

# Weekly Bulletin

8 May 2023 - 12 May 2023

Important Dates	
15 May-16 June	<u>GCSE Examinations</u>
29 May-2 June	May Half-term
19-28 June	New Year 11 Mock Exams
5 July	Year 6 Induction Day & Evening
10-20 July	New Year 11 Work Experience

## 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 this winter, please feel free to get in touch with us here at Hodge Hill College at [householdsupport@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk](mailto:householdsupport@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk). All requests will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and we will look at what support we are able to practically provide. Previous support has included supermarket vouchers, new uniform, school shoes and PE kit.

Further information about support being provided by Birmingham City Council for the cost of living crisis can be found on <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/livingsupport> and this may be of use to you in signposting where you can get help, support, and advice if you are affected.

We have a second-hand store of pre-loved uniform items, all washed and ready if you need them. Please get in touch with the school at the email address above if you would like to take advantage of this.

## Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Pupils in Year 8 will receive their HPV vaccine on 19 July 2023. We have already distributed the consent forms to all pupils, and we kindly ask you to complete and return them to the School Office by 26 May 2023.

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 HPV vaccine, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine/>.

Should you have any questions or require further details, please contact the Immunisation Team at 0121 466 3460.

## GCSE Examinations

This year's GCSE examinations timetable, rules and regulations have been published on our school's website: <https://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/exams>.

## Useful Links



[Hodge Hill College](#)



[ParentPay](#)



[MyEd](#)



[Birmingham City Council](#)

## Year 10 After-School Tuition

Year 10 after-school tuition for English Literature will be held on Tuesday 16 May & Tuesday 23 May from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Attendance is compulsory.

## Year 11 After-School Tuition

Year 11 after-school tuition will run every Thursday from 2:40pm to 3:30pm in the summer term. Attendance is compulsory:

- Thursday 20 April: Maths (East) & English (West)
- Thursday 27 April: Creative Design & Science
- Thursday 4 May: Computer Science, History & English
- Thursday 11 May: RE & Biology
- Thursday 18 May: Maths
- Thursday 25 May: French, Geography & English

## 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.

## Impact of Reading - 20 Minutes Per Day

### IMPACT OF READING – 20 MINUTES PER DAY



A student who reads

# 20

minutes per day

will be exposed to *1.8 million words per year* and scores in 90th percentile on standardised tests

A student who reads

# 5

minutes per day

will be exposed to *282,000 words per year* and scores in 50th percentile on standardised tests

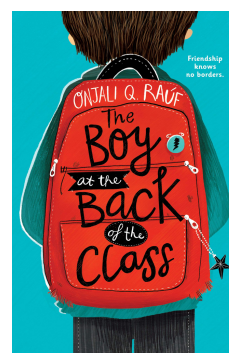
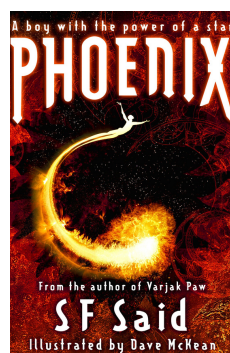
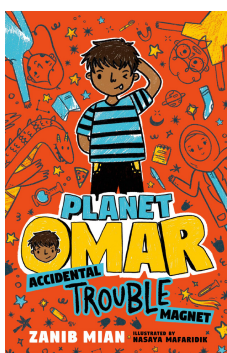
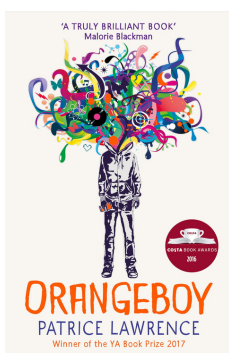
A student who reads

# 1

minute per day

will be exposed to *8,000 words per year* and scores in 10th percentile on standardised tests

## Recommended Reads



## B.Y.O.B - Bring Your Own Bottle



The poster features a green background with white text and graphics. At the top left is a leaf icon. The main text reads 'B.Y.O.B.' in large letters, with 'BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE' underneath. To the right is a water bottle icon with a recycling symbol. Below this, it states: 'As part of our move towards sustainability, single-use plastic cups are no longer available in school. All pupils must take responsibility for bringing in their own reusable water bottle.' At the bottom left is the Hodge Hill College logo, and at the bottom right is the 'care' logo with the text 'courtesy achievement respect excellence'.

