

Parent/Carer Update Sheet

February 2024/March 2024

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February 2024

We hope our February Update Sheet finds you all well. It won't be long now before the nights start to get lighter as we head towards the Spring Term!

We hope you have had chance to read our NEW Monthly Well-being for All Sheet that has recently been sent out. Please do take the time to sit down and read this with your child if you possibly can.

This month was all about the School Production! The students and staff worked incredibly hard and the show was fantastic! Thank you to everyone who came along to watch or support in any way. A special thanks goes to Mrs Toy, Mr Plant, Mr Wood and Mrs Taylor along with all the cast and back stage crew of the show! We have shared some photos in the Success Stories section.

It is a really important time for our Year 9 students as it will be Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 29 February 2024 and our Year 9 Consultation Evening on Thursday 21 March 2024. Please note that the Year 9 Consultation Evening will be face to face, although appointments will still need to be made via our on-line booking system.

Year 11 Photographs will also be taking place on Thursday 14 March 2024.

Don't forget that we break up for the Easter Holidays on Friday 22 March 2024. Students should return to school on Monday 8 April 2024 to a Week 2 timetable!



Learner of the Month Winner

January 2024

Our Learner of the Month Winner for **January 2024** was **Zak Bryan - 10DX** for his hard work in History.

Congratulations to all the other students who also received nominations this month.

You did it!
Congratulations

What's Happening

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!



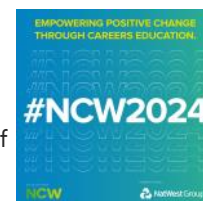
Year 9 Options Evening - Thursday 29 February 2024 at 6.00pm

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.



National Careers Week - W/C Monday 4 March 2024

The aim of this week is to highlight all career pathways available to young people and develop awareness and excitement about their future. To celebrate NCW, we will be holding assemblies delivered by various external providers and lessons will have a 'careers' focus to help link the relevance of the school curriculum to future study and the world of work.



Year 9 National Careers Challenge - Wednesday 6 March 2024

The Inspirational Learning Group will be in school all day on Wednesday 6 March 2024 to deliver the National Careers Challenge to Year 9. This year's challenge is set by NatWest and is aiming to help young entrepreneurs build businesses in their local communities and developing the skills they will need for business start-up careers in the future. In teams young people will work to develop a business idea that is inspired by the skills and heritage of their own local town or city. Students will consider how they will promote their new business to the local community, plus how the business could be scaled up in the future both from a promotional and financial point of view.



Year 9 DTP/MEN/ACWY Vaccinations - Friday 8 March 2024

All Year 9 pupils will be offered the above vaccination on Friday 8 March 2024. It is very important that you fill in the link attached to the recent email sent out even if you don't want your child to have the vaccination. If you have already filled in the link then you have already registered your child with the vaccination team.



What's Happening

World Book Day - Thursday 7 March 2024

This year sees the return of the 'printed' World Book Day token which each of our students will receive on our World Book Day. The £1.00 vouchers can be exchanged for a FREE World Book Day book at any participating book shop or supermarket. Alternatively, the voucher can be used to get £1.00 off a full price book or audio book (as long as the book or audio book costs at least £2.99). <https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/>

Our WBD celebrations this year will include:

- ✦ World Book Day assembly;
- ✦ the Masked Reader competition;
- ✦ a visit, for a small group of students, to see author Frank Cottrell-Boyce at Earls High School;
- ✦ launch of Inter-Schools Book Quiz. Students will be invited to form a team and read the 4 selected books. The team will then compete in a quiz on the books, on Monday 8th July 2024 in our PLC, against teams from the other participating Dudley Secondary Schools;
- ✦ 'book giveaway' in the PLC (used books).

Year 11 Photographs - Thursday 14 March 2024

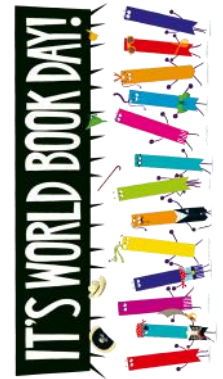
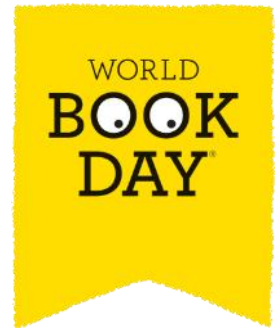
Just to give you the heads up that Year 11 Photographs will be taking place on Thursday 14 March 2024. Please ensure all students are in full and correct uniform for this. Further information will follow in due course.

Year 9 Parents' & Carers' Consultation - Thursday 21 March 2024

It will be our Year 9 Parents' Carers' Consultation on Thursday 21 March 2024. This evening will take place face to face although appointments will still be made via our on-line booking system. A letter containing more information will follow in due course.

