

Parental Communication & Engagement



☎ 01384 816395 ✉ info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk 🐦 @DormstonSch 🌐 <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk>

Message from Headteacher

As you will know, it was our Open Evening on Thursday and it was fantastic to welcome so many prospective parents/carers and students through the doors again. We think Sedgley was gridlocked at one point! Thank you to all the many staff and students who supported at the evening. The feedback from parents/carers has been amazing and our student tour guides and department helpers certainly did us proud as lots of parents/carers wanted to personally share with us just how great our students had been and what a credit they are to the school! Please be aware that the deadline for secondary applications is 31 October 2023.

There was another of our Hot Chocolate Reward Treats today which I imagine was very well received on such a cold wet day! Hopefully, all students will eventually be treated with this special reward.

Please remember that we break up for October Half Term on Friday 27 October 2023. Students return to school on Monday 6 November 2023 to a Week 1 timetable.

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.

- Year 11 Geography Revision Guide Letter;
- Year 10 Geography Field Trip & Revision Guide Letter;
- Year 10 & 11 Music Symphony Hall Trip Letter;
- Year 10 Religious Studies Worcester Cathedral Trip Letter;
- Year 10 Resistant Materials & Graphics Virtual Reality Careers Workshop Letter;
- Year 10 & 11 Drama Students BOA Stage & Screen Academy Workshop Letter.

Events/Reminders

- Year 11 Applying for A Levels Workshop - Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 3.15pm - 4.00pm;
- KS4 Drama Students BOA Stage & Screen Academy Reply Slip Deadline - Wednesday 25 October 2023;
- Year 7 Form Tutor Consultation Evening - Thursday 26 October 2023 **Selected Students*;
- Break Up for October Half Term - Friday 27 October 2023;
- New York Trip 4th Deposit Due (£156.00) - Sunday 29 October 2023.

Updates

Odd Socks Donations

Please can you donate any odd socks. You just need to bring them into the atrium.

**WOOHOO... FRIDAY
17TH NOVEMBER IS
ODD SOCKS DAY!**

WHAT IS ODD SOCKS DAY?
Odd Socks Day is part of Anti-Bullying Week! To celebrate that we are all unique, we ask that you wear odd socks to work on Friday 17th November. Andy Day (CBeebies/CBBC) and his band Andy and the Odd Socks are supporting the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help bring Odd Socks Day to life again this year. Have a listen to the brilliant song they have recorded especially for Anti-Bullying Week, Make a Noise.

WHY IS ODD SOCKS DAY IMPORTANT?
The day sends an important message that we should all be allowed to be ourselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?
It's so easy 😊 Here's what you do:

Please can you donate any odd socks you have. Bring them into atrium from Monday 16th October.

**FRIDAY
17TH
November**

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU!**
If you have any questions please speak to
HOH
DHOH
Form Tutors
Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Work Experience - Can you Help?



Can you help?

Work Experience placements needed!

Our current Year 10 students will be taking part in Work Experience Week from Monday 15th to Friday 19th April 2024. Are you an employer, or, do you know of an employer, that will be able to support Dormston by providing a placement to our students? Students will be between 14 and 15 years old and employers must have Employers Liability Insurance.

CONTACT MRS EVANS
vevans@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

Reading Age Tests - Year 7

Following the recent tests in English lessons updated pupil reading ages have now been uploaded for you and your child to view on GO4Schools. The format is displayed in YY:MM - so for example 14:06 is a reading age of 14 years and 6 months. Test is capped at 17+ - the highest reading age (Tests 8 - 17 YO). If your child did not complete due to absence, they will catch up shortly.

If your child is disappointed with their reading age or thinks it should be higher, we may be able to arrange for them to complete the test again - it is very much the result they got on the day and may improve with another test. Obviously, the best way to improve reading ages is to read, read, and read again – from a variety of good quality sources ranging from fiction novels and short stories, to non-fiction news and magazine articles.

At Dormston we firmly believe that literacy is an essential skill to enable students to read and write as experts in every subject across the curriculum. These skills are vital to make sense of the world around us. As such, the better we are at these skills the more successful we can expect to be in life. At Dormston we recognise that improving literacy can have an impact on students' self-esteem, motivation, behaviour and attainment. We believe that reading, and particularly reading for pleasure, has a direct impact on cognitive and social communicative development. It has been shown to improve health and wellbeing, as well as improving compassion and empathy for others. Our aim is to develop each student's potential to the point where they are reading at, or above, their chronological age. Baseline data will inform us of individual intervention need. We encourage pupils to read independently for at least 30 minutes per day at home. As parents or carers, you are your child's most influential teacher and role model with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. There is nothing more powerful than your child seeing you read – they more than likely learned their interest in books as a child at bedtime with you.

For more information on how you can help your child please visit the section titled "**How you can help your child's literacy at home**" on our school website: <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk/303/literacy-mission-statement>

Suggested reading lists are also available here: <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk/305/reading-list>

Any queries please contact your child's English teacher in the first instance. For further information on recommended reads please contact:

Mrs S Ellsmore - PLC Manager/School Librarian

Mr D Fox - Literacy Co-ordinator

Attendance
Registration group
Positive behaviour points
Dormston key groups: Reading age

Congratulations/Well Done

Congratulations to the following Year 11 pupils who have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, and been awarded their certificates and badges:

- Sam Vaughan - 11TY;
- Mia Gregory - 11SY;
- Isabelle Thomas - 11TY;
- Emmie Thomas - 11TX ;
- Lily Marsh - 11AY;
- Martha Bentley - 11SY.

Headteacher Commendations

Congratulations go to the following students who received Headteacher Commendations this week.

Amelia Langford	Shelby Drew- Hitchcox	Elliot Hickenbottom	Amber Hout
Emmie Thomas	Joseph Downen	Isabelle Melbourn	