

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

Our Spelling Bee Competition has been gathering momentum this week with 15 students now through to the final which will take place next Thursday during Period 5 in front of a live audience of Year 7s! We look forward to sharing the overall winner's name with you soon. It was also our Welcome to Year 7 Evening on Tuesday and it was lovely to see so many of our new parents/carers in attendance. Information from the evening has now been emailed to parent/carers and uploaded to our website under our Year 7 tab.

We are pleased to confirm that Activities Week will be taking place next year and this week we have just launched an expression of interest for our residential opportunities. If you are interested in your child attending a residential please make sure you complete the on-line form by Monday.

Year 8 students have taken part in a colour cricket competition today and Year 11 have been to the Sealife Centre as part of their GCSE studies. They have come back buzzing!

With winter coming we thought what better way to reward our students than with our **NEW Hot Chocolate Reward Scheme!** Today, students enjoyed the special treat of hot chocolate with marshmallows and a biscuit. Students are selected based on their effort and attitude towards their learning on a fortnightly basis. We look forward to all students receiving this award at some point this year.

Best wishes.

Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

The vast majority of all letters are now emailed home and we use electronic reply slips as much as possible. The criterion for 'selected student only' opportunities are based on various factors depending on the trip and its focus. Unfortunately, we are unable to allow every student the opportunity to be involved with every activity which we understand sometimes causes disappointment. If you require more details about the selection process for any opportunity please contact the event organiser.

- All Parents/Carers - Calculator Letter;
- All Parents/Carers - United Against Bullying Programme Letter;
- Derwent Alton Towers Attendance Reward Trip Letter **Selected Student Only;*
- Year 7 - 10 Parents/Carers - Activities Week 2024 Residential Trip Expression of Interest Letter;
- Year 10 Parents/Carers - Bronze DofE Expression of Interest Letter **Interested students only;*

- Year 10 Art/Textiles - Kew Gardens Trip Letter;
- Year 10B & 10C Religious Studies Trip to Coventry Cathedral Letter;
- Year 11 Parents/Carers - Silver DofE Expression of Interest Letter **Interested students only;*
- Year 11 Parents/Carers - Welcome to Year 11 Evening Letter.

Events/Reminders

- Activities Week 2024 Residential Expression of Interest Deadline - Monday 25 September 2023;
- Bronze DofE Expression of Interest Information Meeting - Wednesday 27 September 2023 at 3.15pm;
- Welcome to Year 11 Evening - Tuesday 26 September 2023 at 6.30pm;
- Year 11 Real Apprentice Event - Thursday 28 September 2023; **Selected students only;*
- Spelling Bee Final - Thursday 28 September 2023 Period 5;
- Year 10 Textiles & Art Kew Gardens Trip Interest & Payment Deadline - Friday 29 September 2023;
- Payment Deadline for Derwent Alton Towers Attendance Reward Trip - Friday 29 September 2023;
- Expression of Interest Deadline for Year 11 Wolverhampton Unit Campus Visit – Friday 29 September 2023;
- New York Trip 3rd Deposit (£156) Deadline - Saturday 30 September 2023.

Updates

Duke of Edinburgh Award - *Message from Mr Fox*

Last weekend saw Year 11 go out on expedition for the final section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. I just wanted to say thank you to all pupils for a fantastic weekend – and I am pleased to say all passed the expedition section of the award!

It was amazing to see the change in the groups since our first expedition in July - they were really switched on, and had no problems walking, navigating, and getting up early and packing the campsite away. Just a shame it rained on the campsite all Sunday night!

On Sunday we were approached by a member of the public asking "Are they your children?" She was a teacher from Liverpool and had encountered several groups on their walks - she was full of praise for all their behaviour and politeness, saying they were "absolutely delightful"! A big thank you to Mrs Pajaj and Miss Dolan for giving up their time at the weekend to help with the expedition. It was a pleasure to take the pupils on the expedition - I hope they enjoyed it!

Year 11 - It would be wonderful if pupils would like to continue their DofE adventures - Letters with more information on our Silver Award group are available now. It does not matter if you didn't take part at Bronze level – you can still go direct to Silver. See me for more information.

Year 10 – If you are interested in taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award there will be a meeting in the Theatre on Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 3.15pm until 4.00pm where I will go through a presentation and give out interest letters.



Reading really makes a difference!

Reading for pleasure is possibly the single most important activity your child can do to improve achievement in school.

We hope you will find the information on the PLC & Library section of our school website, useful.

<https://dormston.dudley.sch.uk/the-personal-learning-centre-and-library/>

Our 'Recommended Book of the Week' as featured on Waterstones Books of the Month.

<https://www.waterstones.com/category/childrens-teenage>

Mrs Ellsmore highly recommends Tyger...

A beautifully written action/adventure and mythology treat recommended for ages 9 to 99, which is available for your child to borrow from the PLC and if we have enough copies available, parents/carers are welcome to borrow a copy to read alongside their child too!

Get Caught Reading in the PLC!

Well done to **Eva Aulton 7EHL** who was last week's winner!

Forgotten Equipment

Can we please remind parents/carers of the importance of students coming to school fully prepared. Since we have returned in September the number of parents/carers coming to school to drop off forgotten equipment has increased dramatically. Whilst we understand that Year 7 may need time to adjust to the new expectations, students in Years 8 -11 are also regularly forgetting vital items. We are unable to keep interrupting lessons to drop off equipment. Could we kindly ask that you please consider speaking to your child each morning to ensure they have everything they need for the day 😊.

Mobile Phones Reminder

Please be aware that if your child chooses not to hand their Mobile Phone in at Pupil Reception and it gets lost or damaged the school cannot be held responsible for it.

Congratulations/Well Done

Headteacher Commendations

Congratulations also go to the following students who received a Headteacher Commendation this week.

Jake Colbourne	Michael Breakwell	
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