

Parent/Carer Update Sheet

January 2024/February 2024

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January 2024

Belated Happy New Year to all our students, staff and parents/carers. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break.

Excitement is really building in school now with our school production of 'We Will Rock You' just around the corner. Students have been working incredibly hard and we hope that as many students, staff and parents/carers as possible will come along to show their support. The show runs from Wednesday 7 February 2024 - Friday 9 February 2024 at 7.30pm and tickets are £6.50 and are available via seaty.co.uk

There will be a Year 11 Consultation Evening on Thursday 25 January 2024. A letter has now been sent out to all Year 11 Parents/Carers. Although the evening is face to face bookings still need to be made via our on-line via booking system. The booking system opens on Thursday 18 January 2024 at 8.00am and closes on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 3.00pm. We urge all Year 11 parents/carers to make appointments.

February is also a key time for Years 9 & 11. Year 9 have their Options Evening on Thursday 29 February 2024 and Year 11 have their final Mock Exams WC 26 February 2024.



Learner of the Month Winner December 2023

Our Learner of the Month Winner for **December 2023** was **Efrem Tigere - 8AY** for outstanding effort in German. Congratulations to all the other students who also received nominations this month.

You did it!
Congratulations

What's Happening

Year 11 Consultation Evening - Thursday 25 January 2024 (Face2Face)

Just to remind you that our Year 11 Consultation Evening will be taking place on Thursday 25 January 2024 from 3.30pm, - 6.30pm. This evening will be taking place face to face at Dormston School but bookings will still need to be made using our on-line booking system which opens on Thursday 18 January 2024 at 8.00am and closes on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 3.00pm.



PSHE - Wednesday 7 February 2024 - Periods 2 & 3

Year 7 will be exploring their understanding and assessment of risk. Pupils will reflect on their ideas about risk, as well as develop helpful strategies for managing risk when it arises. Pupils will also explore risk in relation to gambling. This is an important and relevant topic as young people are increasingly exposed to gambling, and gambling-related activity, through gaming, advertising, social media, betting shops, arcades and casinos.

Year 8 (*Periods 2 - 4*) Year 8 Stereotypes Day. During the event we will have around 20 employees from various industries join us for speed networking. The students will be working in small groups with one employer at a time. They will have three minutes to ask as many closed questions as possible to work out what the employee's job is. The purpose of this event is to broaden our pupils understanding of the work place, learning about a wide range of different jobs.

Year 9 will be starting their Options process ready for Year 10. They will spend the first session in the theatre hearing about the Options process and timeline, the subjects on offer and what they need to start considering in order to choose their options. They will then go and reflect on different careers that they are interested in and subjects which would be useful for them before completing a mock options form.

Year 10 students will be learning about poverty and homelessness in the UK and how children from poorer backgrounds may not have the same opportunities as other young people their age. They will have the opportunity to become an active citizen and either write to the local MP, design an informative poster that will be sent to Dudley and Wolverhampton Council or arrange a shoebox appeal which will be sent to the Good Shepherd for distribution.

Year 11 will be exploring finance this half term, with a particular emphasis on apprenticeships and university. We will also have our second visit from the University of Wolverhampton who will be presenting their session around study skills and revision.



We Will Rock You - Wednesday 7 February 2024 - Friday 9 February 2024

Our School Production of 'We Will Rock You' will take place from Wednesday 7 February 2024 to Friday 9 February 2024 at 7.30pm and tickets are on sale NOW via [seaty.co.uk](https://www.seaty.co.uk)! It's going to be amazing so buy your tickets now to avoid disappointment. 'We Will Rock You' tells the story of a globalized future without musical instruments. A handful of rock rebels, the Bohemians, fight against the all-powerful Globalsoft company and its boss, the Killer Queen; they fight for freedom, individuality and the rebirth of the age of rock. Scaramouche and Galileo, two young outsiders, cannot come to terms with the bleak conformist reality. They join the Bohemians and embark on the search to find the unlimited power of freedom, love and Rock! Featuring Queen's best-loved hits, including 'We Are The Champions', 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'Radio Ga Ga' and 'I Want To Break Free', Dormston School's production of 'We Will Rock You' is guaranteed to blow your mind! The students of Dormston have been working incredibly hard to put on an unforgettable show for everyone. Mrs Toy and Mr Plant would love to see as many students, family members and friends as possible. The Friday night is already looking full, so don't miss out, get your tickets NOW!



What's Happening

February Half Term - WC 12 February 2024

Just to give you the heads up that school will be closed for February Half Term WC 12 February 2024. Students should return to school on Monday 19 February 2024 to a Week 1 timetable.



