



# Hillcrest School

A Specialist Maths & Computing College  
and Sixth Form Centre



Maths &  
Computing

Headteacher: Julie Ann Davies BEd (Hons) N.P.Q.H.

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JAD/JS

12th September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year, I hope that you enjoyed the summer break. I extend a particular welcome to new parents/carers and look forward to meeting you during the coming term.

## Examination Results 2016

Congratulations to all Year 10, 11 12 and 13 students who took external examinations and parents/carers who supported them through what is always a very stressful period.

We are delighted to celebrate excellent results at A Level & GCSE.

## A LEVEL/BTEC Level 3 RESULTS 2016

**100% Pass rate in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016**

**77% of entries graded A\* to B**

**94% of entries graded A\* to C in 2015**

## GCSE Results

**74% of entries at A\* to -C grade.**

60% of students achieved A\* to C grades in both English and Maths

44% of students achieved the Ebacc set of subjects.

14% of entries graded A\*/A.

## **Outstanding individual GCSE performances.....**

Sara 11 GCSEs (A\*x9, Bx2 & 1 A/S grade A),

Aneshae 9 GCSEs (A\*x6, Ax3)

Nada 11 GCSEs (A\*x5, Ax6)

Jayna 10 GCSEs (A\*x2, Ax6, Bx2)

Fahana 10 GCSEs (A\*x1, Ax7 Bx2) and many more very good results.....

'Staff are very caring and students appreciate the support that they receive.'

'The school's 'getting it right' policy is instrumental in managing the positive behaviour seen across school.'

(Ofsted 2013)



## **Hillcrest Open Week 2016**

The week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> September is our Open Week. Many students will be coming back on the evening of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to act as guides and to be involved in activities. We are most appreciative of their help.

## **Out of Hours Learning**

Please find attached to this letter a copy of school clubs and activities for this half term. After school clubs run from 3-30 to 4-30pm unless a specific time is identified. As students finish school by 2-15pm on Wednesdays all afterschool clubs and activities will run from 2-20pm to 3-20pm, again unless a specific time is identified.

## **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. All students are given a weekly sticker for their planners with a 'top tip' to help them 'Review, revise and re-visit' their learning. 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 5 A\*-C 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.

Accelerated Reader  
Doddle (ICT)  
Sam Learning  
Active Learn

MathsWatch  
My Maths  
Kerboodle



## **Safety around the school premises**

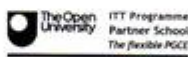
We would be grateful if you could take care not to block the driveway to the Fire Station, Den Caney Coaches or Swallow Foods. Please consider the safety of students when parking on the school grounds and do not block pavements and walkways. At the end of the school day please take care not to block the entrance to the drop off car park as this causes danger for students using the crossing and other motorists. We are lucky to have off road parking as many schools do not have this facility. As always, we advise that if the car park is full, the safest place to park is on Stonehouse Lane beyond the school bus stop.



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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.
- The Parents' Handbook which all parents/carers receive on admission is available on the school website and an additional paper copy can be requested via the school office.

## 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 will be contacted. Students are not allowed to attend lessons out of uniform.

### **Students must wear:**

- Bottle green blazer with Hillcrest Badge
- Bottle green skirt or trousers of regulation style and length.
- Plain black tights, or plain dark or white socks
- Gold school blouse (not a polo shirt)
- Black shoes of plain style, well-fitting and FLAT HEELED, but not sling backs.
- School tie (correctly worn to the neck).
  
- **Optional:**
- Bottle green jumper with the school crest
- For Religious reasons students may wear the regulation headscarf in bottle green, white or black plain material.

### **Additional information:**

If students wish to wear extra clothing under their uniform it must not be visible.

Trainers and boots are not to be worn.

Nail varnish, unnatural hair colours and facial piercings are not permitted.

## 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. Please find enclosed a copy of your child's current Data Checking Form. 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 **Monday 19th September**. 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.

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## Spotlight Letter

Please also find enclosed a copy of the annual Spotlight letter issued by the Local Authority. Every school in Birmingham is required to send this standard letter to parents/carers at the start of each academic year to outline the actions that will be taken by the Local Authority if a student has 10 days unauthorised absences over a twelve month period. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Connor-Hemming if you have any questions about the contents of the letter or any other attendance matters.

**ParentPay - our online payment service-** Visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

Just a reminder that we now accept payments for dinner money and school trips online!! Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card. What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7.
- The technology used is of the highest internet security available, ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind.
- Payments can be made by credit/debit card.
- Full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at any time.
- **Your children won't have to worry about losing money at school.**
- Parents can choose to be alerted when their balances are low via email and/or SMS text.
- Enter your Activation username and password in the Account Login section of the homepage (***this is on the letter we sent you, if you need another copy please contact the school***).
- Provide all the necessary information and choose your new username and password for your account - registering your email address will enable us to send you receipts and reminders.
- Once activation is complete you can go straight to Items for payment, select which item(s) you want to add to your basket and proceed to complete your payment.

For new Year 7 students letters will be given to students to bring home next week with your username and password.

May I wish you all an enjoyable year and I look forward to seeing you at our many school events. Your support is vital to the success of your child.

Best wishes



J A Davies (Ms)  
Headteacher

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 Microsoft  
Partner School

 ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

 Living the Olympic  
and Paralympic Values

 Socrates  
Comenius  
Education and Culture

 Specialist Schools  
and Academies Trust

 impetus  
shared values in action

 Q

 LEADING  
ASPECT  
AWARD

 Healthy Schools

 ORACLE  
Academy

 The Open University  
ITT Programme  
Partner School  
The flexible PGCE

 CISCO SYSTEMS  
Networking  
Academy

 International  
School Award

 iC