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Dear Parents & Carers,

Our current focus is to make sure pupils are applying learning and understanding as this is the way to be successful in life. An important part of this is to complete independent homework. We expect our pupils to spend 30 minutes each day on Mathswatch, to read daily and to complete set homework found on the Foldr, homework folder on our website. However on the road to independent working our pupils need a little help so can you please ensure they complete their homework tasks under the watchful eye of parents. Good habits can take a long time to develop.

I would like to leave you with my key message for pupil reflection:
• Organise yourself for success
• Develop your language skills and your vocabulary by reading daily
• Build your character by learning a new skill

I wish you and your family a restful half term.

Mrs A Andersen
Headteacher

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PARENT GOVERNORS

Congratulations to Mrs Yasmin Begum and Ms Sabaa Arfan, who have been appointed as our new parent governors after gaining the most votes in the recent election.

Mr D Grady
Data & Exams Manager / Clerk to Governing Body

IMPORTANT DATES

18th-22nd February 2019
Half Term Week

25th February 2019
Pupils Return to School

8th-10th March 2019
KS3 Camping Trip

18th-22nd March 2019
Year 11 Mock Exams

20th March 2019
Year 11 Parents’ Evening

3rd April 2019
Year 10 Mock Interview Day
Year 10 Parents’ Evening

5th-7th April 2019
Year 10 Dorset Trip

8th-11th April 2019
Hodge Hill’s Got Talent

11th April 2019
Year 7 Walking Trip

15th-26th April 2019
Easter Holidays

29th April 2019
Pupils Return to School
Year 11 GCSE Exams Begin

6th May 2019
Early May Bank Holiday

27th-31st May 2019
Half Term Week
RUGBY TRIP - WASPS VS LEINSTER MATCH

On 20th January 2019, 13 Year 7-9 students attended Wasps v Leinster game in the Rugby Champions Cup. These tickets were provided free of charge to the students as part of the Project Rugby programme currently being delivered by Wasps Community Coaches at Hodge Hill College.

If getting a free ticket wasn’t enough, Wasps also organised for the students to be part of the guard of honour for the players running onto the pitch at the beginning of the match. This was an amazing opportunity for the students standing in front of thousands of fans, waving flags whilst fireworks were let off and being so close to professional rugby players.

Unfortunately Wasps lost 19-37, however there were lots of tries and action right beside our seats. Every student thoroughly enjoyed the day with all displaying impeccable behaviour whilst representing the school during such a high profile event. All students have since represented the school playing rugby for their year teams.

Mr R Stewart
Teacher of PE

HODGE HILL COMPETES IN THE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

On 5th February 2019, a team of debaters from Year 7 to Year 10 travelled to Bishop Challoner Catholic College to compete in the first round of this year’s ‘Debate Mate Urban Debate League’, an annual competition which pits local schools against each other for a chance to win the coveted Debate Mate Cup – and compete in the national finals, held at the House of Lords.

The team this year had never before competed in a debating competition, but despite first-round nerves they walked away with one victory and one narrow loss, securing themselves a place in the next round of the competition!

Well done, Debate Maters!

Miss C Beaumont
Teacher of English
STUDENTS BECOME A WITNESS TO THE SURVIVOURS OF THE HOLOCAUST

On 24th January 2019, ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day which takes place annually on the 27th January, a selected group of Year 9 and Year 10 Hodge Hill students took part in listening and becoming a witness to one of the few final survivors of the Holocaust. The webcast was streamed live to hundreds of schools, organisations and individuals across the world to mark the remembrance of 6 million Jewish Europeans murdered, as well as 4 million murdered individuals during the years 1933 to 1945.

Harry Spiro was 10 years old when Poland was invaded by Nazi Germany. Harry spoke about his life experiences of surviving a ghetto, being worked to exhaustion in Buchenwald concentration camp, forced on a death march to Terezín before finally coming to Britain in 1945 after the end of the war.

Before listening to Harry’s moving testimony, the group were given an opportunity to remember the victims and reflect on the events of the Holocaust.

All the students were fantastic listening to Harry’s story and engaging in their own reflections as becoming witnesses.