Year 11 Mock Exams - WC 26 February 2024

Year 11 will sit their final set of mock exams W/C 26 February 2024 with practical exams following the week after. Revision classes (before and after school) are in place (please see the school website for the outline of sessions offered). In addition to this, individual subject teachers will be inviting pupils on a more ad hoc basis when necessary. Parents/carers will soon be receiving emails from Mr Jones regarding Science revision sessions which will start at 5.30pm on Wednesdays and from Mr Perry whose targeted Friday morning sessions will soon be open for all pupils taking Geography. As the Year 11 Lead, Mrs Mescam is also available to pupils with questions relating to revision tips and advice every day after school in A10 (with the exception of Tuesdays). During this time, Mrs Mescam can help with the drawing up of revision timetables, help to identify a starting point for any pupils who haven't begun their formal revision programme or handy hints on the most impactful revision techniques. Year 11 have previously completed 5 weeks of PHSE sessions focussed around a variety of impactful revision techniques in order to prepare them for mock exam season. In terms of revision at home, strategies such as using flashcards, creating mind maps, completing past papers and self quizzing are all highly recommended. In the build up to exams effective revision will be varied, chunked into manageable chunks of time (the amount of time will depend on the child), and shouldn't feel easy. For learning to take place, it should feel a little uncomfortable and require effort however, over time gaps in knowledge will be addressed and confidence will grow. All the best to Year 11 on the run up to their exams; you can do it!



Year 9 Options Evening - Thursday 29 February 2024 at 6.00pm

An evening to hear about how the options process works for Year 9 pupils will take place on Thursday 29 February 2024 at 6.00pm until 8.00pm. There will be a chance to talk to the teachers of the subjects on offer as well as to some colleges and post-16 courses.



5 Steps to Mental Wellbeing

Looking after our Mental Wellbeing is so important for us all. Please see below some very simple but effective ways which we can all help our own wellbeing.

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING



Your time,
your words,
your presence



DO WHAT YOU CAN,
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO,
MOVE YOUR HOOD



EMBRACE NEW
EXPERIENCES,
SEE OPPORTUNITIES,
SURPRISE YOURSELF



TALK & LISTEN,
BE THERE,
FEEL CONNECTED



REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE
THINGS THAT
GIVE YOU JOY

Our Successes



REAL SUCCESS STORIES

We know we have many brilliant students who deserve a mention but here are a few stories that have been shared with us, which we thought we would share with you! **Don't forget, ALL parents/carers, staff and students are invited and encouraged to share their success story with us by emailing kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk.**

Dormston Karate Kids - Hattie Jenkins & Isabelle Melbourne

On Saturday 9 December 2023 Hattie Jenkins 8TY and Isabelle Melbourne 7CBY completed the first part of their karate journey, both were ill but never gave up to gain their 1st Dan Black belt. Both started karate in 2019 and have become great karate friends since. We are super proud of their 1st Dan Black belt but also the accolades they have gained both nationally and internationally competing for their club 'Hickman's Karate Academy' and the Midlands region England squad. Well Done to the both of you! A big WELL DONE also goes to some of our other Dormston students who also took part in their gradings that day including; Frazer Bateman, - 7CDN, Aiden Slator - 8TX, Jake O'Sullivan - 8SX and Brayden O'Sullivan - 11SX.



Hattie Jenkins & Isabelle Melbourne

Sewing up Christmas - Lucy Smith 10SY

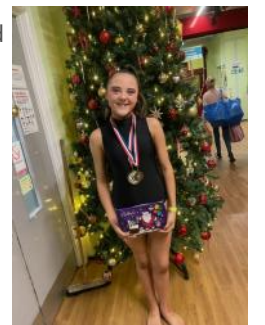
Lucy Smith in 10SY really loves her textiles class in school and has recently used some of her new embroidery skills from class to create a Christmas Stocking at her sewing lessons. The Christmas Stocking has been made specially for her brother Tyler. The stocking is lightly padded with reversible patterns. Snowmen and penguins one side and Santa, Christmas Trees and presents on the other. Lucy also made her whole family made to measure PJ's but the stocking was such a sweet surprise. A big shout out also goes to Mrs Poleykett who has really helped Lucy with her embroidery skills which her sewing teacher has been really impressed with.



Lucy Smith - 10SY

Freestyle Dancing - Shay-Leigh Whale - 8DX

Shay-Leigh Whale in 8DX has been doing Freestyle Dancing for 2 years now. There is always tough competition and it involves travelling up and down the country sometimes but with her strong determination Shay-Leigh went and won in her section against 7 other competitors in her age category. Well done Shay-Leigh, we are all very proud of you!



Shay-Leigh Whale - 8DX

