



Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

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14th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearing the end of yet another busy term and are very appreciative of your support in what has been a very different Autumn Term. I would like to thank students, staff, parents and carers for how you have all adapted and embraced the changes and safety measures we have had to put in place around school.

The term will end on Friday 18th December at approximately 12.30 pm.

School will re-open again for students on Tuesday 5th January 2021 with registration at 8.45a.m.

NHS Test and Trace- Covid-19- Important – for the attention of all parents/carers

1. For the first 6 days after school closes (Saturday 19th December 2020 to 24th December 2020) if your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), please inform the school by emailing enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk so that the school can notify any school close contacts of the positive case to self-isolate if needed.
2. After the 24th December 2020 – If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) – parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions sent to you by NHS Test and Trace.
3. On Monday 4th January 2021 - parents and carers should inform the school by emailing enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk or phoning the school between 9am and 3pm to inform us if your child has tested positive over the Christmas period and/or will not be returning on Tuesday 5th January 2020 due to self-isolating or if their child is unwell for any other reason and is unable to attend school.
4. Parents and carers of any students who are due to return to school on 5th January having had a positive test and completed their self-isolation will be contacted by school on Monday 4th January to check they are symptom free.

Free School Meal Voucher for Christmas holidays.

The Government/Local Authority have asked schools to distribute free school meal vouchers on their behalf for the Christmas holidays. Parents/carers whose child is currently eligible for free school meals have been sent an email during week commencing 14th December 2020 from Edenred with details on how to access the 2 week voucher of £30.

Support for parents/carers can be found at the following two links:-

Parent/carer FAQs

https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/Select/clients/SelectGrocery_FSM_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf

Select Grocery visual user guide

<https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/Select/Edenred-Select-Grocery-eCode-Redemption-Userguide.pdf>

'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)

If you have any queries or issues downloading the FSM voucher please contact the school on 0121 464 3172 or email enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Forthcoming Events:

Teacher Day (Students are not required in school)	-	Monday 4th January
Spring Term begins School Re-Opens for all students	-	Tuesday 5 th January at 08.45a.m.
6 th Form Parent's Evening	-	Details to be confirmed
Year 10 Parents Evening	-	Tuesday 25 th February 4pm-6pm (TBC)
Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations	-	Week beginning 25 th January & 1 st February
Year 8 HPV Vaccinations	-	Monday 9 th February
PSD Day 3	-	Thursday 11 th February
Year 8 Examinations Week	-	Week beginning 2 nd March
Year 8 & 9 HPV Vaccinations	-	Tuesday 3 rd March
Half Term	-	15 th -19 th February 2021
Students return to school	-	Monday 22 nd February

Reminders:

Students must be in school by 8-45am and in seated in registration when the bell rings at 8-45am. Students who arrive after this time receive a late mark.

Uniform List - Compulsory for all students Years 7-11

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 attached uniform list for further details.

Jewellery

The only jewellery to be worn is one pair of small stud earrings. Body piercing, nose studs, eyebrow studs or tongue studs, are not permitted. (Plasters covering piercing are also not permitted). Students will be asked to remove body piercing and will be sent home if they fail to do so. Jewellery, if worn, will be taken and will be returned to students at the end of term, or parents/carers may come in

person to collect the item. Make-up, nail varnish/nail extensions should not be worn for school and no unnatural hair colourings or extensions should be applied.



Books and Equipment

The school supplies books and teaching materials but **students must replace lost or damaged books and equipment and will be asked to pay for any damage to school property.** Your child has a **blue 'knowledge organiser' folder** which contains the key facts and information that they need to have in their long-term memory to master topics that they study in a number of subjects. Students have had training on how to use these so that they can self-quiz using their quizzing book. You can play a key role in supporting your child in their learning by quizzing them on definitions or key terms. **Students must attend each lesson with their 'knowledge organiser'. If your child loses their knowledge organiser, they need to inform their form tutor who will arrange for a new one to be produced. The new knowledge organiser will then need to be collected from the OLC with a £2 payment for the replacement.**

It is normal practice for students to take articles home from lessons such as Food Technology and in these circumstances, parents are asked to provide the necessary resources.

