

# WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

KEY SCHOOL DATES, EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SPRING TERM 2024

**Wednesday 7th February 2024** - Year 9 Immunisations

**Friday 9th February 2024** - End of Spring Term 1

**Monday 19th February 2024** - Start of Spring Term 2

**Monday 26th February 2024** - Year 9 Options Evening 4:15pm - 6:00pm

**Friday 22nd March 2024** - End of Spring Term 2

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **Inclement Weather Contingency Plans**

In the event of school closure due to adverse weather conditions, parents and guardians will receive a text message through the School Gateway, and relevant information will be posted on our school website.

### **Updated Record-Keeping**

A reminder to all parents and guardians to promptly notify the school of any changes in personal details, including contact information, name, address, etc. This ensures the effective implementation of school policies and procedures.

### **Small Peice Girls into Engineering 2024 (13th August 2024 - 15th August 2024)**

Smallpeice Trust are providing a residential opportunity at Loughborough University AND places are fully funded for HHGS Year 9 pupils. If the cost of this residential does not deduct from your application, please contact the school.

Find more details about the event [here](#).

Click [here](#) to book for the residential.

Please see the [FAQs](#) area on the SMALL PEICE website.



# Religious Studies Department @HHGS!

## Benefits of DEBATING!

Allows quick-thinking.  
Inspires articulation.  
Allows for broader view of the world.

Develops critical thinking skills.  
Supports presentation skills.  
Builds research skills.

Shapes emotional control.  
Nurtures resolution of conflict.  
Builds greater empathy.  
Helps find meaning in complex situations.

What can we do at home to support our young people to develop key 21st-century skills such as self-confidence, communication, and empathy. Take some time as a family to take part in the BIG debate statement that will be sent home weekly. Religious Studies debate-led practise puts our young people at the centre of their learning and equips them with the critical-thinking and leadership skills required to tackle big questions in the world.

**Two wrongs do not make a right.  
Evaluate**

What do you believe & why?

What would other religious traditions say?

What would non-religious traditions say?

RS Disposition: Living by rules.

A good debate is more than just an argument: 'It's the ability to see one statement or idea from various perspectives, through critical thinking, critical listening and critical speaking.' [Leela Koenig](#)

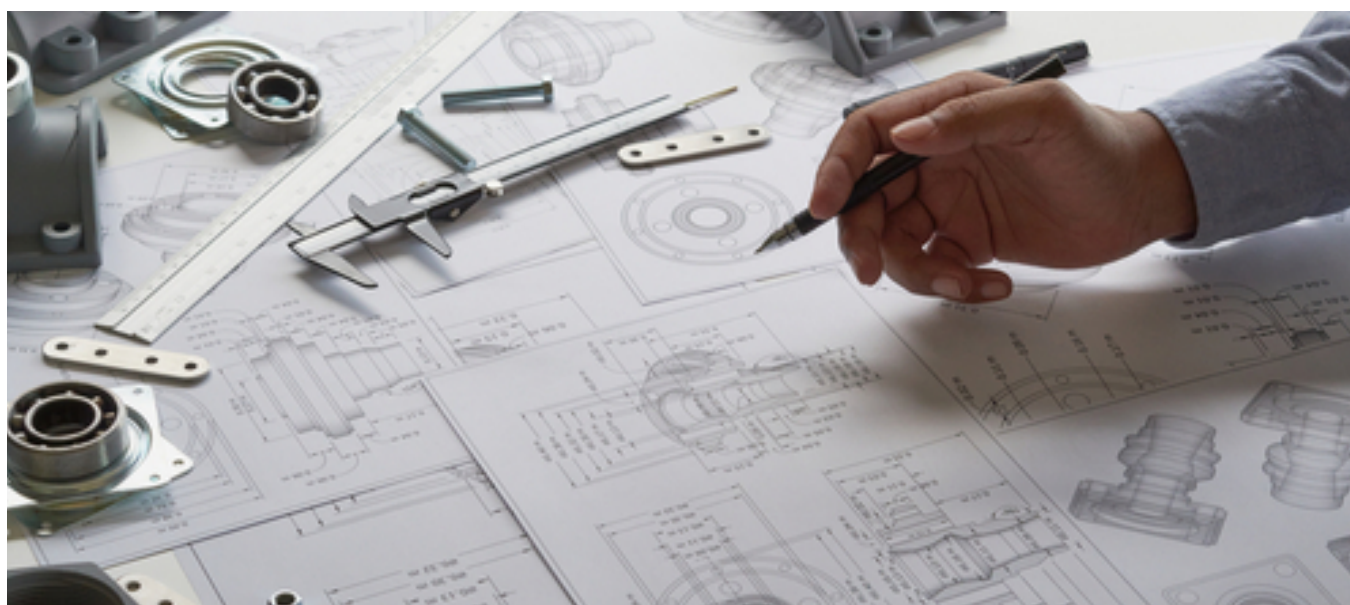
Spring 1- Week 3

### **Job of the Week**

This week's job of the week is a Mechanical Engineer.

