

13 July 2026

Arrangements for the Start of Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm writing to confirm the arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term with you. From Tuesday 1 September 2026, we will be staggering pupils' return to school as follows:

Date	Pupils Return/At Home
Tuesday 1 September 2026	Staff Training Day - school closed to all pupils
Wednesday 2 September 2026	Year 7 & 11 will start school at 08:30
Thursday 3 September 2026	All year groups in school at 08:30
Friday 4 September 2026	

The School Day

	Entry/Exit Point	Start	Finish
Year 7	Key Stage 3 Gate	08:30	Monday: 16:10 Tuesday - Thursday: 15:10 Friday: 13:40

Punctuality

Pupils need to arrive at the school site ready to enter by 08:30; pupils who arrive before this time are welcome to use our free breakfast club in West Canteen. The school gates are locked at 08:37, so any pupil arriving after this will be marked as late and will receive a 30-minute detention.

ParentPay

We are pleased to inform you that if you did not collect your ParentPay activation letter at the Welcome Event, it has now been posted out and should already be with you.

The letter contains details for Hodge Hill College and instructions for activating your account. All Year 7 pupils will receive a complimentary snack and meal during their break and lunch on Wednesday 2 September 2026, but you must ensure you activate and top up your account ready for Thursday 3 September 2026. This also applies to pupils bringing packed lunches or those eligible for Free School Meals. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, you may top up their account if they wish to make purchases beyond their daily allowance.

Free School Meals

From September 2026, the Government has expanded eligibility for free school meals. This means that more families may now qualify, particularly those receiving Universal Credit. I strongly encourage you to [check your eligibility via the online service](#) on our website even if you are unsure. You can also telephone 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.

Uniform

Pupils are expected to attend school in full uniform, including the Hodge Hill College tie, blazer, and black shoes. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of our expectations regarding PE kit: no hoodies are allowed in school, and jogging bottoms should be plain navy. [Full details of the school uniform and PE kit](#) can be found on our website.

We are pleased to advise that a quarter-zip top has now been added to our PE kit. This item is available to purchase from our uniform suppliers, Mansuri Schoolwear and Clive Marks.

We're Going Phone Free with Yondr

We're committed to creating a learning environment where every student can thrive. Our young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This presents many exciting opportunities - but also academic, emotional and social challenges. Beginning Wednesday 2 September 2026, we will launch the [Yondr Phone-Free Schools Programme](#). This isn't just about limiting screen time, it's about giving pupils the space to think deeply, engage meaningfully, and thrive in an environment designed for their growth.

For over a decade, Yondr has supported schools in more than 40 countries to build healthier, more engaging school cultures. Their pouch-based program, combined with hands-on guidance and dedicated support, has led to powerful results:

- 86% reported improved safety and pupil wellbeing
- 84% saw increased engagement in class
- 44% reduced behavioural referrals

How the Programme Works

Each pupil will be assigned a Yondr pouch - a secure, lockable case for storing personal electronic devices. Pupils are responsible for bringing their pouch to and from school each day and keeping it in good condition.

- **Upon arrival:** Pupils power off all smart technology including their mobile phones, smart watches and air pods, place all devices in the pouch, and lock it in front of their tutor
- **During the day:** Pupils keep the locked pouch in their bag
- **At dismissal:** Pupils unlock pouches at designated stations to retrieve their devices. The phone is taken home by the pupil ready for the next school day

This process is quick, simple, and will be supervised by staff as part of our daily routine.

Staying Connected

With pupil safety as our top priority, we will follow our standard safety protocols in the event of an emergency. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please contact our School Office at 0121 783 7807.

We know that change takes partnership – and we're here to support a smooth transition for your family. If you have any questions, please email enquiry@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and restful summer period, and I look forward to welcoming our pupils back to Hodge Hill College in September.

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Herrmann
Headteacher