

# WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

KEY SCHOOL DATES, EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SPRING TERM 2024

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

**Monday 19th February 2024** - Year 11 Mock Examination Week

**Monday 26th February 2024** - Year 11 Mock Examination Week

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

**Monday 4th March 2024** - Year 7/8 Assessment Week

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

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### End of Spring Term 1

We wish all parents, carers, pupils and staff a restful half-term break!

A reminder to all parents/carers that school will be closed over the half-term break - if you require safeguarding and well-being assistance, please visit the safeguarding area of the school website. If you have any immediate safeguarding concerns, please contact The **Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS)**, they provide a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public who want to access support or raise concerns about a child.

**Monday to Thursday:** 8:45am to 5:15pm **Friday:** 8:45am to 4:15pm

**Telephone:** 0121 303 1888

**Emergency out-of-hours telephone:** 0121 675 4806

If you think someone is in immediate danger, the best thing to do is call 999 for the emergency services.

School will re-open to all pupils on Monday 19th February 2024.

### Proposed Changes to Travel Assistance Policy - Children and Young People's Travel Service

Children and Young People's Travel Service, part of Birmingham City Council want to hear your thoughts on the proposed changes to the Travel Assistance Policy.

Birmingham City Council is undertaking a review of its Travel Assistance Policy and as part of this review they want to consult with students, parents, carers, and all other stakeholders on the changes to the policy that are being considered. These changes would come into effect for the 2024/25 academic year (September 2024 onwards).

The Children & Young People's Travel Service will be hosting webinars for parents and carers on Thursday 15th February at 10.30am and on Thursday 7th March at 5.30pm, so that representatives from the service can explain the proposed policy changes and talk through the Council's consultation process.

Please visit the [Birmingham Be Heard website](#) to find out more about this consultation.



## Cost of Living

Many families are impacted by the cost of living crisis.

The link below provides a wide range of available help and support:

**[Access Cost of Living Support here](#) | [Birmingham City Council](#)**

### **February Half-term Supermarket Vouchers:**

Last week we informed you that supermarket food vouchers worth £20 per child are being provided by the DWP's Household Support Fund to help families during February half term. Voucher codes have now been sent by email to all priority 1 parental contacts. Please click the unique link in your email and follow the instructions to redeem your voucher. Codes are valid at the following shops: Aldi, ASDA, Farmfoods, Iceland, Morrisons, M&S, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose. You must redeem your code by 12th March at the latest.



## Impact Pathways West Midlands

Impact Pathways is a 'map' of provision designed to help people who live and work in the West Midlands access support they might need. It allows the public and professionals to search in their area for the resource, knowledge and expertise of statutory agencies such as the NHS, private companies, together with a whole range of charities and community groups who exist to offer services to support people. The agencies are arranged by 'pathways' and postcode.

The nine pathways are:

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Accommodation
- Children and families
- Finance, benefit and debt
- Mental and physical health
- Attitudes, thinking and behaviour
- Education, training and employment
- Domestic abuse, sexual abuse and sex work

If you are looking to access support for yourself or someone else please browse the IWP website [here](#). You can search by postcode, pathway, and get the information back as a list of providers who will work with you or on a map. The agencies on this site contain information about how to access their services and often this is FREE, confidential and may even be a walk-in service.



## 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.

It is morally wrong to stand by bullies & do nothing.

Evaluate

What do you believe & why?

What would other religious traditions say?

What would non-religious traditions say?

**RS Disposition: Being modest & listening to others.**

**Spring 1- Week 5**

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

### Apprenticeships Guide 2024

Success at School is a national careers website for pupils aged between 13-19, as well as teachers, careers advisors, and parents/carers. Young people can learn about their future career options through no-nonsense careers advice related to their own experience.

Click [here](#) to access the detailed flipbook Apprenticeship Guide 2024.

@HODGEHILLGIRLS

PARTNERSHIPS

RESPECT

INSPIRATION

DETERMINATION

EXCELLENCE

WWW.HODGEHGS.BHAM.SCH.UK

## Job of the Week

This week's job of the week is an Optometrist.

An Optometrist's role is to detect defects in vision, signs of injury, ocular diseases (diseases of the eye) or abnormality, and problems with general health.

