OUR EXPERIENCE IN LIFE DEPENDS ON WHAT WE FOCUS ON. IF WE CHANGE OUR FOCUS, WE CAN CHANGE OUR LIFE.
Dear Parents/Carers,

The first half of Spring term has been busy and enriching for all year groups. I am pleased to report that we are starting to see a steady increase in the numbers of pupils engaged in extra-curricular sport, both as participants and spectators. In addition, we offer a full range of extra-curricular opportunities at break times and after school which we encourage pupils to get involved with. Currently many of our pupils are busy rehearsing for ‘Hodge Hill’s Got Talent’ and we look forward to the show next half term.

Our aim at Hodge Hill is to build resilient, successful pupils who can blossom. To this end we encourage pupils to:

• Talk their problems through with parents, tutors and teachers
• Develop character and resilience to ensure the correct proportionate actions are taken
• Develop literacy and numeracy skills

Lives spent on social media and gaming in the early hours of the morning are unproductive and often lead to poor judgment and actions which spill over into the real world. It is therefore important that parents take their responsibilities seriously and stop the use of social media and gaming into the night, and monitor their use. Too much learning time is taken up with resolving issues which have been instigated outside of school hours through electronic media and detracts from the school’s core purpose.

Finally, I wish you and your family a restful half term and hope you can take the opportunity to spend some quality time with your children.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs A Andersen
Headteacher
ATTENDANCE

95.2% ATTENDANCE TO DATE
47.5% STUDENTS WITH ATTENDANCE ABOVE 98%
21% STUDENTS WITH 100% ATTENDANCE

After the Christmas Break, only one student had unauthorised leave in term-time (LITT) which led to prosecution. This is a big improvement on this time last year. Thank you to all parents who have been careful not to take their children out of school in term-time.

Please remember: LITT will not be authorised and could lead to prosecution.

YEAR 9 SPORTS LEADERS ATTEND STEP INTO SPORT

On Wednesday 22nd January 2020, 12 of the Year 9 Sports Leaders attended the Step Into Sport 2020 day hosted at Nechells Leisure Centre. The aim of the day was for students to develop their leadership skills, to design games and activities that can be used in school. There was also a particular focus on making sure that all activities were inclusive for those who have disabilities.

All the students applied themselves well and were keen to engage in all activities. It was particularly pleasing to see students showing characteristics from Hodge Hill’s CARE brand by motivating others to achieve, respecting students from other schools, especially those with a disability and working together as a team.

The students also had the opportunity to meet Alistair Patrick-Heselton, a silver medallist paralympic athlete. Alistair shared his story about how he went from being a professional footballer to a Paralympian after a major car accident. Students also met Neve Allen. Neve was born with one leg shorter than the other but this has not stopped her participating in wheelchair racing. In 2019, she won the London mini-marathon.

Getting to meet these people who have faced adversity, but have still excelled was a great example of resilience that our pupils can follow.

Mr R Stewart
Teacher of PE

ECO-COMMITTEE UPDATE

It’s been a busy couple of months for the Eco-Committee as we’ve been focusing on improving our three priority areas of biodiversity, energy and global citizenship around the school.

Our Year 7 pupils have been researching the best tree species to plant in urban areas. This is in preparation for the tree planting later this term whilst the whole Eco-Committee has been discussing plans for our first fundraising event.

Currently, we are working towards our Silver EcoSchools award which requires us to audit our school curriculum to assess which subjects teach or engage with environmental issues as well as improving how we communicate our ideas and updates with the rest of the school. We are hoping to achieve this before the Easter holidays so watch this space!

Miss C Ambler
Teacher of Geography

& the Hodge Hill College Eco-Committee
SENT INTO SPACE

On Tuesday 21st January 2020, Hodge Hill College went truly out of this world! As part of our STEM programme, we teamed up with ‘Sent into Space’ and carried out a space launch and live stream event.

Pupils had the opportunity to ask questions in a live Q&A session whilst our school logo was launched high above the atmosphere.

Over one hundred Year 7 and Year 8 pupils were involved and 76 questions were asked within 15 minutes!

