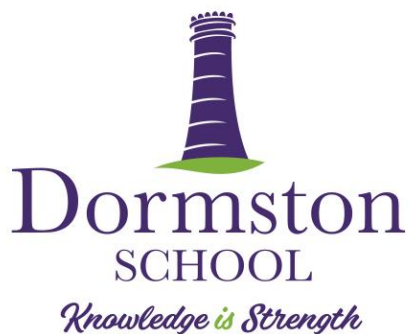


Our Ref: RDE/KON

January 2024

ALL DERWENT PARENTS/CARERS



Dear Derwent Parents/Carers

Re: Derwent House Updates

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas holiday and that you and your children are well rested for the year ahead!

I just wanted to update you on our progress and remind you of ways to support your child.

Although we did not win the House Cup at Christmas, we were able to celebrate many achievements, including being the winner of the Christmas Card Competition and successes in the Bake Off. I cannot overemphasise how proud I am of your children, as again, we have the best attendance and behaviour record. To celebrate this, the whole House was treated to an afternoon off before Christmas to watch a Christmas show in the Theatre. Many more rewards to follow if this continues!

All of this is simply down to them applying themselves. 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.

When analysing behaviour and attendance last term, it is clear that your children are really engaging with the school and House ethos and making sure they are doing what they should be. The average number of negative behaviour points was 5.35 per pupil and positive was 49.4. You can see how your child compares by looking at their GO4Schools page. If you are unable to log in, please contact me on rdownie@dormston.dudley.sch.uk and I will get that sorted. What is really pleasing is that 48.4% of Derwent students have 0 negative points! That is amazing! Your child was rewarded with a small gift at Christmas if they had 0 negative points and 100% attendance since the end of October. They should know how much they are appreciated and feel rewarded for their efforts. All other students received a candy cane.

The most negative points are for late to school (34.5%). Understandably, this can happen occasionally through no one's fault. If this is the case, please email me so I can ensure your child does not get a negative point. However, if it is regular occurrence, then please assist us with implementing sanctions at home to help us work together for the best outcomes.

There also are a lot of Serious Incidents from PE, with some children refusing to borrow kit if they have forgotten it, or refusing to take part. The PE department follow the 'Kit for All' policy, which means all students must wear kit, even if they are injured. This is for hygiene purposes and they can participate in other ways such as keeping score. PE is a compulsory subject that all students must participate in by law. We hold it in very high regard and I hope that we can work through this issue in this subject.

I would like to congratulate 10DX who have gained the LEAST negative points in Derwent, at 68 and the LEAST in Year 10! 8DX and 8DY both gained 119 which is joint least in Year 8, so well done to them also!



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Furthermore, 75% of students on behaviour monitoring improved last half term compared to the first, so another huge congratulation to them!

With regards attendance, we again are in the lead. 81% of pupils on attendance monitoring improved from the first half term and this is really pleasing. We value attendance very highly at Dormston as it has such an impact on progress and your child's wellbeing. Government statistics prove that if a child is present 100% in Key Stage 4, their chances of gaining grade 4s are over 80%, compared to just a 35% chance if their attendance is below 90%. 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 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, 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.

We have so much to look forward to this school year:

- 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 the best attendance and behaviour out of the Houses the previous day. If they gain a certain amount of smiley faces every half term they gain sweets and a pass for 5 minutes early to lunch on the final day of term. This half term there will also be a chance for them to view a film one afternoon in the Theatre and be treated to snacks at Easter;
- 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 ppt;
- 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.
- termly challenge - 100% attendance and 0 behaviour issues for the whole term will result in a small Easter Egg;
- 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. We celebrated the trip to Alton Towers in October that made other pupils very jealous!

Again, a huge thank you for all of your support and for making us as strong as we are. 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

Ruth Downie
Head of Derwent House