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 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](http://www.inourplace.co.uk)

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



### **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**

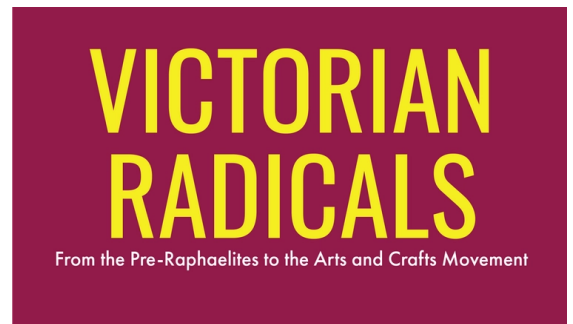
Victorian Radicals - From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement

#### **Opening Times:**

Begins on Saturday 10th February 2024

Open on Wednesday - Sunday from 10:00am - 17:00pm

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



### **FREE Ikon Gallery Event**

Join artist-educator Polly Brant for an experimental printmaking session, where families can explore the DIY side of print, from punk rock to its role in protest movements. Create your own mini-zines and posters using collage, stencil and monoprint techniques.

No need to book, just drop in.

This event is open to all families and aimed at all ages. Children must be accompanied at all times

#### **Opening Times:**

Wednesday 14 February 2024: 11:00am - 15:00pm

Click [here](#) for more information.





### **FREE Jewellery Workshop**

The Goldsmith Institute is delighted to offer 30 free places to Year 11 students on a Get into Jewellery Workshop in next week's half term on Thursday 15th February 2024.

During this session within our workshop, students will have the opportunity to develop and create your own designs and manufacture bespoke pieces including:

- Dog Tags
- Bracelets / Bangles
- Rings
- Necklaces
- Memorabilia.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about careers with Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, routes into gold smithing and the Institutes new Jewellery T Level (just 12 prestigious places) which opens September 2024.

**Tickets are available [here](#).**

### **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 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**



# Family FUN DAY

Entry is  
**FREE**

FROM  
**12pm**  
- **4pm**

**Washwood Heath  
Community Festival**

**13th February 2024**

**Eden Boys' School  
441 Alum Rock Rd  
Birmingham B8 3DT**



- **Five a side football**
- **Squash**
- **Archery**
- **Cricket**
- **Assault course**

- **Dogs**
- **Drones**
- **Firearms**
- **Food Stalls**



# RECONNECT WITH YOUR TEENAGER

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEENAGER'S BRAIN

An online course

### Day 1

WELCOME AND  
INTRODUCTION

10 min

### Day 2

TEENAGER'S BRAIN  
DEVELOPMENT

8 min

### Day 3

TEENAGERS  
AND READING  
FACES

14 min

### Day 4

RISK TAKING

8 min

### Day 5

RISK TAKING AND  
FRIENDS

14 min

### Day 6

SENSITIVE TO  
REJECTION

12 min

### Day 7

TEENAGERS AND  
SLEEP

14 min

### Day 8

REVIEW

6 min







## **Autism Empowerment Webinar**

This one-hour lunchtime webinar is a brief exploration of how Autism can present, the history of Autism, diagnosis as well as differences in communication and social interaction. We will also be looking at how the environment can impact on someone with sensory processing challenges.

The main aim of this webinar is to focus on the many strengths autistic individuals have and how we can increase understanding and Neuro-inclusivity through education and raising awareness.

**Webinars are held on Zoom on the following dates:**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 12:30 to 13:30**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 12:30 to 13:30**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 12:30 to 13:30**

At the end of the webinar, you will receive a certificate of attendance that will be emailed to your given email address.

**The cost of this one-hour webinar is only £5.50!**

To book your place on the webinar please either scan the QR code below or go to: [www.theautismtrainingnetwork.com/training](http://www.theautismtrainingnetwork.com/training)

"For every person who understands Autism better, another Autistic person will be happier."-  
Libby Scott, Autistic Author (at age 11)





# Help in Brum

## Find Help In Brum Are you concerned about the rise in cost of living?

Find some helpful contact details for advice and support.

Birmingham City Council and partners are working to support and offer guidance to our residents during the cost of living crisis in the UK.

We want to support as many of our residents as possible across key areas which are outlined in this leaflet.