Easter Holidays - W/C Monday 25 March 2024

We break up for the Easter Holidays on Friday 22 March 2024. Students will therefore not be in school from W/C 25 March 2024. Students should return to school on Monday 8 April 2024 to a Week 2 timetable.



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.**

Musical Success - Evie Cooper - 7CKT

Well done to Evie Cooper in 7CKT who back in September 2023 auditioned through her stage school (M3 studios) for a part in The Little Mermaid the Musical. Evie successfully landed 2 roles as a sailor and a household maid and has been attending every Sunday for rehearsals since October! Evie is even giving up her February half term to attend technical rehearsals and dress rehearsals to then appear in all 6 shows at the Prince of Wales Theatre Cannock. We can't wait to watch her shine again as this will now be her 3rd full scale musical performance. Well done Evie!



Evie Cooper - 7CKT

Year 10 Religious Studies Debate Success

Well done to our Year 10 Religious Studies Debate Team who were involved in a Dudley interschool debating event which they of course won! Students showcased their argumentation and debate skills maturely and respectfully against other schools and both of our teams were able to secure a win. Henry, Benjamin TF, Benjamin H and Haydon all argued that marriage is still relevant in modern day society. Lauren, Isabella, Taylah and Emily all argued that religion still has a long way to go in relation to modern feminism and the oppression of women. Mr Mac was extremely impressed with the speaking and listening skills of our students during the debates.



Year 10 RS Debate Team

Congratulations!

GOOD JOB

WELL DONE

THUMBS UP

YOU ROCK

Success Stories

Karate Success - Hattie Jenkins - 8TY

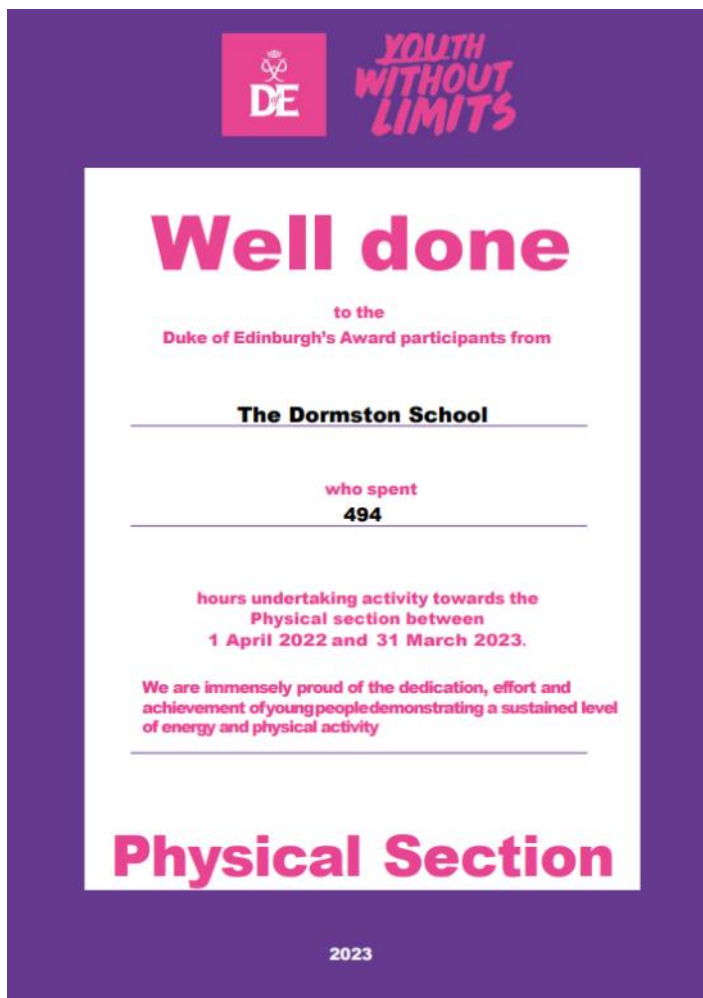
After an extremely long day in Sheffield, Hattie Jenkins in 8TY smashed it again at the first karate competition of the year! This was the 2024 Children's Championships. She got a gold in individual fighting 12-13 and a silver in teams fighting! Hattie is now the National Champion for her age and weight category. Well done Hattie!



Hattie Jenkins - 8TY

DofE Success

We just wanted to share our DofE Success with you! Below is a certificate setting out the number of hours Dormston students spent working on their Physical Section. It includes any young person with a completed Physical Section from 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2023. DofE are constantly impressed by the range of activities DofE participants undertake to complete this section and the efforts they go to in doing so. We're all aware of the benefits of these types of activity to both physical & mental wellbeing. We are so proud of Dormston students who are dedicating their time and energy to all sections of the Award and we are also really grateful for the time Mr Fox and other staff give with supporting young people through their DofE Programme. Keep up the great work!



Our Successes

REAL SUCCESS STORIES



WELL DONE

Time To Shine