



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
Fax: 0121 428 1075

16th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearing the end of a very different and busy year; we are very appreciative of your continued support. I would like to thank students, staff, parents and carers for how you have all embraced the changes and safety measures we have had to put in place around school and for your support during the remote learning earlier in the term.

The term will end on Wednesday 21st July 2021 at approximately 12.30 pm.

School will re-open again for students in September with staggered start dates due to the new COVID guidance received by school. **If you have previously consented to on-site lateral flow testing, your child will attend school the day before their lessons start (on the dates below) according to your child's year group. If you did not previously consent but you would like your child to be included in the return to school covid on-site testing please contact enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk**

Please see below for testing dates and return to school dates. On the testing date your child will only be on school premises for the lateral flow testing and then is to leave the site and return home. Your child is then free to return to school from the return to school date unless you receive instructions otherwise.

Year 7: 2021-22

Testing on school site - Thursday 2nd September, please attend the test centre anytime between 10am to 2pm

Return to school Friday 3rd September 8.45am

Year 12 and 13: 2021-22

Testing on school site - Thursday 2nd September, please attend the test centre anytime between 10am to 2pm

Return to school Friday 3rd September: Year 13- 8.45am, Year 12- 10am

Years 10 and 11: 2021-22

Testing on school site- Friday 3rd September, please attend the test centre anytime between 10am to 2pm

Return to school Monday 6th September: Year 11- 8.45am, Year 10- 10am

Years 8 and 9: 2021-22

Testing on school site- Monday 6th September, please attend the test centre anytime between 10am to 2pm

Return to school Tuesday 7th September- Year 9 - 8.45am, Year 8 - 10am

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Please note:

Full details of the COVID protective measures in place in September will be sent via Parentmail before we return to school. These will include-

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

Covid-19 Testing at home throughout the Summer holidays

1. During the summer holidays your child does not need to take part in twice weekly LFD covid home testing as this will be paused over the summer holidays following government advice.
2. If your child or anyone in your household develops covid symptoms (temperature, cough, loss of taste or smell) you should book a PCR test at a test centre.

Reporting Positive Covid-19 Tests over the Summer holidays

1. After the 21st July 2021 – 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.
2. On return to school in September - parents and carers should inform the school by emailing enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk or phoning the school to inform us if your child has tested positive over the Summer period and/or will not be returning due to self-isolating or if their child is unwell for any other reason and is unable to attend school.

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.

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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
- 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 folder and mini whiteboard

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

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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.

End of Term Arrangements

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

YEARS 7 and 8 - END OF THE DAY ON MONDAY 19TH JULY

YEAR 9 and 10 - END OF THE DAY ON TUESDAY 20TH JULY

Confiscated mobile phones can be collected at Main Reception on 21st July 12.30pm

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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

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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

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 this Summer term and throughout this school year. I hope everyone has a restful summer.

Yours sincerely

Ms J Davies

Ms J A Davies
Headteacher