 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



[ClassCharts](#)



[MathsWatch](#)



[My GCSE Science](#)

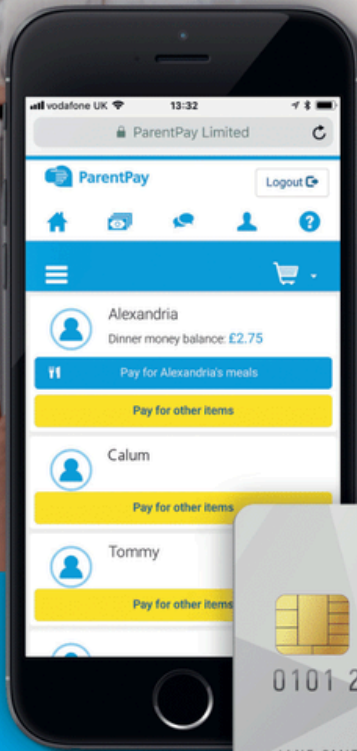


[Century](#)

# 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)



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COUNT ON US

**VISA**

**VISA Checkout**



