



Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

Headteacher Julie Ann Davies BEd (Hons) N P Q H
Stonehouse Lane, Bartley Green Birmingham B32 3AE
Email: enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Tel: 0121 464 3172
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10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to all our students and parents/carers and a big welcome to all our new Year 7's who have settled in well over their first week. Thank you to parents who brought children into school for COVID testing before they returned to school. The second onsite tests have now been completed and twice weekly lateral flow testing by students at home will begin again from this weekend. Full details of the COVID guidance can be found on the website.

The principles include-

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed case of COVID-19

Congratulations to Year 11 and 13 2020-2021

We are delighted to report some outstanding achievements by students in their GCSEs, A levels and other qualifications this summer. This year, following the cancellation of exams, grades were awarded through a process of teacher assessed grades, against a national standard and approved and awarded by the exam boards.

We are immensely proud of all the work and achievements of our students, especially after such a difficult and disrupted year. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure students are all able to progress onto further education and study, and we look forward to seeing what they will achieve in the future.

A Level and BTEC Level 3 Results

A*/A Grades =53%

A* - B Grades =78%

A* - C Grades =100%

100% pass rate for the 10th consecutive year

GCSE and Level 2 BTEC Results

Grades 7 to 9 =41% (26% Grade 8/9)

Grades 5 to 9 =69%

Grades 4 to 9 =84%

Congratulations to all students in the 2021 cohort!

Please see the examination results section on the website for further details of 2021 results and results from 2020 and 2019.

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



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School Open Evening- Tuesday 14th September 2021

We are inviting potential new students and parents into school for our school open evening on Tuesday 14th September 2021 6-8pm.

We will be asking some students to act as guides and help within departments to represent the school. These students will receive a consent form to bring home for parents/carers to sign and return. Please share the information below with anyone looking to join our school.



Invitation

We warmly invite you to visit
Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

Open Evening

Tuesday, 14th September 2021 (6:00pm-8:00pm)

Open Morning

Thursday, 16th September 2021 (9:00am-11:00am)

You will have the opportunity to tour the school, meet teaching staff, participate in a range of activities and talk with students about life at Hillcrest School. For other times please telephone the school to make an appointment via

Tel: 0121 464 3172 or
Email: enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk
Web: www.hillcrest.bham.sch.uk



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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.

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 the attached uniform list for further details. Please can we remind parents/carers that skirts need to be of an appropriate length and not made of stretch fabric.

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 piercings are also not permitted). Students will be asked to remove body piercings 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 will be given a new **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 folder and mini whiteboard'. If your child loses their knowledge organiser folder, 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, students should keep previous years knowledge organisers at home for revision.**

It is normal practice for students to take items 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

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- A 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

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.

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 3.25pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 2.15pm 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.

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VAPING

The police have asked us to share the information below:

We have noticed an increase in the popularity of vaping among young people and so wanted to give some information regarding vaping-

Commonly called Geek Bars

They look innocent but contain nicotine

Has the UK got a legal Vaping Age? The short answer is no; but anyone under the age of 18 cannot legally purchase any vaping equipment, including liquids and devices, therefore should not be able to vape before this age

'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.



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>

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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

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.

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham-children-s-partnership/2218/from-birmingham-with-love/8>

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.

Thank you for all your continued support and let's hope for a more settled school year in 2021/22.

Yours sincerely
Ms J Davies

Ms J A Davies
Headteacher