## Medical Appointments During the School Day

To ensure your child does not miss out on learning, we strongly advise that non-urgent appointments at the GP, dentist or optometrist are made out of school hours.

If your child has a hospital or specialist appointment, please notify the school in advance. You may do this by sending a photo of the letter via MyEd or bring it to the School Office where a copy will be sent to your child's AC and AAC for authorisation.

## 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>.

## Homework - Useful Links



[ClassCharts](#)



[MathsWatch](#)



[My GCSE Science](#)



[myON](#)

## ParentPay

### Cashless Payments

We operate a biometric cashless catering system in school. In addition to school meals, we do not accept cash payments for trips or uniform (ties, badges and hijabs).

### Activation

If you are yet to activate your ParentPay account, please do so as soon as possible. If you would like another copy of the activation letter with your username and password, please call us on 0121 783 7807 or send a message via MyEd.

### Outstanding Balances

If you have an outstanding balance on ParentPay for your child, we would appreciate if you could arrange for it to be paid immediately by logging into your account.

If you would like assistance with activating your account or adding credit, please visit the School Office between the following times (term-time only) along with your debit card:

- Tuesday to Thursday: 3:00pm-4:00pm

## Medication

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs and be involved in developing and reviewing their child's individual healthcare plan.

If your child has any medical needs or is required to take medication during school hours and you are yet to inform us of them, please visit the School Office to complete a Parental Medical Consent Form and drop off any medication you would like us to keep in school.

If your child has asthma, we advise that they always carry an inhaler on them. Please drop an inhaler at School Office for us to keep in case of emergency and complete the consent form.

## 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.



## Next Week's Lunch Menu

Lunch week 2

All our ingredients are locally sourced and delivered fresh by local suppliers. Our eggs are free-range and Red Lion stamped, our fish is sustainably sourced and MSC approved and our meat is British Red Tractor accredited wherever possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MAIN MEAL</b> From £1.90	LAMB BURGER SERVED WITH MINT YOGHURT	CHICKEN SAUSAGE WITH MASH & GRAVY	HOMEMADE BEEF LASAGNE	CHICKEN FAJITA	FISHCAKES SERVED WITH SWEET CHILLI SAUCE
<b>PLANT BASED / VEGETARIAN</b> From £1.90	CHEESE & ONION PASTY	VEGETARIAN SAUSAGE & MASH & GRAVY	MAC 'N' CHEESE	VEGGIE SAMOSA WITH YOGURT & MINT SAUCE	SAUSAGE ROLL
ALL SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES & POTATO OR RICE DISH OF THE DAY					
<b>STREET FOOD</b> FROM £2.35	HOT & SPICY CHICKEN PANINI	VARIOUS CHICKEN BURGER IN A BAP WITH LETTUCE & MAYO	CHICKEN GOUJONS IN A NAAN BREAD WITH SALAD	SPICY LAMB WRAP WITH SALAD	TANDOORI CHICKEN WRAP WITH SALAD
<b>TAKEAWAY TUBS</b> FROM £1.75	PIRI PIRI CHICKEN WINGS	FISH FINGER WRAP WITH SALAD & SALSA	CAJUN CHICKEN WINGS	FRENCH BREAD PIZZA WITH WEDGES	BBQ CHICKEN WINGS
Nacho Pots					
<b>PIZZA SLICE</b> FROM £1.45	MARGHERITA	MARGHERITA OR BBQ CHICKEN	MARGHERITA OR SPICY CHICKEN	MARGHERITA	MARGHERITA OR BBQ CHICKEN
<b>JACKETS</b> From 0.95p	TRY OUR DELICIOUS FILLINGS FOR 35p EACH				
<b>DESSERTS</b> 0.95p	JAM & COCONUT SPONGE	STICKY TOFFEE APPLE	LEMON CHEESECAKE	LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE	CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

Meal Deal

Main Meal With Vegetables And Dessert

£2.40

All Of Our Main Meals, Sandwiches & Desserts Are Freshly Made On Site Every Day

## 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.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know About WHATSAPP

16+  
in UK & EU;  
12+ rest of  
world.

