

# WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

KEY SCHOOL DATES, EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SPRING TERM 2024

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

**Monday 8th April 2024** - Summer Term 1 begins

**Wednesday 9th April 2024** - Eid-ul-Fitr (TBC)

**Monday 15th April 2024** - Year 10 Parents Evening - 4:00pm till 6:30pm

**Monday 6th May 2024** - May Bank Holiday (School Closed)

**Monday 15th May 2024** - Year 7 Parents Evening - 4:00pm till 6:30pm

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Attendance Rewards - Ramadan Rewards

Starting from Monday 11th March 2024 we're launching an exciting attendance challenge for all pupils! If a pupil attends school everyday during Ramadan, they'll automatically be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win one of 15 Aldi gift cards worth £30 each! On the last day of Ramadan we'll conduct a random draw from the pool of pupils who achieved 100% attendance during this period. Three lucky winners from each year group will be selected to receive the £30 Aldi gift cards. Don't miss out on the opportunity to win a fantastic prize – your perfect attendance could be your ticket to an Aldi shopping spree!

### EAL/Newly Arrived

Below are some practical guidance documents to assist parents who have recently relocated from Afghanistan and speak Pashto. The documents offer guidance on how to support your child at home and also provide a brief overview of the British School system. Please take a moment to review the information provided.

[Help for Afghanistan people in the UK | British Red Cross](#)

[Layout 1 \(bell-foundation.org.uk\)](#)

[bell-foundation.org.uk/app/uploads/2021/10/Guidance\\_for\\_Parents\\_v4-Pashto\\_FINAL.pdf](#)

[Guide for parents - Secondary Schools \(bell-foundation.org.uk\)](#)

### Flash Academy

If your child has been in the country for less than two years, we recommend using the Flash Academy platform to enhance their English language skills. Encouraging your child to use this resource can greatly benefit their language development and help them succeed in their academic pursuits.

### EAL Clubs

Join us for the EAL after-school club every Monday and Tuesday. To enroll your child, simply sign up through SchoolGateway or reach out to us directly. We are happy to help!



# Easter

Holy Week 2023 will begin on  
Sun, 24/3/24 – Sat, 30/3 2024 &  
Easter is on Sun 31/3/24

## What is Lent?

- Lent will begin Wed, 14 Feb 2024 – Thu, 28 Mar 2024
- Lent begins the day after Pancake Tuesday, on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days.
- During Lent, many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline.
- Lent reminds Christians of the many ways in which Jesus Christ did everything he could to help all people recognise how much they are loved by God.
- Purple is a symbolic colour used during Lent in some Churches.

### Holy week

Palm Sunday	Jesus arrives to Jerusalem on a donkey,
Maundy Thursday	Jesus shares a meal with his disciples.
Good Friday	Jesus Christ is crucified on the cross & dies.
Easter Sunday	After 3-days Jesus Christ is resurrected & ascends to heaven.

### What is Easter?

- Easter is one of the major holidays of Christianity.
- it marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ 3 days after his death by crucifixion.
- For many Christian churches, Easter is the happy end to the Lenten season of fasting and repentance.
- The earliest recorded observance of Easter comes from the 2nd century or earlier.

### When is Easter?

- In 325 the Council of Nicaea directed that Easter should be observed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox (March 21).
- Easter, therefore, can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25.
- Eastern Orthodox churches use a slightly different calculation based on the Julian calendar.
- As a result, the Orthodox Easter celebration usually occurs later than that of Roman Catholics and Protestants.

### Why is Easter celebrated?

- It represents the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Old Testament.
- It signifies the revelation of God's salvific plan for all of humankind.
- It commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Easter also rejoices the defeat of death.
- It gives the hope of salvation.
- Christian tradition holds that the sins of humanity were paid for by the death of Jesus.

Let everything you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14

@HHGS-RS-dept

## The Big Debate

# Religious Studies Department @HHGS!

## Benefits of DEBATING!

WORLDVIEW

DEBATE

ATHEIST MIND  
HUMANIST HEART

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

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

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.

Quiet courage is better than loud.

Evaluate

What do you believe & why?

What would other religious traditions say?

What would non-religious traditions say?

RS Disposition: Being courageous & confident.

## Spring 2- Week 4

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



## Job of the Week

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

An animator produces multiple images called frames, which when sequenced together create an illusion of movement - this is known as animation. The images can be made up of digital or hand-drawn pictures, models or puppets. Animators tend to work in 2D, 3D model-making, stop-frame or computer-generated animation.

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!**



## **Bring It On Brum**

Bring it on Brum is back for the spring holidays!

Click [here](#) to book your slot.

