

# WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

KEY SCHOOL DATES, EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SPRING TERM 2024

**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

**Monday 15th May 2024** - Year 8 Vaccinations

**Friday 24th May 2024** - End of Summer Term 1

**Monday 3rd June 2024** - Start of Summer Term 2

**Monday 10th June 2024** - Year 8 Parents Evening - 4:00pm till 6:30pm

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **Year 10 Parents Evening 2024**

A reminder to all parents/carers of Year 10 Parents Evening on Monday 15th April 2024 from 4:00pm till 6:30pm. Join us for an opportunity to discuss with teachers how your child is performing and the actions that can be taken to ensure future improvements for academic success!

### **Mobile Phone Policy Reminder**

Government guidance on mobile phones in schools clearly state the importance of prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. Our school rules state that mobile phones must be turned off and stored in the pupil's bag throughout the school day. It is important to emphasise that any mobile phones found in a pupil's blazer will be confiscated and returned to parents only. Furthermore, pupils are prohibited from contacting parents during school hours via their mobile phones, and any attempts to do so will result in confiscation. Should pupils need to contact parent/carers they can do so through their Head of Year. Your cooperation and support in reinforcing this policy with your child are greatly appreciated.

### **Birmingham City Council Supported Internships**

Are you between 19 and 24 years old on an Educational Health Care Plan or a Parent/Carer of someone who is? This is a great opportunity to kick-start your career!

- Birmingham City Council's, 14-19 Full Participation and Skills Team [Supported Internship Programme](#) in collaboration with Heart of Birmingham Vocational College, Royal Mencap and Amazon provides hands-on work experience, training, and a Job Coach to support you into work. The internship welcomes all young people with disabilities, learning difficulties, or other additional needs. If you are interested, please complete the application form here: [Heart of Birmingham Vocational College - BCC Supported Internship \(hbvc.ac.uk\)](#).
- Birmingham City Council's, 14-19 Full Participation and Skills Team [Supported Internship Programme](#) in collaboration with Royal Mencap and Heartlands Hospital provides hands-on work experience, training, and a Job Coach to support 19-24 year olds with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to kick start their careers! Find out more here: [Supported Internship Programme](#), or contact Sarah Fletcher directly at [sarah.fletcher@mencap.org.uk](mailto:sarah.fletcher@mencap.org.uk)



# Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr April 24

عيد مبارك  
EID MUBARAK

## What is Eid al-Fitr?

- Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting.
  - It is celebrated on the 1st day of Shawwal, the 10th month of the Islamic calendar.
  - Eid is the Arabic word for 'festival'.
- There are two Eid's every year:
- Eid al-Fitr, after Ramadan.
  - Eid al-Adha, after Hajj.
- Eid al-Fitr means 'Festival of Breaking the Fast', as it comes after the fasting month.
  - Both Eid's are celebrated by all Muslims.
  - The celebration of Eid varies from country to country.

@HHGS-RSdept



Ramadan	
<b>Moon sighting</b>	Ramadan is the 9 <sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar; it begins and ends with the sighting of the moon.
<b>Fasting</b>	Muslims must fast from fajr until dusk throughout the month.
<b>Length</b>	Ramadan lasts for 29 or 30 days, depending on the moon sighting.
<b>Meals</b>	Special meals – Sahur (pre-dawn meal) and Iftar (breaking the fast) are eaten throughout the month.



### What happens on Eid?

- Charity (Zakat al-Fitr) is given before Eid starts.
- Everyone wears their best clothes.
- The whole community gathers for a special prayer in the morning.
- Families then gather and have lavish meals. Remember, this is the first day for a month that they are not fasting.
- Greetings, blessings and presents are exchanged, and a day of joy is had by all.

### Why is it important?

- Eid ul Fitr is a celebration of completing a month of fasting, praying and refraining from all negative actions and thoughts.
- Muslims worldwide thank Allah for giving them the strength, will, and fortitude they needed to observe the month-long fast and obey His commandments during Ramadan. They pray to Allah to help them stay on the right path & seek blessings for good deeds performed during Ramadan.
- Eid al-Fitr symbolises virtues like patience, piety and fortitude.
- It is a time for reflection, fresh beginnings and rejoicing with loved ones.
- Eid al-Fitr is also a reminder to be kind to those who are less fortunate.

Hadith: "Every community has a celebration, and this day is our celebration." al-Bukhārī 3931

## Vaisakhi 2024

# Vaisakhi

Sat: 13<sup>th</sup> April 24

Happy Vaisakhi!

## What is Vaisakhi?

- Vaisakhi (Baisakhi) has been a harvest festival in Punjab (India) for a long time, even before it became so important to Sikhs.
- It is a spring festival which happens on 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> April every year.
- Vaisakhi is one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar.
- It is a day to celebrate 1699, the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith.
- Yellow and orange are the traditional colours of Vaisakhi. They represent the spirit of rebirth and sacrifice of the 'Panj Pyare' but are also a colour of joy and celebration.