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, and making voice and video calls. The app offers end-to-end encryption, meaning messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient(s). Not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 reportedly caused millions of users to leave the app. But the new policy was widely misinterpreted: it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

## 'Prize' Scams

WhatsApp users occasionally receive messages from unauthorised third parties or fraudsters pretending to offer prizes – encouraging recipients to click a link to win. A common scam involves a warning that someone's WhatsApp subscription has run out: aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details. Other scams include instructions to forward a message to earn a gift or reward.

## Enabling Fake News

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India, some outbreaks of mob violence were reported to have been sparked by false allegations shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Connections with Strangers

To start a WhatsApp chat, you need the mobile number of the person you want to message (they also need to have the app). WhatsApp can also access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts use WhatsApp. If your child has given their mobile number to somebody they don't know, that person could then use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

## Disappearing Messages

By enabling 'Disappearing Messages', users can set messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Users are also able to send photos and videos that disappear after the recipient has viewed them. This media can't be saved or forwarded, making monitoring what children are talking about problematic. Equally, if your child is sent an inappropriate message, it makes it difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot, saving the media as a photo.

## 'Only Admins' and Cyberbullying

Group chats and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

## Live Location Sharing

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Indeed, it is a useful method for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. But if your child is in a chat with people they *don't* know, it means they will be exposing their location to them, too.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### Report Potential Scams

Advise your child not to engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report that number as spam. They can also report a contact or a group as spam by tapping on the contact or group name to open their profile and scrolling down to 'report spam'.

### Create a Safe Profile

Even though someone would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra precaution it's worth altering your young one's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody.' Choosing one of the latter two ensures their profile is protected.

### Use Location Features Sparingly

If your child needs to use 'live location' to show you or their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives 'live location' options of 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can manually choose to stop sharing their position at any time.

### Fact-Check Messages

You can now fact-check messages that have been forwarded at least five times in WhatsApp, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was accurate or not. It's a good way to encourage young people to question things they see online.

### Explain about Blocking

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – they would also need to be deleted from the device's address book. The option to block someone is on their contact info screen.

### Leave a Group

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they no longer want to be part of, show them how to use the group's settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

### Delete Accidental Messages

If your child has posted a message in the wrong chat or sent a message that they immediately regret, they can delete it. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' WhatsApp allows seven minutes to delete a message after it's sent – but it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

## Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



NOS  
National  
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#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES <https://www.statista.com/statistics/260819/number-of-monthly-active-whatsapp-users/#-text=As%20of%20March%202020%2C%20WhatsApp%20users%20in%20February%202020>, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/258749/most-popular-global-mobile-messenger-apps/>, <https://www.whatsapp.com/?lang=en>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_WhatsApp\\_lynchings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_WhatsApp_lynchings), <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-latest-india-hoaxes-forward-messages-app-t10wv1kad-ab456011.html>, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-5244202>

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1



Step 2: Search for My Ed

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Step 3: Download the app

3

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Digital information packs reduces time, hassle & paper.



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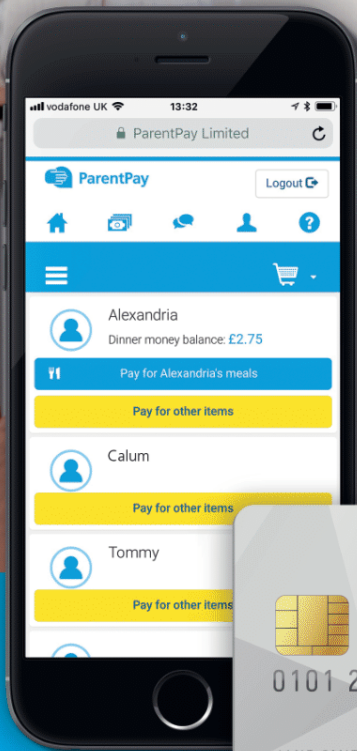
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[www.myedschoolapp.com](http://www.myedschoolapp.com)

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