

Parent/Carer Update Sheet

September 2024/October 2024

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September 2024

Welcome back to all our parents/carers and students. For our NEW Year 7 parents/carers, this is our **Monthly Update Sheet** and it is designed to share all the latest news and success stories at Dormston School, as well as giving you the heads up about what's happening in the next two months! You can of course read it from cover to cover if you want to be fully up-to-date with all things Dormston, or you can just scan the titles to see what relates to you and your child!

First off however, a **BIG** congratulations have to go out to all of last year's Year 11 for their GCSE success this Summer. GCSE Results Day was on Thursday 22 August 2024 and it was fantastic to see our students come in and open their well deserved results.

We would also like to say a massive THANK YOU to '**Friends of Dormston Community**' who worked hard throughout the holiday to run their #Pre-Loved Uniform Service. They have helped so many families this summer, saving them literally £100s of pounds along with saving the Environment of course!

As many of you will be aware, although our House System exists for competition purposes, we have now moved to a Year System for any pastoral related matters, so just a reminder that your first point of contact will now be your child's Year Leader/Deputy Year Leader.

We really do hope this academic year is going to be our best one yet and we are looking forward to working with all our staff, students and parents/carers during the year ahead!



Learner of the Month

WATCH THIS SPACE.....

Each month teachers from across the school nominate students who they feel have worked incredibly hard in their subject for our 'Learner of the Month Award'.

Any child who gets nominated will receive a letter home and our winner gets a very special engraved trophy. Our September 2024 Learner of the Month Winner will be shared in our October/November Monthly Update Sheet.



What's Happening

KS4 Science Evening - Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 6.00pm

Dormston School appreciates the very important role families play in supporting their child's learning at home. We also recognise that this is not always an easy task, especially when it comes to a subject like Science! We are therefore pleased to invite Year 9, 10 and 11 parents/carers to a 'Supporting Success in Science' workshop in the Theatre on Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 6.00pm. Please see recent letter for further details.



Year 7 Photographs - Thursday 12 September 2024

On Thursday 12 September 2024, Year 7 pupils will be having their photos taken. On this day, 7AX, 7DX, 7SX and 7TX **will need to bring trainers for their PE lesson** but do not need the rest of their PE kit. 7AY, 7DY, 7SY and 7TY do not have PE on this day, so do not need trainers or kit. Please ensure your child is in full and correct uniform on this day. Further information will follow on how parents/carers will be able to view and order photographs shortly.



Welcome to Year 11 Evening - Thursday 26 September 2024 at 6.00pm

On Thursday 26 September 2024 at 6.00pm in the Theatre we will be holding a Welcome to Year 11 Evening which we would like all our Year 11 parents/carers to attend. A letter containing further details will follow shortly. If you are a Year 11 parent/carer please make a note of this date for your calendar. Due to seating restrictions Year 11 students are not required to attend this evening.



GCSE Citizenship Trip - Learn with the Lords - Friday 27 September 2024

All GCSE Citizenship students in Year 10 and 11 will be spoken to by a member of the House of Lords about their role, purpose and duties. The students will be able to meet and greet the Lord and have an opportunity for a question and answer session. This will be an invaluable learning experience for the pupils and help them to gain understanding of the workings of the second House in Parliament.



Black History Month - October 2024

All students will celebrate Black History Month this October with form resources and assemblies on the struggles of black people throughout history and celebrating their successes and positive impact on British life. Students will also be treated to special meals served in the canteen with food influenced by black culture. All students will be taught about key black figures in every subject area and how they have made an impact. This year we will let students decide how they would like to celebrate and we will be getting feedback over the next couple of weeks. This could be some students leading dance classes at lunch times, hair braiding, food tasting, language classes all influenced by black culture, or preparing resources for all students to share their experiences as black students or information on their or their families ethnic background.



What's Happening

Year 11 Post 16 Evening - Tuesday 1 October 2024 at 6.00pm

Our Post 16 Evening which takes place on Tuesday 1 October 2024 at 6.00pm is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 students and parents/carers to talk to local colleges, sixth forms, universities, employers and apprenticeship providers regarding all Post 16/18 routes available to them. All Year 11 students are expected to attend and hopefully all parents/carers too! The evening starts at 6.00pm with a short talk in the Mill Theatre. Please see recent letter that has been sent for further details.



Year 7 Pioneer Leadership - Thursday 3 October 2024

External provider Pioneer Leadership will be working with the whole cohort of Year 7s during periods 1- 4 on Thursday 3 October 2024. The sessions will involve practical problem solving and team work with the purpose of improving students communication skills, resilience and sense of responsibility.