Mechanical engineers play a vital role in designing and improving power generation systems, such as steam turbines, gas turbines, and internal combustion engines. They focus on maximizing the efficiency of energy conversion processes by optimizing combustion, heat transfer, and fluid dynamics within these systems.

Find out more [here](#).



## **Solihull Approach - Free Parent Resources**

Hodge Hill Girls' School sits in a free access area for in our place which is an online hub for parent resources in children's and teenager's emotional health and wellbeing. This is one of many courses available to our parents for free.

Access free parent resources **here**.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD  
SOLIHULL APPROACH

inourplace

NHS

# Understanding your relationships

Free online course to follow in your own time to help understand your relationships and your mental health.

- Understanding your emotions in your relationships
- Communicating feelings and expressing yourself
- Reading others behaviours and different communication styles
- Managing conflict, self-regulation and anger

Designed by expert psychologists in partnership with people

www.inourplace.co.uk

Course costs £24. You may be in a funded area thanks to our network of sponsors!

Use our

**FREE ACCESS CHECKER**

to find out if your area is covered and start learning for FREE!



### **National Apprenticeship Week Webinar**

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week 2024, founder of Success at School speaks to three inspirational apprentices about their journey to becoming an apprentice.

This webinar is for you if you are thinking about applying for an apprenticeship and want to learn how to make it!

**Date:** Wednesday, 7th February 2024

**Time:** 6.30 – 7.15pm

Book your slot for the webinar [here](#).

A banner for the National Apprenticeship Week 2024 webinar. On the left is the 'success at school' logo with an upward arrow. The main text reads 'National Apprenticeship Week 2024' in a dark blue rounded box, followed by 'Apprentice Wednesday: Ask an Apprentice Webinar!' in large, bold letters. Below this, there's a calendar icon and the date 'Wed, 7th February, 2024' with the time '18:30-19:15'. On the right, there's an illustration of four people in a video call with speech bubbles showing happy faces.

### **What Next? - Free Post-16 Event**

Join 'What Next?' at the NEC, Birmingham, on 1 & 2 March 2024 at the free event to learn more about educational options once pupils leave school or college.

#### **Opening Times:**

**Friday 1st March 2024:** 09:30 - 15:00

**Saturday 2nd March 2024:** 10:00 - 16:00

Book the free event [here](#).



### **Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery**

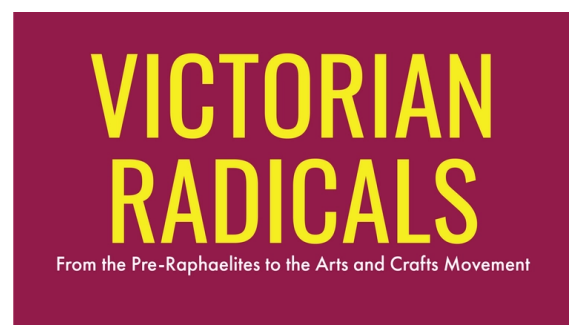
Victorian Radicals - From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement

#### **Opening Times:**

Begins on Saturday 10th February 2024

Open on Wednesday - Sunday from 10am - 5pm

Click [here](#) for more information and how to book.





## **The National Apprenticeship Show West Midlands FREE Event**

### **Parents/Carers/Individuals Dedicated Evening**

The National Apprenticeship Show West Midlands is the perfect event for pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 to discover more about Apprenticeships across the region.

The National Apprenticeship Show covers all levels of Apprenticeships, from entry level to higher and degree.

This FREE event offers visitors a chance to engage, face-to-face, with some of the regions top Apprenticeship employers and providers.

**Date:** Tuesday 30th January 2024

**Time:** 3:30pm - 6pm

**Location:** Coventry Building Society Arena, CV6 6GE



Click [here](#) to register.

### **BMET Inclusive Support SEN Open Event**

Inclusive Learner Support Open Event is taking place across all the main BMET college sites – James Watt, Matthew Boulton and Sutton Coldfield College.