The launch event took over 6 months to plan with logistics and weather conditions taken into account. All the staff and pupils involved loved being part of this historic event.

Miss T Wilson
Teacher of Science

WORKING FOR MARCUS

On Thursday 23rd January 2020, Loudmouth Theatre Company came to Hodge Hill College and Year 11 watched them perform ‘Working for Marcus’. This is a powerful theatre in an education programme on child exploitation. This programme teaches about a wide range of child exploitation issues including child sexual exploitation, exploitation into crime, for example, county lines and knife crime. Loudmouth’s production complements the SMSC and RSE provision at Hodge Hill College.

Mrs D Wildig
Assistant Headteacher

CRAFT CLUB

I have been attending Craft Club since it started earlier this year. It's a place where you can be creative, have fun, meet new people and make friends. There are a variety of materials available to use to make whatever we like, whether it's for Christmas, Easter or any other occasion. Everyone is friendly and welcoming. I recommend this club to everyone – it's so much fun!

Craft Club Member
STUDENTS BECOME A WITNESS TO A SURVIVOR OF THE HOLOCAUST

On Thursday 24th January 2020, ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day which takes place annually on the 27th January, a select group of Year 9 Hodge Hill students took part in listening and becoming a witness to one of a 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 six million Jewish Europeans murdered, as well as four million murdered individuals during the years 1933 to 1945.

Susan Pollock was taken to Auschwitz in 1944 after Hungary was taken over, she lost 50 members of her family during the holocaust before the camp was liberated in 1945. She went on to marry another survivor of the Holocaust, and her brother also managed to survive the camp.

Before hearing Susan’s story the pupils were given the chance to discuss what they thought a survivor would be like and what questions they would have for her. All students were fantastic listening to Susan’s story and engaging in their reflections as becoming witnesses. The group were incredibly respectful and engaged, a real credit to their year group.

Miss K Haddock & Mr C Farley
Teachers of History

SAVE OUR CITY!

On the 13th December 2019, four Year 9 girls (Save Our City) went to speak at the Aspire for Equality Leadership conference in London. The girls took part in the Solutions for the Planet Big Ideas Competition last year and although they didn’t make it to the national finals, their passion, and enthusiasm for protecting the world around them caught the attention of the Solutions for the Planet CEO, Jen Baughan. Jen suggested that the girls apply to speak at the conference and from over 700 applications, Save our City was shortlisted.

On the day of the conference, the girls addressed a room of over 200 leaders from business, politics and the charity sector. Their presentation focused on the power of young people in the fight against climate change and urged those listening to find ways to support and empower the young people in their own lives to work for change. Unsurprisingly, they received a roaring applause and standing ovation, and many of the audience came to congratulate them personally on such a fantastic speech.

The girls spoke with such confidence, passion, and maturity – we are so proud of all that they have achieved – and they continue to practice what they preach through their work with the Eco-Committee and by mentoring the current Year 8s who are taking part in Solutions for the Planet this year.

Well done Save Our City!

Miss C Ambler
Teacher of Geography
Miss T Tania
Teacher of RE
On Tuesday 28th January 2020, three Year 10 Science groups were involved in the Medical Mavericks workshop show. The sessions were very hands-on and the students were given real medical kits to do a variety of activities such as taking blood from a fake arm, performing keyhole surgery, viewing inside their body with an ultrasound machine, taking a picture of the inside of their eye and much more. Each student received a medical observation worksheet each, which they filled in during the workshop.

The pupils were very enthused about trying all the equipment available and were able to reflect on their own lifestyle choices. Their feedback about the event was very positive and they thoroughly enjoyed the activities provided and gained a deeper understanding of how what they learn in their Science lessons is linked to careers in Medicine.

Team Science
On Thursday 23rd January 2020, 35 Year 9 students participated in the first stage of the Prince Trust Enterprise Challenge 2020. The students were divided into seven teams and worked with their mentors to play a business simulation game based on the concept of a pop-up shop. Pupils had the opportunity to use this concept to run a brand new micro-business. In this activity, the students got to choose their merchandise, they had to decide on the selling prices, the best location to set up their pop-up shop and decide on ways of attracting customers through building hype.

