

Parent/Carer Update Sheet

March 2024/April 2024

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March 2024

National Careers Week takes place in March. Careers education and guidance is embedded in the school from Year 7 through to Year 11. National Careers Week provides an opportunity to spotlight careers and inform students of all the pathways open to them Post 16/18, the skills that they will need, as well as linking curriculum learning to the world of work. The pandemic has had a detrimental impact on the education of young people around the world and this has also impacted on the job and labour market, which in turn has led to a skills shortage in many sectors. Therefore it is more important than ever that students have information about the diverse range of pathways to work, including the non-traditional routes and the skills they will need for the future. During this week, students will have assemblies delivered by a range of external providers and lessons will have a careers focus.

We also wish our Year 10 students all the very best of luck as they take their first venture out into the world of work with their Work Experience that also takes place this month!

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.

Don't forget that when we return after Easter, students are permitted to wear their summer polo shirts. Year 7 students will need to purchase one without a logo. Our Uniform Suppliers have been informed of this. FoDC Pop Up Shop will also be open during the holidays and further information on exact days and times will follow shortly. Wishing you all a lovely Easter Break!



Learner of the Month Winner

February 2024

Our Learner of the Month Winner for **February 2024** was **Stephanie Fish - 11AY** for outstanding effort in German.

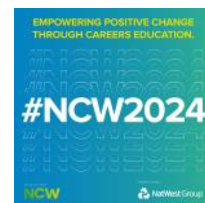
Congratulations to all the other students who also received nominations this month.

You did it!
Congratulations

What's Happening

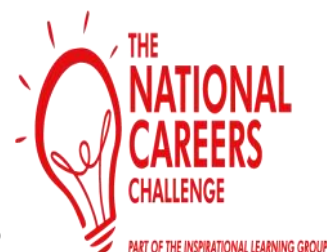
National Careers Week - W/C Monday 4 March 2024

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.



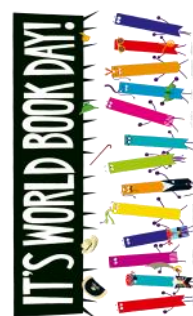
World Book Day - Thursday 7 March 2024

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.



What's Happening

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.



PSHE - Thursday 11 April 2024

Year 7 - Active Citizenship - Pupils will be continuing their study of what it means to be an active citizen, focusing on how to make a difference in the local community. Each form will also partake in a school and Sedgley litter pick to help keep the environment clean.

Year 8 - Pupils will be exploring the risks of sharing sexual images. By the end of the double sessions students will have learnt about: the legal and emotional risks associated with sharing inappropriate images, ways to manage pressure to share sexual images and where to get help if someone they know is being pressured to send or share inappropriate images.

Year 9 - Pupils will be learning about the health risks associated with smoking, vaping and the consumption of alcohol.

Year 10 - Pupils will be preparing for WEX and local colleges will be delivering workshops on CV writing.

Year 11 - National Citizenship Service will be visiting to offer our year 11 pupils many exciting extra-curricular activities. Time will also be provided for revision during this session



Year 10 Work Experience Week - WC 15 April 2024

Work Experience will take place for Year 10 students who have secured a placement. Over the Easter holidays students should contact their placement to confirm first day arrangements such as time of arrival, who to ask for upon arrival and if any dress code applies. We also recommend that students do a 'dummy run' to make sure of their route and how long it will take to get there. If students are unwell and unable to attend their placement on any day, please make sure that the employer and the school are notified as early as possible. Students will be given their log books in school beforehand. All students without a placement need to attend school as usual. The week will comprise of careers related activities and GCSE lessons. More details of the week will be provided nearer the time.



Year 8 Exams - WC Monday 29 April 2024

Year 8 whole school exams will start this week and will take place during classroom lessons. Further details will follow in due course.



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.**

Football Success - Ellie-Mae Brookes - 7EHL

Congratulations to Ellie-Mae Brookes in 7EHL who has been offered a place for the Under 14s West Bromwich Albion Girls Team. Ellie-Mae played her first game Tuesday 13th February 2024 against Shrewsbury and won! This is a great achievement for Ellie-Mae as she has worked so hard to get offered this position. Ellie-Mae is very determined to be a successful footballer and with her determination she will make sure she gets there!



Ellie-Mae Brookes - 7EHL

Theatre Performance Success - Lilly-May Wright - 7CBY

Congratulations to Lilly-May Wright in 7CBY who recently performed in Rapunzel with Rainbow Pantomimes at our very own Mill Theatre. She did 6 shows and took on her 1st speaking role where she played Young Max, a Knight in Josting Scene, a pirate and chorus as a Villager. We are all very proud of her!



Lilly-May Wright - 7CBY

The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme - Graduation Event

On Friday 23 February 2024, 13 Year 9 and 10 pupils who had taken part in The Scholars Programme run by The Brilliant Club went up to Manchester University for their graduation event. During the programme they had worked with a PhD tutor from Warwick University on a topic entitled 'Politeness Across Cultures: How does culture influence communication?' before completing a 2,000 word university-style essay. During their graduation event they received a campus tour, reflection time, chance to speak to university ambassadors as well as finding out more about university, before receiving their certificates during a graduation ceremony. Two of our pupils, Tessa Gobourn 9DY and Henry Jenkins 10TX, also gave speech to all of the other schools in attendance. Tessa was the youngest pupil to give a speech and Henry the only boy! A massive well done for the effort and achievement of all 13 pupils!