**Reminder:** You will need you BIOB/ FSM/ HAF code to book.

We have a number of Bring it on Brum! providers that offer holiday clubs for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

**View SEND Provision.**





# Women's History Month Activity Grid

## March 2024



1. Read about the history of International Women's day	2. Watch a film by a female director	3. Listen to an inspiring podcast <a href="#">FAQs - Rebel Girls</a>	4. Watch one of the Makers documentaries <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@makerswomen">https://www.youtube.com/@makerswomen</a>	5. Read a poem by a female poet	6. Send a female you admire a text or an email of appreciation	7. It is world book day. Begin to read a book by a female author
8. Post on social media raising awareness of IWD  Happy International women's day!	9. Take a virtual field trip <a href="#">Online Exhibits   National Women's History Museum (womenshistory.org)</a>	10. Mothers Day!  Make a card for a motherly figure in your life expressing your appreciation.	11 Investigate the men who have made their 'stamp' on History <a href="#">Women Who Left Their Stamps on History (factmonster.com)</a>	12. Research the longest reigning Queen	13. Research a female scientist <a href="https://www.weareteachers.com/women-scientists/">https://www.weareteachers.com/women-scientists/</a>	14. Explore this timeline of first ladies and pick your top 3  <a href="#">First Ladies Timeline   National Women's History Museum (womenshistory.org)</a>
15. Explore the women of NASA <a href="#">The Women of NASA   National Women's History Museum (womenshistory.org)</a>	16. Watch this and complete your own act of kindness <a href="#">The woman who was kind every day for a year - BBC Ideas</a>	17. Listen to some music by a female artist/band	18. Find out and learn the names of Britain's female Prime Ministers and first ever female MP.	19. Choose a woman who you believe deserves a stamp but doesn't have her own yet and design one	20. Take a quiz! <a href="https://www.playbuzz.com/TIME/how-well-do-you-know-womens-history">https://www.playbuzz.com/TIME/how-well-do-you-know-womens-history</a>	21. Bake something using a recipe from a female chef/baker  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/celebs/mary_berry">https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/celebs/mary_berry</a>
22. Attempt to recreate an iconic piece of art made by a woman <a href="https://www.britannica.com/topic/Girl-with-a-Pearl-Earring-by-Vermeer">https://www.britannica.com/topic/Girl-with-a-Pearl-Earring-by-Vermeer</a>	23. Educate yourself on the Me Too Movement	24. Compliment a woman you know that is not connected to how she looks!	25. Colour in a page about women <a href="https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/people/womens-history-month-coloring-pages/">https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/people/womens-history-month-coloring-pages/</a>	26. Watch a TED Talk by a woman	27. Listen to an audiobook narrated by a woman	28. Engage in a women's history scavenger hunt  <a href="https://hostme.blob.core.windows.net/images/bex/bic/docs/Womens%20History%20Scavenger%20Hunt1.pdf">https://hostme.blob.core.windows.net/images/bex/bic/docs/Womens%20History%20Scavenger%20Hunt1.pdf</a>
29. Go onto BBC news and read an article linked to women	30. Watch a women's football match or another sport where females are competing	31. Watch the new Barbie movie!	Whether you do all 31 activities or just a few we want to thank you for making a positive difference to your own life and those around you.			



## **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)

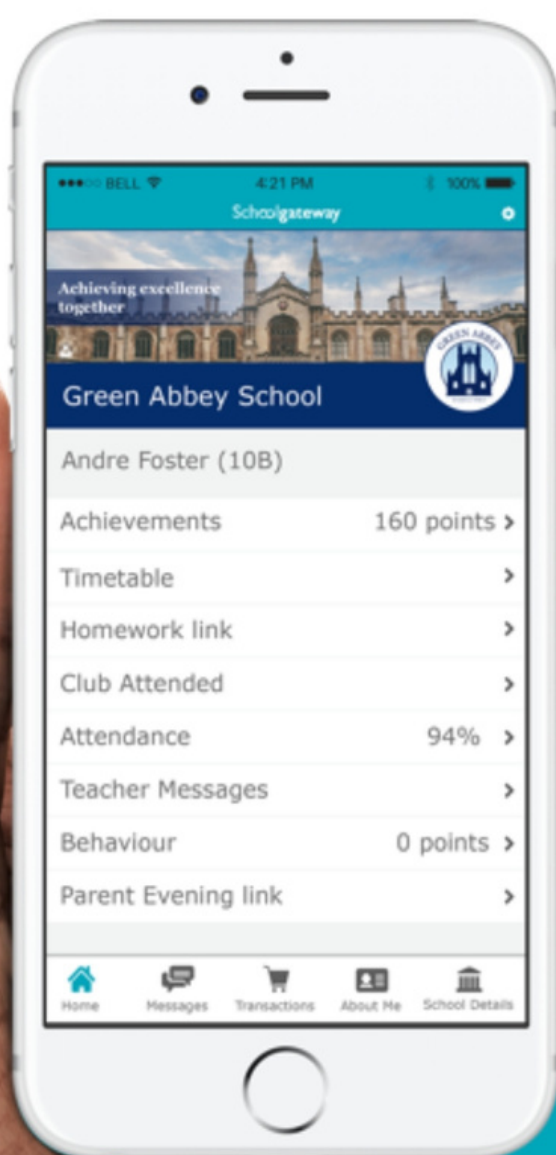
There has been a significant rise in energy scams linked to the cost of living crisis.

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

