



Our Ref: RDE/KON

January 2023

ALL DERWENT PARENT/CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers of Derwent Students

Re: Derwent House Updates

I am your child's Head of House at Dormston. I would like to introduce you to our policies and procedures and ensure that you are aware of ways to get in touch if you need any assistance. Our motto is 'We are more than a *House*, we are a *Home*' and this truly is the mantra by which we exist. Derwent students should feel cared for and secure and know that their contributions will be celebrated. I want you to know that your children will be picked up for their behaviour if it is causing concern and their attendance will be monitored closely, but they will be praised and rewarded for their efforts and successes also.

I understand how difficult parenting young people can be and want you to know I am always here to help your child with issues that may be affecting their education and time at Dormston. My own children are now in their early 20s and I will never forget the 8.00am dash for food ingredients, the hunt for their PE kit and the constant cries of 'have you done your homework?' My own children were students at Dormston, as was I and I truly believe that this is an amazing place to help young people develop and reach their full potential. I hope that being a Derwent student, your child's experience is happy and fulfilling.

Derwent have excelled this year so far winning the Rowing Competition, the House Arts Competition, the Christmas Card Competition and by having the best attendance and behaviour so far. All of this is simply down to them applying themselves. We won the Rowing and House Arts because we had more students take part and that is all I will ever ask. I constantly try to encourage the pupils to be the best version of themselves, to be grateful for all that they have and regularly share current events to show them how lucky they are to be cared for and safe. My wish is that they take every opportunity, participate in extra-curriculum clubs, attend every day possible, apply maximum effort and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Extra Derwent Rewards (additional to whole school rewards)

Smiley Face Challenge

Every day on the daily PowerPoint a smiley face is displayed if Derwent gained 96% attendance the previous day and another if they gained less than 12 negative points. If they gain a certain amount of smiley faces every half term they will go on a reward trip!

Weekly Certificates

Each week, the form/s with the best attendance and behaviour will be issued a certificate to display in the form room and this will be on the weekly PowerPoint.

Derwent 'Star of the Week'

Every week a pupil/pupils will be named 'Star of the Week' for Derwent e.g. outside school achievements, inside academic achievements, helping other students, improvements in attendance/ behaviour etc.



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Head Teacher: Mrs C Sutton

Termly challenge

100% attendance and 0 behaviour issues for the whole term will result in prizes e.g. a small Christmas gift in December, small Easter egg at Easter etc.

Attendance Stars

Every week if a pupil has gained no absences, they will place a star on the chart in their classroom. When they get 10, they gain a certificate, 20 certificate and sweets and at the end of the year, the pupils with the most stars will be invited on a reward trip of their choice.

Behaviour

We follow the school's Prepared for Success Behaviour Policy and every incident will be recorded. Every half term, the students with the highest number of negative points are placed on Behaviour Monitoring and their progress will be observed. Contact will be made with parents/carers and again at the end of the half term, to see if your child has improved. We have the lowest number of negative points and I am so proud of your children for this! We need to keep it this way! The average number of positive points per pupil is 29 and negative points is 3.6- where does your child fit in? You can view your child's behaviour, homework, progress and attendance on GO4Schools. There are things you can do to support your child to ensure they do not gain negative points. Have they packed their correct equipment; books, PE kit, calculator? Are they in the correct uniform? No false eyelashes, no nose piercings, correct shoes? Are they on time? Do they need to leave the house earlier? If they are going to be late and it is unavoidable let me know and I can ensure they are not unfairly sanctioned (obviously for one offs!).

Attendance

We value attendance very highly at Dormston as it has such an impact on progress and your child's well-being. The school target is 97%, how close is your child to this? We follow the school's attendance policy that was sent to you in September and it is available to see on the website. If your child reaches the Stage 2 threshold, we will require medical evidence to authorise absences. All of this is to support your child in gaining the most of their time with us. We can support with many issues students have days off for. Friendship issues, we pair them with a 'buddy', homework issues - I will contact your child's teacher. For headaches/sore throats/ feeling sick/ cold etc. we can ask staff to sit them by a window and drink/take cough sweets etc. contact medical staff/leave early pass. There are many things we can do to support your child to be in school, you just need to let me know.

For any assistance at all, please email me on rdownie@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

Your children are amazing, thank you for everything you do.

Yours sincerely

R Downie

Mrs Downie
Head of Derwent