Year 7 - 11 Flu Vaccination - Friday 4 October 2024

The flu spray vaccination will take place on Friday 4 October 2024 for Years 7 - 11. If you have not already done so, please fill in the link that was emailed to you in order to allow your child to receive their vaccination.



Year 10 RS Trip to Coventry Cathedral - Wednesday 9 October 2024

Religious Studies would like to offer GCSE students in Year 10 the opportunity to experience a daytrip to Coventry Cathedral on Wednesday 9 October 2024. This is a unique opportunity for students to experience first-hand a Christian place of worship and pilgrimage. This visit also supports our current unit on religion, peace and conflict as Coventry Cathedral is now a centre for reconciliation within the Christian Church. Further information will follow shortly.



PSHE - Friday 11 October 2024

PSHE Sessions will be taking place on Friday 11 October 2024 as follows:

Year 7 - Puberty: Students will be learning about the physical, social and emotional changes that occur in adolescence and how their body matures.

Year 8 - Crime and Consequences: Young people, crime and the law.

Year 9 - In session 1 students will be learning about breast, testicular & cervical cancer including how to recognise systems and seek medical support. In session 2 students will be exploring the different methods of contraception available and the risks of unprotected sex.

Year 10 - Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health: Students will be learning how to recognise mental ill health and the range of support available for those with emotional or mental health problems, including how best to access local services.



What's Happening

Open Evening - Thursday 17 October 2024 at 6.00pm *EARLY CLOSE

We will be holding our annual Open Evening on Thursday 17 October 2024 at 6.00pm - 8.00pm and will be closing at **1.25pm** on this day in order to prepare. School Tours will also be taking place on Monday 21 October 2024 - Wednesday 23 October 2024. If you wish to book on to one of these School Tours please contact the school office. You do not need to book if you wish to attend our Open Evening.

OPEN
EVENING

Year 7 Targeted Parents Evening - Thursday 24 October 2024 at 6.00pm

Our Year 7 Targeted Parents Evening will take place on Thursday 24 October 2024 from 6.00pm for invited parents/carers only. A letter will be sent out shortly to those parents/carers who have been selected to attend.



House Arts Auditions - Friday 25 October 2024

This year's House Arts Competition will be launched in assembly this half term and the auditions are due to be held on Friday 25 October 2024. The evening showcase will happen on the 21 November 2024. More details to follow soon.



October Half Term - W/C 28 October 2024

School will be closed for October Half Term week commencing Monday 28 October 2024. Students should return to school on Monday 4 November 2024 to a Week 1 Timetable.



New York Trip - W/C 28 October 2024

It's not long to go now for those lucky students who are off to New York during October Half Term! We hope your child is as excited as we are. It will be a busy half-term with meetings for pupils and parents and final arrangements. Please see our latest New York Update letter for further details. Please also ensure ESTA applications are now completed ASAP.



ACTIVITIES WEEK

Activities Week 2024

With lots of in school and out of school activities offered to students our Activities Week 2024 was quite simply amazing! The Year 9 Eco Day saw students produce an Eco Mural, and Trashion Show, (pictured left) along with work taking place on the Eco Garden. Year 10 worked on team building with the Army and the Year 7 & 8 tug of war was a site to behold! For those students spending Activities Week in Cornwall and Germany the weather was fabulous and the talent demonstrated at Ingestre Hall was just amazing! A massive THANK YOU goes to Mr Wilkes who masterminded our Activities Week and for all the staff who supported in making this possible. We really hope students enjoyed the experiences offered to them.



Newquay Surf Trip 2024

During an exciting activities week, 54 pupils from across Year 8 -10 travelled down to the glorious coast of Cornwall for a packed week of surfing, water sports and beach activities. The pupils had the opportunity to ride the waves and learnt the basics of surfing, some even conquering standing up, what an achievement! They also got an opportunity to try body boarding and faced heights during Coasteering where pupils travelled over the sea cliffs of Newquay, conquering their fears by jumping into the sea, some from as high as 10m! It was a brilliant trip where pupils built on resilience, teamwork and tried new opportunities, hopefully coming away with new friends and memories which will last for many years to come.

