



Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearing the end of yet another busy term and are very appreciative of your support in our many and varied activities.

The term will end on Friday 20th December at approximately 12.20 pm. Students wishing to have a school lunch will have one provided at morning break.

School will re-open again for students on Tuesday 7th January 2020 with registration at 8.45a.m.

Forthcoming Events:

Teacher Day (Students are not required in school)	-	Monday 6th January
Spring Term begins School Re-Opens for all students	-	Tuesday 7 th January at 08.45a.m.
Year 12 University of Law Workshop	-	Tuesday 7 th January
Year 7/Nightingale Coffee Morning	-	Wednesday 8 th January 8.45-10.30am
6 th Form Parent's Evening	-	Thursday 9 th January 4.00pm-6.00pm
Year 11 English Literature Mocks	-	Week beginning 27 th January
Year 8 Parent's Evening	-	Thursday 30 th January 4-6pm
PSD Day 3	-	Thursday 6 th February
Year 9 visiting ISHIDA	-	Monday 10 th and Tuesday 11 th February
Half term starts for students	-	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February
School Re-opens for all students	-	Monday 24 th February
Year 10 Parents Evening	-	Tuesday 25 th February 4pm-6pm
Year 11 English Literature Mocks	-	Week beginning 4 th March
Year 9 School Leaving Booster Vaccinations	-	Monday 4 th March
What Next Careers Show (NEC) - Year 10	-	Friday 28 th February
Year 8 Examinations Week	-	Week beginning 2 nd March

'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)

Year 8 & 9 HPV Vaccinations	-	Tuesday 3 rd March
Year 11 Maths Mock Examination	-	Friday 6 th March
#Yourstemwm Event at Millennium Point – Year 9/10	-	Friday 6 th March
Year 11 Maths & English Mock Exams	-	Week beginning Monday 9 th March
PSD Day 4	-	Monday 9 th March
Year 9 Parents Evening	-	Tuesday 10 th March
Year 8 Big Bang Visit (NEC)	-	Friday 13 th March
Year 11 French Mock orals	-	Week beginning 16 th March
Parent Workshop on Apprenticeships	-	Thursday 26 th March
Year 10 Apprenticeships Show (ICC)	-	Friday 27 th March
The Woman in Black performance at the New Alexandra Theatre	-	Wednesday 1 st April
GCSE French Trip	-	Thursday 2 nd April
Term Ends for students at 12.30p.m.	-	Friday 3 rd April
Summer Term begins	-	Monday 20 th April

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 attached uniform list for further details. Please also be aware of the PE kit letter that was sent to parents/carers last week.

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 green 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

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.

Mobile Phones and other valuable items

Mobile phones 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.

Attendance

Hillcrest School continues to work in partnership with parents to ensure all children have good attendance. **We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly.** It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education. Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence.

Hillcrest attendance is currently **95.26%** which is a fantastic school effort that we would like to continue throughout the school year. Please continue to support Hillcrest School and Sixth Form Centre in raising attendance levels.

Parking at Hillcrest School

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.

End of Term Arrangements

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

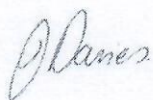
YEARS 9 and 10 - END OF THE DAY ON WEDNESDAY 18th December
YEARS 7 and 8 - END OF THE DAY ON THURSDAY 19th December

Confiscated mobile phones can be collected at Main Reception on Friday 20th December at 12.20p.m.

School will close at 12.20 pm on Friday 20th December for all students. Those entitled to a free school meal may collect one at break.

Thank you for your continued support. 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