

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

On Tuesday it was Safer Internet Day in school. Please make sure you take a look at some of the useful information that we have recently sent out! Some top 10 tips for keeping your child safe on-line are also available further on in this week's bulletin.

We have been celebrating LGBT+ History month in school where students have been exploring the contribution of one LGBT+ person in the field of medicine each week during form time. There will be an assembly for all students on the contributions and problems some LGBT+ people have in relation to health and medicine both historically and in modern day Britain. Our PLC also has a LGBT+ section of books.

Congratulations to our Under 14s Cricket Girls Team as they returned with a win against Bishop Milner this week. The team won by 58 runs, only losing 2 wickets! The final scores were - Dormston 109/2, Bishop Milner 51/8. The player of the match went to Millie Tatton!

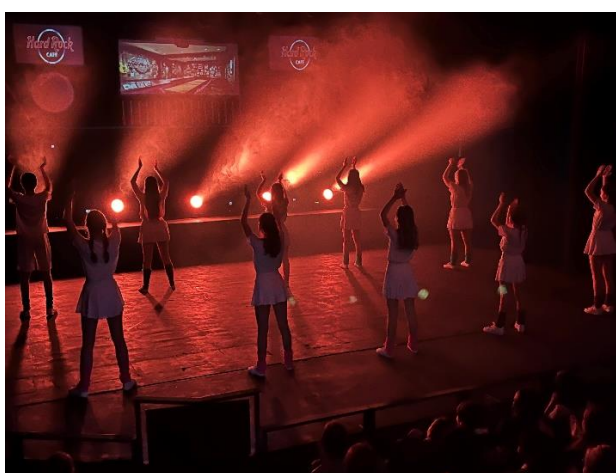


On Wednesday our Year 8 students took part in our annual Stereotypes Day event. The aim of the day is to challenge stereotypes in the workplace and also inform students of local job roles/sectors. During the PSHE double, students took part in a speed-networking event with volunteers in the Sports Hall. Students were provided with a list of job roles and in teams, students asked the volunteers closed questions to match them to a job listed on their answer sheet. During Period 4 we had the 'Grand Reveal' where the volunteers took to the Theatre stage and revealed their jobs, what educational route they took after leaving school, as well as telling us some interesting facts about the industry they work in. The four groups who guessed the most correct answers were also announced and prizes given to the winners!

Parent/Carer Weekly Bulletin
WC 19 February 2024

This week of course was our School Production with the last show taking place tonight! Thank you to everyone who came along to see the show.

A HUGE thank you also goes to Mrs Toy, Mr Plant, Mr Wood and Mrs Taylor along with all the cast and backstage crew who worked tirelessly hard to put the show together. So much goes in to putting a show like this together! Below are few snaps of the show so far and more will of course follow in our next Monthly Update Sheet!



As you know, we break up for February Half Term today. Students return to school on Monday 19 February 2024 to a Week 1 timetable.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term!

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mrs Sutton'.

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 - Mental Health & Well-being for All Sheet - February 2024;
- All Parents/Carers - Safer Internet Day Letter;
- All Parents/Carers - Uniform Expectations Letter;
- Year 11 English Mock Exams Support Information;
- New York Trip Update Letter - February 2024;
- Year 10 Health & Social Care PSA Letter.

Events/Reminders

- Year 9 & 10 Scholars Programme Graduation Trip - Friday 23 February 2024 at 7.30am - 5.30pm.

Updates

IMPORTANT - Year 11 Prom Date & Venue Update

Following our recent text and email, we need to let you know that there has been a change with the Year 11 Prom date and venue. **The NEW date and venue for the Year 11 Prom will be on Thursday 4 July 2024 at Park Hall Hotel, Wolverhampton.** Further information will follow in due course. Apologies to those of you who may have already started to make Prom arrangements. This change was completely out of the school's control.

10 Tips to Keep Children Safe On-line

ONLINE CONTENT
10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

- 1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS**
Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
- 2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT**
Understand what's being shared or what seems to be trending at the moment.
- 3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS**
Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age limit.
- 4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS**
Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
- 5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP**
Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- 6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE**
Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.
- 7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING**
Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- 8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK**
Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- 9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE**
If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- 10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT**
If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @NationalOnlineSafety

IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGE

Dudley Council has asked us to share the following important public health message with you.