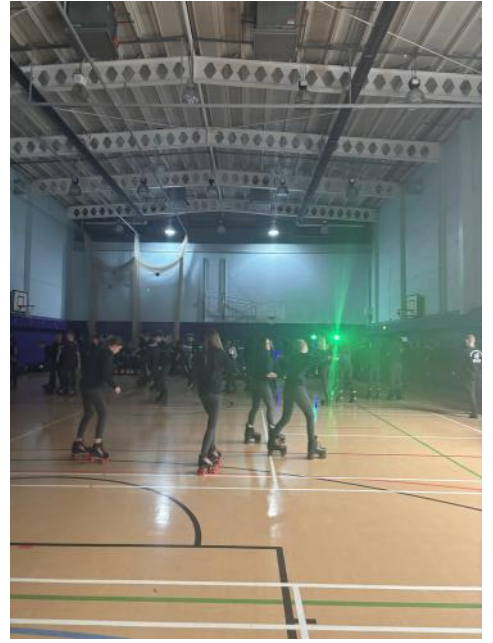


Making
MEMORIES
Together



Roller-skate Reward Disco

We are never afraid to try something different here at Dormston, so in July, as part of our rewards scheme we held our very first Roller-skate Rewards Disco for all those students who qualified to take part. Lots of fun was had and although there were a few minor bumps and grazes there were no broken bones and the students had an absolute ball! The event was masterminded by Miss Goddard who has sadly now left us for pastures new in Dubai. Thank you Miss Goddard!



Our Successes



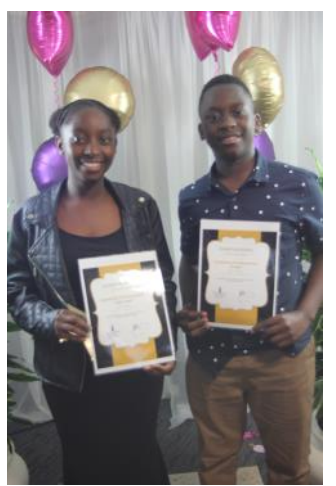
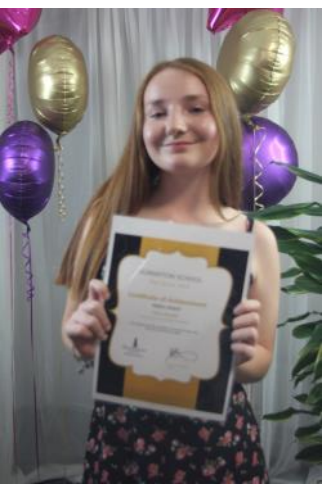
REAL SUCCESS STORIES

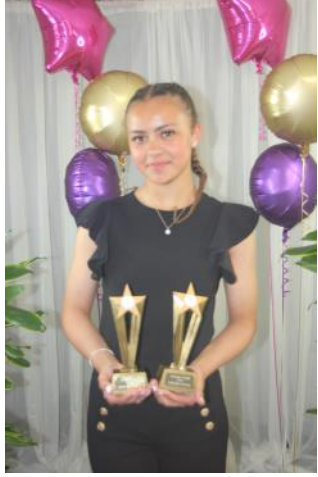
We know we have many brilliant students who deserve a mention but here are a few stories that have been shared with us, which we thought we would share with you! **Don't forget, ALL parents/carers, staff and students are invited and encouraged to share their success story with us by emailing kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk.**

The Oscars 2024!

A HUGE well done to all the students who were invited to our Oscar Evening in July. It was a fantastic night with so many beautiful moments and performances. A special thank you goes to; Dormston Choir who opened the show with 'This is Me' by The Greatest Showman, Lois Boyle who wowed us all with her performance of 'Your Song' by Ellie Goulding and also Isabelle Melbourne who played the keyboard. By the magic of satellite we were able to link in with a few staff who were otherwise previously engaged which caused a few smiles in the audience. A massive THANK YOU also goes to Mr Amos and Mrs Moseley who hosted the evening. Thank you to all the many parents and carers who also attended. The stars of the show however were of course all the many students in attendance! Every single student invited had done incredibly well to receive their nomination! We are very proud of each and every one of them. Here are a few pictures we would like to share with you of the evening.







Success Stories!

You did it!
Congratulations

Karate Success - Isabelle Melbourne - 8SX

We are really pleased to share the fantastic news that Isabelle Melbourne in 8SX won a Silver medal in Kata at the BKF International Open at Sheffield at the weekend in a new season of Karate. This is an amazing achievement which takes a huge amount of hard work and dedication on Isabelle's part. We are all very proud of you. Well done Isabelle!



Isabelle Melbourne - 8SX

Karate Success - Hattie Jenkins - 9TY

Congratulations to Hattie Jenkins in 9TY who achieved a silver at the British Championships recently in Sheffield. Unfortunately, Hattie injured her ankle in the final and can't now compete in London and probably not in Warwick either. Here is an action shot before the injury drama! We all wish you a speedy recovery Hattie! Well done!



Hattie Jenkins - 9TY in action!

Drums Success - Oliver Fellows - 11DY

Well done to Oliver Fellows in 11DY who has recently achieved his Rockscool Grade 8 with Merit. This is such an achievement, especially for his age. Oliver now has UCAS points earned already for University, which is great news! Well done Oliver!



Oliver Fellows - 11DY

Congratulations!

WELL DONE!