Points were awarded for getting sales and making the most profit. The students had to ensure that in their decision making, their business was sustainable, uphold ethical values and their customers’ needs were given special consideration and could be used to build the most hype.

The pupils’ feedback about the event was very positive. They were very engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the activities provided throughout the five one-hour sessions. The pupils work with their teams and mentors to confidently develop and pitch their business idea and used all the ideas gained from the online business simulation game and all they learnt about starting an enterprise.

They teams with the highest game scores are now eagerly waiting to hear if they have made it through to stage two where they will compete in the regional and national finals.

Miss T Wilson  
Teacher of Science

Mr R Patel  
Assistant Headteacher

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**YEAR 10 & 11 MARCH 2020 MOCK EXAMS**

**YEAR 10**

**Monday 2nd March 2020**  
14:00 English Literature - Paper 2

**Tuesday 3rd March 2020**  
09:00 English Literature - Paper 1

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**YEAR 11**

**Monday 16th March 2020**  
09:00 Maths - Paper 1

**Tuesday 17th March 2020**  
09:00 Maths - Paper 2

**Wednesday 18th March 2020**  
09:00 English Language - Paper 1

**Friday 20th March 2020**  
11:30 PE

**Thursday 19th March 2020**  
09:00 Maths - Paper 3

**Friday 20th March 2020**  
09:00 English Language - Paper 2

*Personalised mock exam timetables will be issued to all Year 10 & 11 students.*

Team Data & Exams
FREE Football Sessions!
Develop Skills.
Broaden Horizons.
Play & Enjoy!

Eligibility: 11-16 year olds, male and female – all abilities welcome!

When is it? Every Wednesday 4-5:30PM

Where is it? Hodge Hill College, Bromford Road, Birmingham, B36 8HB

Starting 15. January 2020!
FREE Half-Term Sports Camp!

Develop Skills. Broaden Horizons. Play & Enjoy!

Get in touch with Craig for more information:
0121 456 1818 or 07923 883 312
craig@sport4life.org.uk
www.sport4life.org.uk

Eligibility: 11-16 year olds, male and female – all abilities welcome!

When is it? Monday 17th Feb – Friday 21st Feb! Everyday 1-5PM

Where is it? Hodge Hill College, Bromford Road, Birmingham, B36 8HB

Take part in multi-sports engagement sessions, complete FREE qualifications and much more!
CAREEROMETER

Have you tried the Careerometer yet?
Ever thought about how much someone doing a certain job would earn on average?
Ever wondered how many hours a week a person doing this job would do on average?
Ever considered whether a job you want to do will still exist in the near future?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, then try the Careerometer!

Utilising active data from various reliable sources such as the Employer Skills Survey you can use the Careerometer to inform your choices about potential careers. It allows you to compare two different jobs at the same time and provides information about salaries, hours worked and workforce changes all in one handy and easy to use format.

The Careerometer is found by going onto the Hodge Hill College website, and then accessing the Pupils and then Careers tab as demonstrated below:

OPEN MIC RETURNS

By the end of the final Open Mic of 2019, it was proven once again that our pupils have got talent!

Are you a singer, rapper, spoken word artist, comedian or play an instrument? Then Open Mic is for you!

Open Mic returns on Friday 28th February 2020 - don’t miss this opportunity to come and showcase your talent.

To sign up for the first show, please see Miss Hanley or a member of the Open Mic Team.

Keep practising and we’ll see you at the Open Mic!

Miss I Hanley
Teacher of Drama
CINDERELLA AND ROCKERFELLA

The Hodge Hill cast has done it again!

Cinderella and Rockerfella came to Hodge Hill College last term and ROCKED the house! It was a fantastic show with last-minute appearances by pupils and cameos by staff. Pupils assisted with the lights, props and costumes and they did a splendid job. Well done to everyone involved!

However, the Panto pleasures didn't end there! As a reward for the hard work, dedication, and commitment, the members of the Cinderella and Rockerfella cast along with pupils from Year 7 & 8 went to see the Snow White & Seven Dwarfs at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

It was a phenomenal show to experience. Thank you to the staff who joined us on the day!

