



Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

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11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to the new academic year, it has been great to have our students in school again and ready to learn. I extend a particular welcome to new parents/carers and look forward to meeting you during the coming term.

The preparations by all staff are working well and we have been really pleased with the bubble systems we have in place and how our students have settled into their new routines and school systems.

Examination Results 2020



Congratulations to all Year 11 and 13, we are delighted to celebrate outstanding results at A Level & GCSE.

A LEVEL RESULTS 2020

At **A Level** we had another great year of results and had a **100% pass rate** for the **9th consecutive year**. (97.6% Nationally 2019).

- 100% A* to C in A Level Maths, Further Maths and English Literature
- 100% A* to B in A Level Psychology, Criminology and Philosophy and Ethics
 - 94% A* to C Grades
 - 74% A* to B Grades
 - 26% A*/A Grades
- ✓ 100% of students are now on University or Apprenticeship routes.

'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)

GCSE RESULTS 2020

We're delighted to announce another year of successful **GCSE results**.

English and Maths

69% of students achieved the new pass grade (4+) in both English and Maths.
56% of students achieved the strong pass grade (5+) in both English and Maths.
20% of students achieved the top grades of 7+ in both English and Maths

English

84% of students achieved the new pass grade (4+) in English
72% of students achieved the strong pass grade (5+) in English
39% of students achieved grade 7+ English

Maths

74% of students achieved the new pass grade (4+) in Maths.
59% of students achieved the strong pass grade (5+) in Maths.
20% of students achieved grade 7+ in Maths.

Ebacc

56% of students achieved the Ebacc set of subjects with standard pass (grade 4+) in Maths, English, Humanities, Languages and 2 or more Science qualifications.
38% of students achieved the Ebacc set of subjects with a strong pass (grade 5+) in Maths, English, Humanities, Languages and 2 or more Science qualifications.
84% of students were entered for the Ebacc set of subjects.

30% of all GCSE results were at grade 7, 8 or 9.

Attainment 8 Score = 53.26

Ebacc APS= 5.13

Year 7 Parent/Carer Teams Event- Thursday 17th September

We held an information event on Thursday 3rd September for Year 7 parents/carers. However, due to current restrictions, we were only able to allow 25 parents/carers to attend. I know that several other parents arrived at school, but we were unable to accommodate them at the event.

We have, therefore decided to organise another **Year 7 Parent/Carers Information event on Thursday 17th September (5.00-6.00pm)** for any parent who was unable to attend the initial event on 3rd September. This event on 17th September will be held on-line via MS Teams. Parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet key members of staff during this event and we will provide information on our homework, teaching and learning, special educational needs, safeguarding and attendance procedures.

If you would like to participate in this on-line event, please email **scnorr-hemming@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk** by Tuesday 15th September to confirm your participation. You will then be sent information on how to access the event on-line.

If you are unable to participate in the event, you can contact your child's College Leader, Miss King, to find further information about school procedures.

Year 6 Hillcrest Open Week 2020

Due to Covid-19, we are unable to offer our normal Open Evening/programme of school tours and teaching demonstrations. Therefore, this year we will be holding three live webinars for Year 6 parents and carers to be able to listen to our Senior Leadership Team and key members of staff talk about life at Hillcrest. From 17th September, we will also be uploading a video to allow for a 'Virtual' Open Day experience, and will also have a FAQ's page for both prospective parents/carers and students. If you or someone you know are interested in attending the online webinar, please contact us on Enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk or call Main reception on 0121 4643172 with your name, your child's name, current Primary School, email address for the invite and which session you would prefer. The online sessions are below:

Session 1- Thursday 17th September at 6pm

Session 2 – Monday 21st September at 5pm

Session 3- Thursday 24th September at 5pm

Homework

All students receive a homework timetable where they are set homework every day. Students in Year 7 should be spending approximately one hour per evening on homework and in Year 8, one hour and a quarter per evening, Year 9, an hour and a half and Year 10 and 11, two hours per evening. Establishing and maintaining these good habits out of lessons will make a huge impact on your child's progress. Research like the EPPSE project found that students who reported spending between 2 and 3 hours on homework on an average weeknight in Year 9, were almost 10 times more likely to achieve excellent GCSE results than students who did not spend any time on homework.