BMET offers a variety of additional learning support depending upon the individual's needs.

Click [here](#) for more information and how to register your interest.

The poster has a red background with a white grid pattern. At the top, a list of words is arranged in a grid: Assistance, Help, Boost, Service, Encouragement, Lift, Kindness, Attention, Guidance, Backing, Helping hand, Aid, Facilitation, Attention, Service, Beneficence. Below this list, the text 'Inclusive Support (SEN) Open Event' is written in large, bold, white letters. To the right of this text is a photograph of a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue shirt, looking directly at the camera. Below the photo, the text 'IT'S YOUR FUTURE. We are here to help you' is written in white. To the right of this text is the large, bold, yellow text 'OWN IT!'. Below the main title, the text 'Our Inclusive Learner Support Open Event is taking place across all our main college sites –' is written in white. Below this, the names of the colleges are listed: 'James Watt College', 'Matthew Boulton College', and 'Sutton Coldfield College'. Below the college names, the text 'Hear and talk to our specialist Inclusive Learning Support team on the range of support offered at BMet.' is written in white. At the bottom left, the text 'Register at BMet.ac.uk/SENevent' is written in white. At the bottom right is the BMet logo, which consists of a stylized 'B' made of three colored lines (red, yellow, and blue) and the word 'BMet' in a bold, sans-serif font.



## University of Birmingham - Institute of Physics Evening Lectures

The following Physics lectures are suitable for GCSE-age pupils and above, held in the Poynting Physics Building, University of Birmingham.

**Doors open:** 19:00

**Lectures:** 19:30 – 20:30

- **Tuesday 6th February 2024**

Understanding the Atomic Nucleus: Into the Quantum Realm – Dr Jack Bishop, University of Birmingham

We hear a lot about the subatomic realm and new discoveries but how do we actually "see" the behaviour of matter at this scale? This lecture will give an overview of how physicists have learnt ever more about the core of every atom - the nucleus - and the techniques scientists use to study it and how these methods links to our everyday lives.

- **Tuesday 5th March 2024**

100 years of medical x-rays in Birmingham: how radiation has transformed healthcare delivered by Dr Geoff Hayes, Deputy Head of Radiotherapy Physics, University Hospitals Birmingham.

You can find more information (and recordings of previous lectures) [here](#):

- **Astronomy in the City**

Shorter talks on all things astronomy, held in the Poynting Physics Building, University of Birmingham. Suitable for families, students and adults, during the evening you can investigate interactive exhibits, visit the planetarium and try some observing from the roof.

**Doors open:** 17:30

**Sessions begin:** 18:00 – 19:00

The next instalment will be the 10th anniversary special on Wednesday 21st February 2024.

For more information and to book your free tickets, click [here](#):



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM





**BMet offers a variety of additional learning support depending upon the individual's needs. We offer support to students with SEND with their transition into college and beyond.**

- Interview with Inclusive Support team to assess and discuss support needs
- Transition visits and taster days
- A personalised support plan
- In class support (where applicable and stated on EHCP)
- Support in the Study Centres
- Exam concessions (where applicable). Please note concessions will only be granted when students attend the Study Centres for support

For more information visit **[bmet.ac.uk](https://bmet.ac.uk)**  
Call **0121 446 4545**

## GIRLS INTO ENGINEERING 2024 (RESIDENTIAL)

If your budding engineer loves the idea of using science and maths to make a positive impact on the world, or if she's a natural problem-solver with a creative flair, then we have the perfect opportunity for her! Girls into Engineering, run by The Smallpeice Trust, invites 12 to 14-year-old female students (Years 8/9 or equivalent) to embark on an exciting journey at one of the UK's leading universities – Loughborough University.

Why choose Girls into Engineering? This transformative course goes beyond the classroom, offering an immersive experience where students will work alongside industry experts, testing their technical and team skills. It's not just a course; it's the first step toward a brilliant engineering career that can take your child to places she's never imagined. Girls into Engineering is not all about learning; it's about experiencing life away from home. Imagine fun, action-packed days filled with hands-on activities and exciting challenges. And in the evenings, a carefully crafted programme of social activities, led by The Smallpeice Trust's experienced youth delivery experts and supervisors, ensures a perfect blend of education and entertainment.

Girls into Engineering is proudly supported by GE HealthCare and Leonardo, two amazing companies at the forefront of innovation. Through these partnerships, your daughter will have the unique opportunity to connect with real-world experts, develop and test her own products, and gain insights from those who live and breathe the engineering life every day.