Miss I Hanley
Teacher of Drama

HOMEWORK AND REVISION WEBSITES

All pupils are expected to complete daily independent tasks, with KS3 pupils given a weekly timetable based on selected subjects & KS4 pupils provided with a weekly checklist based on all of their subjects. Pupils log in to the websites shown below using their individual details.

www.linguascope.com  www.mathswatch.co.uk  www.kerboodle.com

YEAR 11 HAVE THEIR JCC INTERVIEWS

On Thursday 6th February 2020, 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.

Thankfully, 97% 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
INTERMEDIATE UK MATHS CHALLENGE

On Thursday 6th February 2020, 60 of our Year 9 students took part in the Intermediate UK Maths Challenge (UKMT). Being the first UKMT challenge at Hodge Hill College for some time, most pupils had never heard of this prestigious event or what it entailed.

As such, extra booster sessions were required before the competition to give pupils an idea of the different formats of the exam as well as some guidance on how to approach questions. The attendance for these sessions was excellent and pupils took on board what was explained to them. The challenge focuses primarily on logical reasoning and problem-solving and so naturally, the questions are of a different style and layout to what is typically taught in a classroom.

Overall, the UKMT challenge went very smoothly and pupils enjoyed the experience, with some students keen to see if they made it to the next round!

What is the UK Maths Challenge?

The UK Mathematics Trust was founded in 1996 and their charitable aim is to advance the education of young people in mathematics. They do this by working with hundreds of volunteers across the UK to organize competitions promoting problem solving and teamwork and other mathematical enrichment activities.

Their biggest competitions are the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Mathematical challenges, which have over 700,000 entries each year, and are the UK’s most popular school competitions. They also invite the highest scoring students to take part in the follow-on rounds such as Junior, Grey, Pink and Senior Kangaroos and the Junior, Cayley, Hamilton and Maclaurin Olympiads.

Have a go:

What fraction of this diagram is shaded?

A $\frac{13}{32}$  B $\frac{1}{2}$  C $\frac{9}{16}$  D $\frac{5}{8}$  E $\frac{13}{16}$

A question from this year’s competition

Mr M Uddin & Mrs B Shaheen
Teachers of Maths

EXPLORER DOME

Students were delighted to welcome the Explorer Dome to Hodge Hill College, to deliver sessions on ‘Light’. Students were enthusiastic about learning in a different setting, especially as they had to make a rather unusual entrance into the dome. A variety of questions were posed, ranging from ‘black holes to light years’.

Miss S Jamil
Teacher of Science
HHC WELCOMES ALUMNUS GUEST SPEAKER

Hodge Hill College welcomed Mr Tahir Mahmood in late January 2020 who was here to speak to selected Year 9 and Year 10 students about his journey from leaving Hodge Hill in the 1980s to now working as a Senior Electronic Engineer for Nissan in their Technical Centre based in Milton Keynes. Mr Mahmood spoke about the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) and how it is used daily within his role and therefore, students who are thinking about studying these subjects in later education can make better-informed decisions about them.

Mr Mahmood also told the students about the fantastic opportunities within apprenticeships available, especially within the engineering sector where the students work for a few days within the workplace but also go to college. This means the student gains qualifications as well as that all valuable workplace experience and an apprenticeship means the students also get paid as a working employee.

A big thank you to Mr Mahmood for giving up his valuable time to come and speak to some of our students at Hodge Hill College and we look forward to welcoming him back alongside other success stories from the school.

Mr J Patel
Teacher of MFL & Aspiring Leader: CEIAG

COOKATHON

On Tuesday 11th February 2020, Year 8 pupils took part in a Cookathon, along with schools across Birmingham, to promote healthy living, as part of the Health for Life programme. The cooking was demonstrated via video feed, by award winning chef Glynn Purnell.

The Health for Life Cookathon was a chance to celebrate winter cooking by making some delicious soup and sharing it out with others.

Mrs T Tongue
Subject Leader: Food