Home Access Plus

All students are able to access their school emails and documents using the Home Access+ icon on the school website. Here they will also find links to the on-line learning resources listed below that Hillcrest provides for students. Homework is set via 'Show My Homework'. Details have been given to students and parents via 'Show My Homework'. A link to this can be found on the school website.

A homework timetable is sent to parents at the start of each school year and is also available on the school website.

Accelerated Reader
Doddle (ICT)
Active Learn
Hegarty Maths

MathsWatch
My Maths
Kerboodle
Seneca



Safety around the school premises

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. 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.

Temporary End of the day timings until further notice:

Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri

Year 7 period 6 finishes at 15.10
Year 8 period 6 finishes at 15.10
Year 9 period 6 finishes at 15.20
Year 10 period 6 finishes at 15.20
Year 11 period 6 finishes at 15.30
Year 12 and 13 period 6 finishes at 15.30

Wednesday's

Year 7 period 6 finishes at 13.50
Year 8 period 6 finishes at 13.50
Year 9 period 6 finishes at 14.00
Year 10 period 6 finishes at 14.00
Year 11 period 6 finishes at 14.10
Year 12 and 13 period 6 finishes at 14.10

Student technology Survey

A survey asking questions about your child's technology access at home was sent to all parents/carers to complete this week through ParentMail. Please ensure the survey is completed by Monday 14th September through Parentmail. Those parents/carers who are currently not on ParentMail have been sent their survey through the post. Please complete this and return in the pre-paid envelope supplied.

Remote Learning

If a decision has been made for schools to close or a student has to stay at home, we will be using SMHW and Microsoft Team platforms for remote learning. We will write to you with further guidance should remote learning be required.

'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.



School Policies

Please see our website for all School Policies including the Getting It Right- Behaviour Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, Attendance Policy, Remote Learning Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Reminders:

- Students must arrive at school between 8.30am and 8.40am.
- The Parents' Handbook which all parents/carers receive on admission is available on the school website and an additional copy was sent via ParentMail.

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/carers will be contacted. Students are not allowed to attend lessons out of uniform. Please see the attached uniform list for further details.

Allergy Aware

Some students at Hillcrest have nut allergies, therefore, we request that students do not bring nuts or nut based products into school to ensure the safety of all students

Data Checking Forms

As part of our safeguarding provision in school it is vitally important that we have up to date contact details and personal information about all students. Data checking sheets will be sent home with students earlier this week for all students in Years 8-13. I would appreciate it if you could read the information carefully, make any necessary amendments and ensure your child returns it to student reception by **Friday 18th September 2020**. It is particularly important that we have your current address, telephone numbers and email address to ensure we can contact you in the event of an emergency. Similarly, in the final section, please update the names and contact details of other people (ie - family members or friend) you would like us to contact if we were unable to contact you in the event of an emergency. In addition, please update all relevant sections on your child's country of birth and nationality, and languages spoken at home in the family as we are required to track this information on our school census.

ParentMail

Please ensure you are signed up to ParentMail as this will make accessing information much easier and quicker.

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

Please note that **your child will not be able to bring cash into school to pay for school dinner money and school trips.** All payments will now need to be made by you online 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).

It's easy to register for ParentMail. Please contact the school on 0121 464 3172 and ask for your ParentMail registration link – we will then send you a text or email with a link for you to sign up to ParentMail.

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

May I wish you all an enjoyable year and I look forward to seeing you at our many school events. Please remember we all have a responsibility to support social distancing and make sure we give each other space. Your support is vital to the success of your child.

Best wishes



J A Davies (Ms)
Headteacher