@HHGS-RSdept

### The story of Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)

- In 1699, during Vaisakhi, Guru Gobind Singh formed the Khalsa, a community of Sikhs.
- At the festival, he emerged from a tent with a sword, challenging Sikhs to prove their faith by risking their lives.
- Five Sikhs entered the tent, one by one, and the Guru reappeared alone each time, with blood on his sword, causing alarm among the spectators.
- The tension was relieved when these five men emerged unscathed, now adorned with turbans.
- Named the 'Beloved Five' or Panj Pyare, they were the inaugural members of the Khalsa.
- The Guru baptised them with Amrit (holy water) and started the Five K's tradition for Khalsa members to follow.



### What are the 5 K's?

- Kesh:** Uncut hair, signifying spirituality and holiness.
- Kara:** Steel bracelet, showing restraint.
- Kanga:** Wooden comb, promoting cleanliness and order.
- Kachera:** Cotton undershorts, denoting dignity and modesty.
- Kirpan:** Ceremonial sword or dagger, representing courage and self-defense.

### How is Vaisakhi celebrated?

To celebrate Vaisakhi, Sikhs will:

- Visit places of worship called Gurdwaras.
- Decorate Gurdwaras for the occasion.
- Hold parades and special processions through the streets while singing hymns.
- Carry the holy book in the procession in a place of honour.
- Celebrations traditionally include music, martial arts, reading scripture and chanting hymns.
- Many Sikhs choose Vaisakhi as the day to be baptised into the Khalsa community.
- Farmers in the Punjab use Vaisakhi as an opportunity to give thanks for a plentiful harvest and pray for a good one in the year to come.

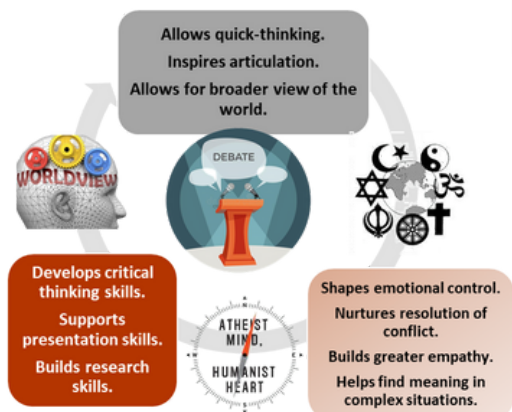


'May God shower you with endless blessings, love, and happiness. This festival brings the best growth for you.'



# Religious Studies Department @HHGS!

## Benefits of DEBATING!



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.

Both giving & receiving are important.  
**Evaluate**



What do you believe & why?



What would other religious traditions say?



What would non-religious traditions say?

RS Disposition: Sharing & being generous

Summer 1- Week 1

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 a Climate Change Analyst.

Climate Change Data Analysts specialise in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting climate-related data. They work with large datasets and use statistical and modelling techniques to identify patterns, trends, and projections related to climate change.

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 teenager's brain

**Free online course for all parents, carers, grandparents.**

- Understanding your teenager's brain development in adolescence
- Reading your teenager's behaviour and understanding their feelings
- Reflecting on the importance of your relationship and how to nurture your teenager's mental health

Designed by clinical psychologists in partnership with practitioners and parents



www.inourplace.co.uk

Course costs £9. 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!





## **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 0800 278 7990 (Mon – Fri 9.30 am – 4.30pm) | [www.bcab.org.uk](http://www.bcab.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)

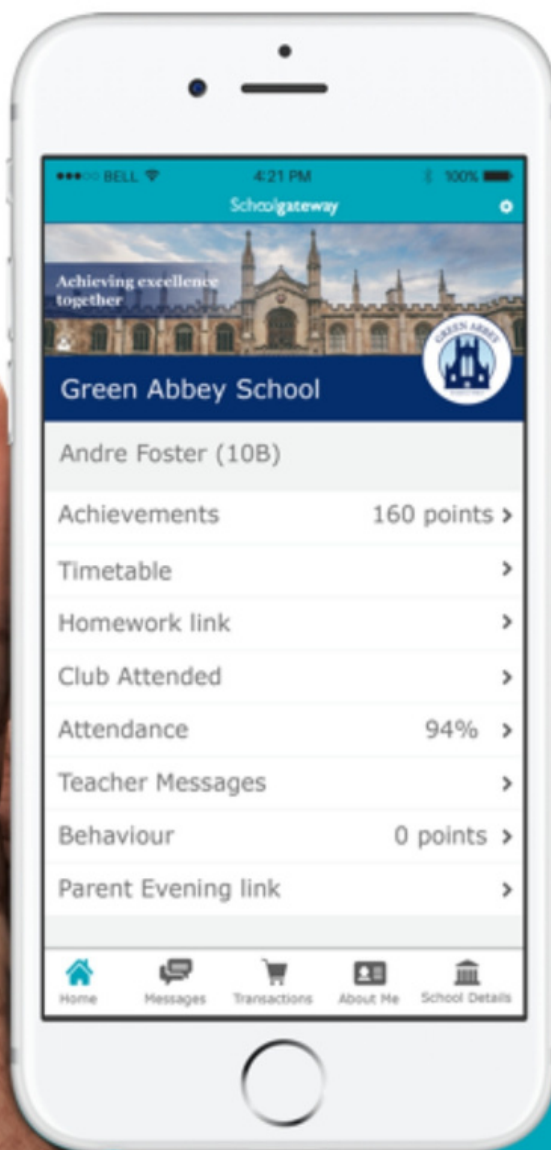
There has been a significant rise in energy scams linked to the cost of living crisis.

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**

## **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

