



# Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

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1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the summer term, which will be a busy term with examinations for all students.

## Examination Dates

**External examinations for Years 11, 12 & 13 begin the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> May and finish the week ending Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

*Please note that examinations in subjects with practical elements have already started.*

## Internal Examinations

Year 7 – w/c 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Year 9 – w/c 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019

Year 10 – w/c 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding examinations.

## Forthcoming Events:

Bank Holiday	- Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
(Students are not required in school)	
Year 7 Football Competition	- Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May
PSD Day 5	- Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May
GCSE & A Level Examinations start	- Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 7 Examinations Week	- Week beginning 13 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 10 Geography Field Work Trip	- Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 9 GCSE Music Trip	- Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 8 & 9 Football Competition	- Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
AS Biology Field Trip	- Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May
Students break up for Half Term	- Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May

## Reminders:

Students must be in school by 8.40am and seated in registration when the bell rings at 8.45am. Students who arrive after this time will receive a late mark.

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'Strong ambition for improving outcomes for all pupils has led to good examination results.'  
(Ofsted 2017)



## **Ramadan: Exams and Physical Education**

We are aware that some of our students will be observing Ramadan and fasting in the coming months.

In Physical Education and dance lessons, we are aware that normal energy resources may become temporally depleted and the risk of dehydration is increased. Taking this into account during P.E and dance lessons, there will be modification of activities and the level of intensity will be decreased so that fasting students will be able to continue to participate safely. We therefore expect students who are fasting to follow the school policy and bring their PE kits to lessons and participate as normal.

Ramadan falls within the examination season therefore while completing exams, in lessons or other school activities, if a student is showing signs that they may be dehydrated, such as a headache or drowsiness, they should be advised to terminate the fast immediately by drinking some water. They can be reassured that in this situation Islamic rulings allow them to terminate their fast with the option to make this up at a later date.

Students who receive free school meals and are fasting during Ramadan, are still entitled to a meal (packed lunch) during Ramadan to take home and eat after breaking fast. Therefore, if your child is entitled to a free school meal and you would like your child to bring home their meal bag during Ramadan, please indicate on the consent slip attached. They would need to collect the meal bag from the canteen at the end of the school day.

## **Safety around the school premises**

We would be grateful if you could take care not to block the driveway to the Fire Station, Den Caney Coaches or Swallow Foods. Please consider the safety of students when parking on the school grounds and do not block pavements and walkways. At the end of the school day, please take care not to block the entrance to the drop off car park as this causes danger for students using the crossing and other motorists. We are lucky to have off road parking as many schools do not have this facility. As always, we advise that if the car park is full, the safest place to park is on Stonehouse Lane beyond the school bus stop.



## **Healthy eating in school**

Government and school guidelines are to encourage students to eat healthily and to live a healthy lifestyle. We encourage healthy eating as a balanced lunch improves concentration, attention, energy levels and academic performance. Recently we've seen an increase in students purchasing family sized bottles of fizzy drink, multipacks of sweets and large packets of biscuits/crisps on the way to school. College leaders have spoken to students in assembly asking that they do not bring such food items to school. Students who wish to bring a packed lunch should do so in a suitable container or bag that can be stored in their locker or in their school bag until lunchtime. If students are carrying large quantities of food or drink, it will be collected from them and stored in student reception for collection at the end of the day.



### **Hillcrest School is going CASHLESS from September 2019!**

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 will now be going cashless from September 2019.**

This means that your child will not be able to pay for school dinner money and school trips by bringing cash into school. All payments will need to be made by you 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).
- Buy school equipment, stationary, revision guides, ties and swipe ID cards.

It's easy to register for ParentMail. You will have been sent a link via text or email to register – if you have not received the message, please contact the school and ask for your ParentMail registration link – we will then send you a text or email for you to sign up to ParentMail.

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

### **Mobile phones in school**



Students are not permitted to use their mobile phones at any stage during the school day. Although mobile phones are not encouraged, we understand that some students may want them as a safety measure on the way to and from school. Therefore, if a mobile phone is brought into school, it must be switched off and kept in a bag or locker, out of sight and not used in school (including at break or lunch time). Any student found using a mobile during the school day will have their mobile taken from them and parents/carers will be asked to collect them in person from the school. Students are issued with a locker, and should bring a small padlock to safeguard their belongings. The school can take no responsibility for any phones or other valuables brought into school. The Governors have asked us to point out that there is no insurance cover for students' property. Parents should make their own arrangements if required. Insurers will often extend a home contents insurance policy for this purpose.

## **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.

### **Students must wear:**

- Black blazer with Hillcrest Badge
- Black skirt (not stretched or tight materials. Should be at least knee length) or trousers of regulation style and length (Not leggings or slim legged/tight fitting trousers).
- Plain black tights, or black socks
- White school shirt (not polo shirt) closed collar autumn and spring and open collar in summer optional.
- Black shoes of plain style, well-fitting and FLAT HEELED, but not sling backs.
- School tie (correctly worn to the neck).

### **Optional:**

- Black V neck jumper.
- For Religious reasons students may wear the regulation headscarf in white or black plain material.

Year 8-11 are permitted to wear the previous green uniform until the end of July 2019.

### **Additional information:**

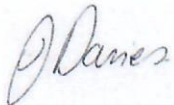
If students wish to wear extra clothing under their uniform it must not be visible.

Trainers and boots are not to be worn. Students will be expected to wear a pair of school authorised shoes if they fail to wear appropriate footwear for school.

Nail varnish and make-up are not permitted.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



J.A Davies (Ms)  
Headteacher





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## Free school meals to be taken home during Ramadan reply slip

Please complete and return to Student Reception by 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Child's Name:..... Form:.....

My child is entitled to free school meals and I would like my child to receive their free school meal in a bag to take home each day during Ramadan.  (Please tick).

My child is entitled to free school meals and I would not like my child to receive their free school meal in a bag to take home each day during Ramadan.  (Please tick).

Signed Parent/Guardian: ..... Date:.....

Printed Name:.....

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