



# Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

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5<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year, I hope that you enjoyed the summer break. I extend a particular welcome to new parents/carers and look forward to meeting you during the coming term.

## Examination Results 2019



Congratulations to all Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students who took external examinations and parents/carers who supported them through what is always a very stressful period.

We are delighted to celebrate excellent results at A Level & GCSE.

## A LEVEL RESULTS 2019

At **A Level** we had another great year of results and had a **100% pass rate** for the **8th consecutive year**. (97% Nationally).

A\* -B = 41%

A\* -C = 76%

Progress 0.49

100% of students are now on University or Apprenticeship routes.

## GCSE RESULTS 2019

We're delighted to announce another year of successful **GCSE results** where Hillcrest students achieved outcomes at grades 4+, 5+ and 7+ above the national figures.

**Attainment 8 Score = 50.44**

National Average=46.5 (2018)

**67%** of students achieved the new pass grade (4+) in **both English and Maths**.

**44%** of students achieved the strong pass grade (5+) in **both English and Maths**.

**19%** of students achieved grade 7+ in **both English and Maths**.

**93%** of students achieved the new pass grade (4+) in **English**

**78%** of students achieved the strong pass grade (5+) in **English**

**32%** of students achieved grade 7+ **English**

**67%** of students achieved the new pass grade (4+) in **Maths**.

**46%** of students achieved the strong pass grade (5+) in **Maths**.

**25%** of students achieved grade 7+ in **Maths**.

**24%** of all GCSE results were at grade 7, 8 or 9.

'Pupils' conduct is excellent. Around the School and in lessons, pupils are courteous and confident.'  
'Strong ambition for improving outcomes for all pupils has led to good examination results.'  
(Ofsted 2017)

## **Hillcrest Open Week 2019**

The week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> September is our Open Week. Many students will be coming back on the evening of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September to act as guides and to be involved in activities. We are most appreciative of their help. Open Morning will be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 9.00am- 11am.

## **Homework**

All students receive a homework timetable where they are set homework every day. Students in Year 7 should be spending approximately one hour per evening on homework and in Year 8, one hour and a quarter per evening, Year 9, an hour and a half and Year 10 and 11, two hours per evening. Establishing and maintaining these good habits out of lessons will make a huge impact on your child's progress. Research like the EPPSE project found that students who reported spending between 2 and 3 hours on homework on an average weeknight in Year 9 were almost 10 times more likely to achieve excellent GCSE results than students who did not spend any time on homework.

## **Home Access Plus**

All students are able to access their school emails and documents using the Home Access+ icon on the school website. Here they will also find links to the on-line learning resources listed below that Hillcrest provides for students. Homework is set via 'Show My Homework'. Details have been given to students and parents via 'Show My Homework'. A link to this can be found on the school website. A homework timetable is sent to parents at the start of each school year and is also available on the school website.

Accelerated Reader  
Doddle (ICT)  
Active Learn  
Hegarty Maths

MathsWatch  
My Maths  
Kerboodle  
Seneca



## **Safety around the school premises**

As a school we are very lucky to have a small number of parking spaces available for parents at the end of the day. Unfortunately, we have continued to have issues with the school driveway being blocked which means in case of emergency an ambulance cannot get through quickly and our visitors and deliveries are not able to access the school. Recently we have also been made aware of parents blocking local residents drive ways. Please be considerate to local residents when parking near the school.

Our Site Manager, Mr Jon Hashim, has recently been meeting parents at the parking area and has introduced a system whereby once the car park is full then cones will be placed at the driveway to keep the entrance clear and safe.

If we continue to have issues with the car parking, then we may have to consider closing the school gates to all parents picking up their children. This is not something we want to do but as I am sure you will understand – safety for our students is our priority.

**We ask for your support with helping us keep all our students safe and do not park block the entrance to the school.**

If the parking area is full, please park on the school side of Stonehouse Lane and not in the entrance to the fire station, local businesses or pavements.

## **'Keeping Safe'**

Please see our website for guidance for parents/carers regarding keeping children safe. By clicking the blue icon on the website, you'll find information on health and well-being, relationship education, study skills and online safety, including internet and social media safety and preventing radicalism and extremism.



## **School Policies**

Please see our website for all School Policies including the Getting It Right- Behaviour Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, Attendance Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

## **Reminders:**

- Students must be in school by 8-40am and in seated in registration when the bell rings at 8-45am. Students who arrive after this time receive a late mark.
- The Parents' Handbook which all parents/carers receive on admission is available on the school website and an additional copy was sent via ParentMail.

## **Uniform and Jewellery**

We expect our students to take pride in their appearance and we believe that the wearing of school uniform fosters a sense of identity. If students attend school inappropriately dressed their parents will be contacted. Students are not allowed to attend lessons out of uniform. Please see the attached uniform list for further details.

## **Allergy Aware**

Some students at Hillcrest have nut allergies, therefore we request that students do not bring nuts or nut based products into school to ensure the safety of all students.

## **Spotlight Letter**

Please also find enclosed a copy of the annual Spotlight letter issued by the Local Authority. Every school in Birmingham is required to send this standard letter to parents/carers at the start of each academic year to outline the actions that will be taken by the Local Authority if a student has 10 days unauthorised absences over a twelve-month period. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Connor-Hemming if you have any questions about the contents of the letter or any other attendance matters.

## **Data Checking Forms**

As part of our safeguarding provision in school it is vitally important that we have up to date contact details and personal information about all students. Data checking sheets will be sent home with students Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September for all students in Years 8-13. I would appreciate it if you could read the information carefully, make any necessary amendments and ensure your child returns it to student reception by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019**. It is particularly important that we have your current address, telephone numbers and email address to ensure we can contact you in the event of an emergency. Similarly, in the final section, please update the names and contact details of other people (ie - family members or friend) you would like us to contact if we were unable to contact you in the event of an emergency. In addition, please update all relevant sections on your child's country of birth and nationality, and languages spoken at home in the family as we are required to track this information on our school census.

## **ParentMail**

We have recently informed you that the school are using ParentMail to communicate with you via text, email and via the ParentMail app.

The school also uses ParentMail so that you can pay your child's dinner money, school trips and other school items online via [www.parentmail.co.uk](http://www.parentmail.co.uk)

### **Hillcrest School is now cashless**

This means that **your child will not be able to bring cash into school to pay for school dinner money and school trips.** All payments will now need to be made by you online via ParentMail.

You can pay for the following online:-

- Put dinner money onto your child's account so they can get a hot meal/sandwich at the school canteen (and you can see what meal your child has purchased each day).
- Pay for school trips online (so your child doesn't need to carry large amounts of cash into school and you can view receipts for payments you have made).

It's easy to register for ParentMail. Please contact the school on 0121 464 3172 and ask for your ParentMail registration link – we will then send you a text or email with a link for you to sign up to ParentMail.

Please contact the school if you have any queries or need help signing up to ParentMail.

May I wish you all an enjoyable year and I look forward to seeing you at our many school events. Your support is vital to the success of your child.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J A Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D'.

J A Davies (Ms)  
Headteacher