Miss C Barran
Teacher of History
WORKING FOR MARCUS

On 18th January 2019, Year 11s watched the Loudmouth drama ‘Working for Marcus’. ‘Working for Marcus’ is a safe and carefully structured programme that creatively and courageously tackles the issues of grooming and child exploitation. The programme explores grooming, online safety and consent and helps young people to spot the signs of grooming and where to go for support. This performance enhances the PSHE and SRE education that pupils receive at Hodge Hill College.

Pupils watching the performance were engrossed and the team delivering the production praised Year 11 for their respectful and exemplary behaviour. It was a valuable experience for all and one that will help keep our pupils safer.

Mrs D Wildig
Director of Learning: Humanities

MEDICAL MAVERICKS

On 24th January 2019, 30 Year 9 students were involved in a Medical Mavericks workshop for the first two lessons of the day. Students were able to take blood from a fake arm, record their own ECG, try keyhole surgery, see inside their body with an ultrasound machine and take a picture of the inside of their eye!

Every student received their own medical observation sheet to fill in during the workshop as well as a print out of their ECG. As well as providing practical experience, the workshop gave students information regarding different career paths in the NHS.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and agreed it was a valuable experience for all and one that will help raise aspirations of our Year 9s. The Medical Mavericks will be back later in the year to deliver more workshops to our students across Years 9 and 10.

Mr R Fradley
Leader of Aspiration: Science

YEAR 11 HAVE THEIR JCC INTERVIEWS

On 6th February 2019, 126 Year 11 pupils had their JCC interviews for a place at the Sixth Form College to continue their studies.

Students were grilled upon their attendance, punctuality, achievement, behaviour, effort, mock exam grades and extracurricular activities by the interviewers.
In late January 2019, Hodge Hill College welcomed back Syed Gillani who left the school in 2017. Syed was invited to offer his advice and tips for flourishing in Hodge Hill College to our current Year 7 pupils. Syed spoke about the many challenges that he faced when becoming a Year 7 student at HHC such as the language barrier as he had only come to England from Pakistan a year before his first day in Year 7. He emphasised upon key characteristics such as resilience and hard work and asking his peers and teachers for support. Additionally Syed mentioned how he saw the key messages from CARE (Courtesy, Achievement, Respect and Empathy) which he learnt in time as Hodge Hill College were vital in all forms of life and not just in education.

He also discussed the importance of the early years of Hodge Hill for setting a foundation upon which one can build both your academic and transferable skills. Syed declared that many of the extra activities that he took up in Year 7 and Year 8 such as joining the student council were precursors to the success he enjoyed in his later years at Hodge Hill College such as becoming the Head Boy.

Many times Syed touched upon all students having dreams and aspirations and using them as motivation when things aren’t going so smoothly. Syed is currently in his second year at King Edward VI Aston, and was recently the first ever ‘outsider’ to become a Joint Vice Captain at the grammar school. We hope to welcome Syed back to Hodge Hill soon to talk to and inspire our other pupils.

Mr J Patel
Teacher of MFL & Aspiring Leader: CEIAG

Thankfully 95% of the pupils received a conditional offer and will now have to crank up their revision even further to ensure that they get the grades to meet their offer.

Well done Year 11!

Mr J Patel
Teacher of MFL & Aspiring Leader: CEIAG
On 7th February 2019, the Year 10 football team travelled to Heartlands Academy for a league match. Hodge Hill struck first, with Isa Munawar capping off a great passage of play with a tap in goal.

Heartlands hit back and dominated the rest of the first half, with some fine goals and fast moving play. With 15 minutes to play it was 5-2 to Heartlands, but a spirited comeback including a penalty strike from Syed Najafi brought the score back to 6-4 to Heartlands at the end of the game.

Hodge Hill will travel to Saltley after February half term to close out their league fixtures for the year.

Mr A Morgan

Assistant Director of Learning: Sport, Vocational & Community: KS3
On 28th January 2019, a theatre group (Ginificent) visited the school to perform a version of the GCSE English Literature text ‘Jekyll and Hyde’. The performance was comprised of a live performance, video and a Q&A session at the end where the pupils could ask the three actors a range of questions about the text. Students commented on how good the performance was, and were particularly impressed with how well the actors were able to compress the complex story and perform it with only 3 performers.

Next month, the Year 11s will also be treated to a performance of Romeo and Juliet designed to teach them about the staging of the play, and the key characters involved.

Mr J Berwick
Leader of Aspiration: English