It is important that students have the basic equipment for lessons. Suggested essentials are:

- Pens (blue, black and green)
- Pencils, a pencil sharpener, a selection of coloured pencils
- A rubber
- A ruler
- Glue stick.
- A notebook for rough work
- An protractor and compass
- A Casio fx-83GT PLUS Natural-V.P.A.M Scientific calculator (available from most supermarkets)
- An English Dictionary
- A French Language Dictionary
- Scissors and a small stapler
- Knowledge Organiser

Some **equipment is available to be brought from the Open Learning Centre.**

Students will be issued with a swipe card in order to borrow books from the Open Learning Centre, check their ParentMail dining room balance and open key doors around school. If the swipe card is

lost or damaged, a replacement can be purchased for £1.50 through Parentmail or at Student Reception.

Mobile Phones and other valuable items

Mobile phones, at any time, are the responsibility of students if they bring them to school. They are not to be seen, heard or used on the school premises. Phones that are seen, heard or used on the school premises will be confiscated and a parent/carer will be required to collect the phone. Please note the school can take no responsibility for any phones or other valuables brought into school.

'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.



Reminder: Emergency Closure of School



In extreme weather conditions or other emergencies when it is necessary to close the school, details will be posted on the school website, sent via twitter and through ParentMail. The school will always try to give as much notice as possible.

If, for any reason, we were unable to re-open as announced because of secondary factors e.g. burst pipes, heating failure, this will be communicated as above. Please do ensure that students have an alternative place of safety should it become necessary to close the school early in an emergency.

Parking at Hillcrest School

We have had to make some changes with our car park at the end of the school drive. This area is now a designated waiting area for students who are waiting for siblings in other year groups, and therefore, will be closed to cars at the end of the day until 3.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and

2.20pm on Wednesday. Parents and carers will need to park on the school side of Stonehouse Lane and nearby roads and arrange to meet their child in an area away from the front of the car park to allow for the flow of traffic along Stonehouse Lane at the end of the school day. Please do not park in the entrance to the fire station, local businesses or pavements and please be considerate to local residents when parking near the school. We ask for your support with helping us keep all our students safe and do not park block the entrance to the school.

End of Term Arrangements

Any confiscated jewellery will be given out this week as follows:

YEARS 9 and 11 - END OF THE DAY ON WEDNESDAY 18th December

YEARS 7 and 8 - END OF THE DAY ON THURSDAY 19th December

YEAR 10 will need to collect their jewellery when they return at the end of the day on 5th January 2021

Confiscated mobile phones can be collected at Main Reception on Friday 18th December at 12.30p.m.

USEFUL LINKS FOR PARENTS/CARERS and a reminder of services that are available

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is a safeguarding charity. Visit their website for more information - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/staying-safe-away-from-home/>

Birmingham and Solihull bereavement support

0121 687 8010

Email: support@crusebirmingham.co.uk

<http://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help>

The Cruse Bereavement Care Freephone National Helpline is staffed by trained bereavement volunteers, who offer emotional support to anyone affected by bereavement.

The number is 0808 808 1677

You can also email helpline@cruse.org.uk

Pause

If you need someone to talk to or struggling to cope with your feelings.

0207 841 4470

Email: askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk

<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/services/13-pause>

Kooth

Free, safe and anonymous service to support young people's emotional and mental health in Birmingham.

Kooth gives children and young people the opportunity to access online counselling from qualified counsellors who are available from mid-day to 10pm every weekday and 6pm to 10pm at weekends. Young people can drop in for one-to-one instant text-based chats or book a session in advance.

<https://www.kooth.com/>

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school via email if you require any further support or guidance. If at any time you have any concerns about a Hillcrest student please email: safeguarding@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk or contact Children's Advice & Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888.

For all other queries please continue to use enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk (Emails will continue to be checked over the summer periodically)

Early Help Hubs

Support for families in need can still be accessed through the Early Help Hubs. Early help locality hubs will be in operation to provide a source of advice, guidance and a range of early help support which will include access to food banks. The following will be connecting together in ten localities: community, voluntary and faith sectors, health, family support, social work, police, schools, further education, nurseries, children's centres, health visitors and GPs. Each locality has a voluntary sector lead and a public sector lead. Parent, carers and young people can use the mind map attached to connect to the leads and discover other services that are available in each locality during Covid-19.

Keep your contact details up to date!

If you change any of your contact details, please ensure you update your ParentMail account – this is essential so that we can send you important school information and letters. Please also inform the school of any home address changes or phone number/contact detail changes as soon as possible.

School will close approximately 12.30 pm on Friday 18th December for all students.

Thank you for your continued support in what has been a very different Autumn term to what we are used to. May I wish you Season's Greetings and a peaceful New Year from the Governor's, staff and myself.

Yours sincerely



Ms J A Davies
Headteacher