### Warm Welcome:

We are working with the local community and a partnership of voluntary and community sector organisations to expand a network of warm spaces. These spaces will be available for people to use and visit during the winter period and beyond.

There are several existing Warm Welcome Spaces within local communities across the city. Warm Welcome Spaces are:

- inclusive and non-judgmental
- heated and free to access

The services at each space will vary but may include:

- information on further support and available guidance
- opportunities to participate in activities and learn new things
- free internet access, computers and charging points
- a friendly environment to connect with others within the community

You can find details of our current Birmingham Warm Welcome Spaces at

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/warmwelcome](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/warmwelcome)

Keeping checking back online as more spaces will be launched weekly.

### Benefits and Money Advice:

During the cost of living crisis, it is also important to ensure you have access to the right benefits and money advice for you. There are several information portals below which can help.

To find out what benefits you are entitled to, it is best to use the Benefits Calculator provided by the Government. Find out more by using this link [www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support](http://www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support)

Birmingham City Council has also developed several support factsheets which provide useful information on a range of debt related issues. You can view and download Information on [www.birmingham.gov.uk/debtadvice](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/debtadvice) team

If you are struggling with debt and need advice and support you can also visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum) which can help direct you to the right information.

There are also other services who offer free and confidential advice:

- The Project - Benefit, debt and housing advice  
0121 453 0606 | [www.theprojectbirmingham.org](http://www.theprojectbirmingham.org)
- Citizens Advice Birmingham - Advice on benefits, debt, housing and more  
Freephone 0808 278 7990 (Mon – Fri 9.30 am – 4.30pm) | [www.bcabso.org.uk](http://www.bcabso.org.uk)
- Disability Resource Centre - Advice and advocacy services for disabled people  
03030 402 040 | [www.disability.co.uk](http://www.disability.co.uk)

### Energy Efficiency:

As energy costs rise we are committed to reducing energy bills and helping everyone to keep warm as we head into the winter months.

There are several schemes already available for residents, with full information and guidance available at

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyhelp](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyhelp)

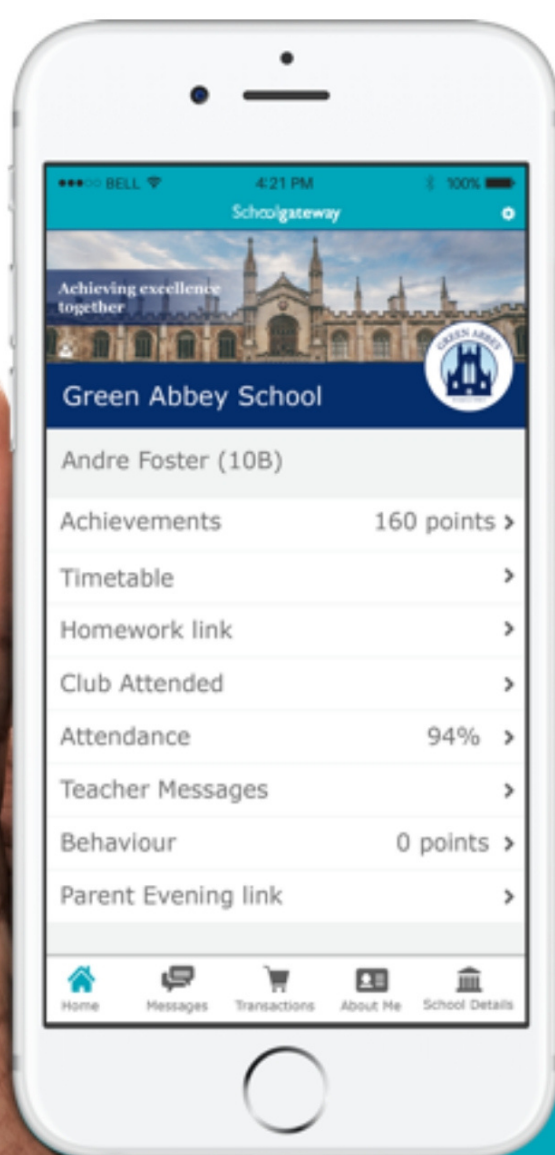
There has been a significant rise in energy scams linked to the cost of living crisis.

There is some helpful support on the Birmingham City Council website to avoid these scams.

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyscam](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyscam)

# 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