I am sure you are aware through media that the West Midlands has seen a large increase in the number of measles cases in unvaccinated children and adults, with around half of those infected requiring admission to hospital. Measles is a highly infectious disease which can have severe complications including meningitis, pneumonia, miscarriage, and blindness. People with weak immunity, babies and unvaccinated pregnant women have a higher risk of developing complications should they catch measles.

Over half term there is expected to be more mixing across settings and areas and more opportunity for infections to spread. But there are actions you can take, to help reduce community spread of measles and other infections, raise awareness of signs and symptoms of measles, and protect yourself, participants in your activities, family, and friends.

The best way to get protected from measles is to get immunised.

The MMR vaccine is safe and effective.

A porcine-gelatine free vaccine is available if preferred.

2 doses of the MMR vaccine provide maximum protection against measles.

There are free catch-up clinics around Dudley Borough during February half term. Anyone aged 1 year or over (including adults) who has missed their MMR vaccination can attend. Other catch-up clinics are available across the Black Country, please see the [Black Country ICB website](#) for more information.

Infection prevention advice:

Regularly clean surfaces and equipment that are touched frequently.

Encourage hand hygiene by ensuring you have liquid soap, warm water, and paper towels available at all times. Alcohol hand gel can be used if hands are not visibly dirty.

Encourage good respiratory hygiene, help ensure people catch it, bin it, kill it. (Please see attached poster for display) ensure bins are available and regularly emptied.

Awareness raising:

What are the symptoms of measles?

Cold-like symptoms such as runny or blocked nose, sneezing and cough.

Red, sore watery eyes.

High temperature (fever) which may reach around 40 degrees C/104 degrees F.

A non-itchy, red-brown rash usually appears 3-5 days later (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body), spots may be raised and join to form blotchy patches – which may be harder to see on darker skin tones.

If you are concerned someone may have measles encourage them to speak to a healthcare professional but remind them to make contact by phone first as they may need to be seen at a quieter time or infection control measures, put in place before they attend.

If you have any queries regarding the information in this email or require additional resources, please do not hesitate to contact Dudley Council Health Protection Team through MyDudley on the [Dudley Council website](#)

Half-term MMR vaccine clinics

**Measles is spreading fast.
Has your child had both
of their MMR vaccines?**

**Free pop-up clinics to vaccinate
against measles, mumps and rubella
are taking place during half-term.**

For children over one-year-old who are due or who have missed either dose. Adults up to the age of 25 are also invited.

Measles is highly infectious and can lead to serious health complications. The MMR is safe and effective.

Sat 10 Feb	10am-3pm	Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge DY8 2AA
Tue 13 Feb	9am-2pm	War Memorial, Lye DY9 8LF
Tue 13 Feb	9am-3pm	Tesco, Fox Oak Street, Cradley Heath B64 5DF
Fri 16 Feb	9am-2pm	Dudley Market Place, High Street DY1 1PQ
Sat 17 Feb	10am-3pm	Halesowen Town Centre, Somers Square B63 3AE

Book your appointment

Call Vaccination UK on 01384 431712
or just turn up on the day.

If you can, bring your child's red book
A gelatine-free vaccine is available on request



More details on measles, the MMR vaccine
and other pop-up clinics in the Black Country
at www.blackcountry.icb.nhs.uk/measles

CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



European Immunization Week
Prevent. Protect. Promote.

NHS

MEASLES

Don't let your child catch it
- get them vaccinated with the MMR vaccine

The number of young people catching measles has risen. It's never too late to be vaccinated. You need two doses of MMR one month apart to be fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella.

It's time to make measles a disease of the past.

If you have symptoms of measles, stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. **STAY AWAY** from GP surgeries and A&E departments – you could spread the illness to others.

Measles symptoms include: high fever; sore, red, watery eyes; coughing; aching and feeling generally unwell; a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

Immunisation
the safest way to protect your child

For more information contact your local GP surgery or visit: www.nhs.uk/mmr

Congratulations/Well Done

Headteacher Commendations

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

Harry Newton	Millie Baker		
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