*'I really liked meeting new people interested in the same things as me and getting to do fun activities with them. I also really enjoyed the food, accommodation, and the fun evening activities.'* **Girls into Engineering Student 2023**

Don't miss out on this chance to fuel your daughter's passion for engineering, empowering her to make a difference. Sign her up to Girls into Engineering – where creativity meets technical excellence!

### This event includes the following:

- Learning how different sensors work and how they can solve real world problems
- Designing and building projects and developing coding skills
- Putting designs to the test in several challenges
- Analysing data and finding ways to improve projects
- Tackling budgets and seeing how decisions affect finances



### WHEN

13 Aug - 15 Aug 2024

Start time: 10:00 hrs

Finish time: 16:00 hrs



### WHERE

Loughborough  
University



### COST

£345\*

\* If cost is a barrier  
please see our FAQ for  
more details.

[Book this course](#)





National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

# 12 Social Media

## Online Safety Tips

### FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.



#### 1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS



Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.

#### 2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

#### 3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE



This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.

#### 4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS



This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.

#### 5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION



Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.

#### 6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME



Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.

#### 7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.

#### 8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.

#### 9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE



Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.

#### 10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD



This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.

#### 11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA



When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.

#### 12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

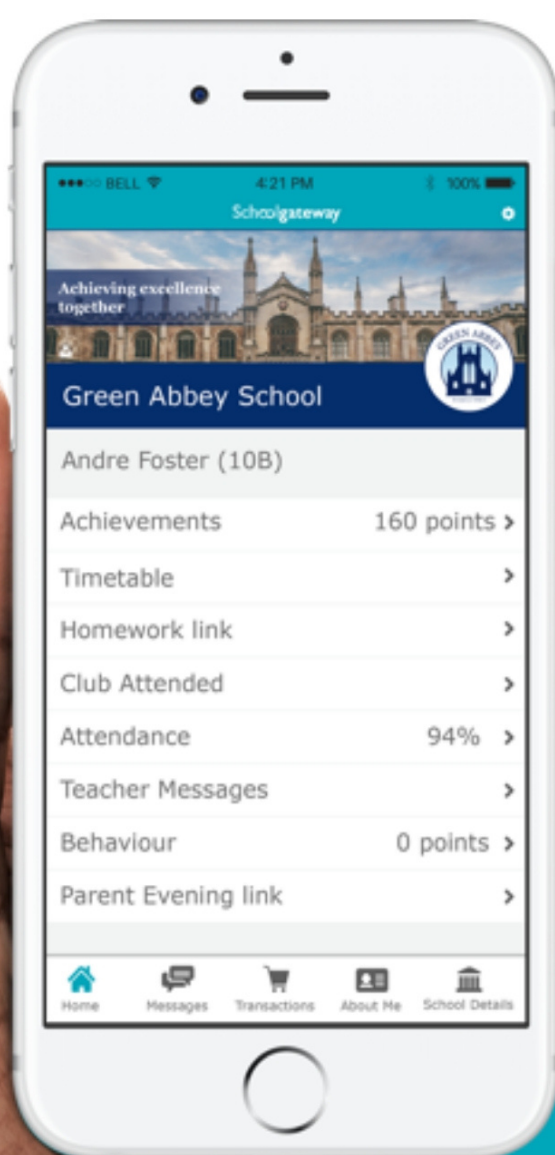


Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.



# Schoolgateway

School Gateway: keeping you up-to-date with your child's school life, wherever you are.



*"School Gateway genuinely gets me more engaged and involved at home with my daughters' schooling and rates a 10 out of 10 from me!"*

Rohan, Queen Elizabeths, Exeter

Download the  
app for free today



Available on the  
**App Store**



Get it on  
**Google play**

# **School Term Dates 2023/2024**

## **Spring Term 2024**

**Term Starts:** Monday 8th January 2024 to Friday 9th February 2024

**Half Term:** Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024

**Term 2 Starts:** Monday 19th February to Friday 22nd March 2024

**Term Ends:** Friday 22 March 2024

## **Summer Term 2024**

**Term Starts:** Monday 8 April 2024 to Friday 24th May 2024

**Half Term:** Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024

**Term 2 Starts:** Monday 3rd June 2024 to Monday 22nd July 2024

**Term Ends:** Monday 22 July 2024

## **Teaching Training Days**

Friday 28th June 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

