



# 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](mailto:enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk)

Tel: 0121 464 3172  
Fax: 0121 428 1075

December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearing the end of busy term and are very appreciative of your continued support.

The term will end on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at approximately 12.30 pm.

**School will re-open again for students on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 with registration at 8.45a.m.  
(Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January is an inset day- Student on site testing will take place)**

### COVID testing on return to school

If you have previously consented to your child being tested at school for covid lateral flow tests, your child is invited to attend school **on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (inset day) for testing only** (please see times for your child to attend below)

The testing is voluntary, and all parents must have previously completed a consent form. If you have not previously consented but you would now like your child to be tested on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 please email [enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk) and we will send you a consent form to complete and return.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 your child will only attend school for their lateral flow test and will then go home after their test is completed. Your child should then return to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (if their covid test is negative)

### Covid test times for the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Year group	Arrival time
7	8.30 to 9.30
8	9.30 to 10.30
9	10.30 to 11.30
10	12.00 to 1.00
11	1.00 to 2.00
6 <sup>th</sup> form	2.00 to 3.00

### Covid-19 Testing at home throughout the Christmas holidays

Due to the new Omicron variant it is vital that students continue to test twice a week at home and follow these 2 steps every time a test is taken by your child at home:-

- 1) Reports the results to NHS test and trace
- 2) Email the test results to the school via [testresults@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:testresults@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk) (please put your child's name and whether the test was Negative, Positive or Void)

**Please also note that changes in the Government guidelines mean that any close contact of the new variant Omicron may need to self-isolate or take daily tests – track and trace will advise on this, please check the government guidelines as these change frequently**

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## Forthcoming Events:

### January

Tuesday 4th	Inset Day 3 and Student lateral flow testing
Thursday 13th	Year 9 Parents Evening
Friday 21st	Inset Day 4

### February

Thursday 3rd	Year 9 HPV (Dose 2)
Tuesday 8th	Year 10 Handball competition
Wednesday 16th	PSD Day 3
Friday 18th	End of term
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>21st-25th February</b>

### March

Thursday 3rd	World Book Day
Tuesday 15th	Year 8 and 9 Netball competition
Tuesday 22nd	Year 10 Speak Out
Thursday 31st	Year 10 Parents Evening

### April

Wednesday 27th	Year 7 Football competition
Friday 8th	End of Term
<b>Easter break</b>	<b>11th April-22nd April</b>

### May

Monday 2nd	BANK HOLIDAY
Thursday 5th	Year 7 Parents Evening
Wednesday 11th	Year 9 SLB Vaccine
Thursday 12th	Year 8 and 9 Football Competition
Tuesday 24th	Year 7 Rounders Competition
Thursday 26th	PSD Day 5
Friday 27th	End of term
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>30th May-3rd June</b>

### June

Monday 20th	Year 8 and 9 Rounders Competition
Tuesday 21st	Year 8 Parents Evening
Friday 24th	Inset Day 5

### July

Monday 4th	Y8 HPV Vaccine (Dose 1)
Thursday 7th	Summer Show 7pm
Friday 8th	PSD Day 6
Thursday 14th	Primary Olympics
Monday 18th	Sports Day– Field Event
Tuesday 19th	Sports Day– Track Event
<b>Thursday 21st</b>	<b>End of Term– Student finish at 12.30pm</b>

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## **Free School Meal Voucher for Christmas holidays.**

We can confirm that the local authority will provide two weeks of vouchers, totalling £30, to support families eligible for free school meals over the Christmas holidays. Families will receive an email with further information and a guide as to how to use the vouchers via ParentMail. A separate email containing the voucher code details will be sent from a hillcrest email address. These will be sent out during week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> December. If you have any queries or issues downloading the FSM voucher please contact the school on 0121 464 3172 or email [enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk)

## **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 receive a late mark and a late detention.

## **Dinner money and ParentMail**

If your child is purchasing food in the school canteen at the breakfast, mid-morning and lunch breaks can you please ensure your child has enough money on their card to cover the costs. If your child is eligible for free school meals this is allocated to students at lunchtimes but any food or drinks that are in addition to the free school meal or anything purchased during breakfast and mid-morning breaks is chargeable to parents. You are able to check how much your child has spent and what the balance on their card is on your ParentMail account and students can check their balances at the screen by the library. Parents will be contacted if students accounts go into debt and requested to add money asap to clear the account. Please have a conversation with your child regarding what they purchase at school and agree with them their spending limits.

## **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. Items of our uniform can be purchased from any supplier including supermarkets, with the exception of the School blazer, tie and PE top which have the school logo on and can be purchased from the uniform suppliers on the list attached. Ties can also be purchased from the school directly via ParentMail.

**Please see attached uniform list for further details.**

## **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.

## **Swipe Cards**

A reminder that students ID cards are now part of the uniform requirement, if students do not have ID cards visible on them will be issued a 30 minute same day detention- checks will be made regularly by staff throughout the day.

- The cards can be used for:-
- To purchase food in the canteen

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- To access the student entrance and toilets at break and lunch
- To loan library books from the Open Learning Centre
- To be able to identify the correct student / name



## 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 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'. 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
- Knowledge Organiser

Some equipment is available to be bought within 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.

## **ParentMail**

The school use an online communications system called ParentMail for the following: -

### **Communicating with parents**

- Sending you important emergency text messages, for example, if the school is closed due to bad weather.
- Text reminders of parents evenings or school events
- All school letters and newsletters are sent to you via email

### **Online Payments**

The school is cashless so students do not bring cash into school, you will need to use ParentMail for the following: -

- To put money on your child's swipe card so they can purchase food in the canteen.
- To pay for all school trips
- To purchase ID cards or school resources

### **How do you register and use ParentMail?**

Registering with ParentMail is very easy! The school will send you a text message or email from ParentMail and you just need to follow the instruction in the message.

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## **How do you access ParentMail?**

There are two ways you can access your ParentMail account

- 1) online via the internet [www.parentmail.co.uk](http://www.parentmail.co.uk)
- 2) or you can download the ParentMail App. Just search for "ParentMail" in your app store and download the app to your phone

## **Contact details**

It is extremely important that we have the correct contact details for you at all times, this includes an emergency contact number and your email address. If we don't have your correct contact details we will not be able to contact you via text and email. Please let us know if you change your telephone number or email address at any time.

## **If you need any help to setup ParentMail**

Please contact the school on 0121 464 3172 or email [enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk) if you need an ParentMail activation message sent to you or if you have any further questions or need assistance getting set up with ParentMail.

## **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 3.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 2.20pm 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.

## **'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](mailto:support@crusebirmingham.co.uk)

<http://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help>

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Parent, carers and young people can use the mind map attached to connect to the leads and discover other services that are available in each locality during Covid-19.

## 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 Autumn term. I hope everyone has a restful break.

Yours sincerely  
*Ms J Davies*

Ms J A Davies  
Headteacher

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