

# Parent/Carer Update Sheet

## November 2024/December 2024

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## November 2024

During November we will be celebrating 'Anti-Bullying Week' in school along with 'Odd Socks Day' which seeks to celebrate the fact that we are all different! We are asking as many students as possible to bring in their odd socks so that this can be turned into some bunting that will be displayed in our atrium again this year.

Our House Arts Showcase is set to be another great evening in November where we are looking forward to sharing the amazing talent that Dormston has in abundance!

Don't forget that we have INSET days on Friday 29 November 2024 and Monday 2 December 2024! Students should therefore return to school on Tuesday 3 December 2024 to a Week 1 Timetable.

Our Christmas Card Competition has recently been launched and all entries must be in by Friday 15 November 2024. The theme this year is 'Community' and the winning entry will be made into the school's official Christmas Card for 2024.

Please also be aware that we will be closing at 12.30pm on Friday 20 December 2024 for the Christmas holidays!

Please don't forget to let us know of any success stories you would like to share with regards to your child by emailing [kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk)



### Learner of the Month

#### October 2024

Our Learner of the Month Winner for **October 2024** was **Caitlyn Guest - 10TX** for her outstanding effort in **Maths**.

Congratulations and well done also goes to all of our other students who were nominated for Learner of the Month recently!



# What's Happening

## Anti Bullying Week - WC Monday 11 November 2024

Anti-Bullying Week 2024 will take place from Monday 11 - Friday 15 November 2024, with the theme: Choose Respect. Just like lots of schools across the country, we will be taking part this year and we'll empower children and young people to choose respect.



## Whole School Remembrance Assembly - Monday 11 November 2024

There will be whole-school assemblies taking place week commencing Monday 11 November 2024 to mark Dormston's school remembrance celebrations. This year marks the 80th anniversaries of momentous battles and turning points of the Second World War. The D-Day landings of 6th June - the largest seaborne invasion in history - marked the beginning of the liberation of western Europe. Pupils will have the opportunity to hear from veterans of previous conflicts and hear factual retellings of these momentous moments in history.



## Odd Socks Day - Tuesday 12 November 2024

Odd Socks Day is taking place on Tuesday 12 November 2024, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. As part of this we are asking for donations of odd socks to be brought into school to help us to create 'sock bunting' to show our support against bullying. If any donations could be left in the odd socks box located in the atrium each morning that would be greatly appreciated!



## Year 7 - 'Bully 4 U' Performance - Friday 15 November 2024

Loudmouth Theatre Group will be in school on Friday 15 November 2024 for a production. Year 7 pupils will learn about different types of bullying (including cyberbullying and the impact of bullying) in a realistic way they can relate to. This programme has increased young people's empathy for victims of bullying, increased young people's knowledge of different types of bullying and where to go for help and support.



## Flu Vaccination Mop Up Session - Wednesday 20 November 2024

A Mop Up Session following Flu Vaccinations on Friday 4 October 2024 will take place on Wednesday 20 November 2024. 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.



# What's Happening

## House Arts Evening - Thursday 21 November 2024

Auditions for this year's House Arts Competition will take place on Friday 25 October 2024, with the Art entries deadline being the same day. Pupils will soon find out if they have been successful in appearing at the evening showcase on Thursday 21 November 2024. There will be awards for first and second place as well as the overall winning house. Good luck to all those involved.



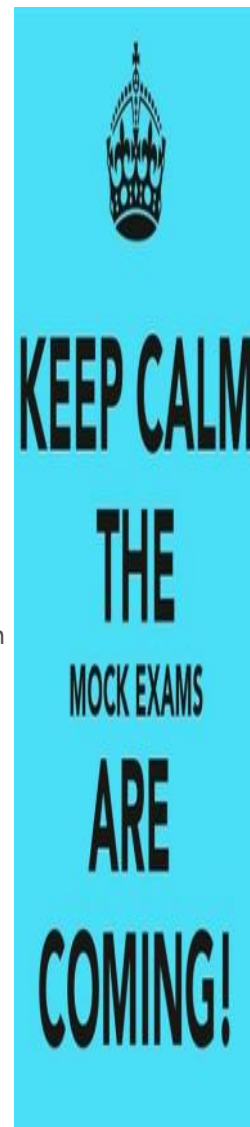
## INSET Day - Friday 29 November 2024 & Monday 2 December 2024

Just to let you know that School will be closed for INSET on Friday 29 November 2024 and Monday 2 December 2024. Student should return to School on Tuesday 3 December 2024 to a Week 1 Timetable.



## Year 11 Mock Exams - WC 2 December 2024

Year 11 will sit their second and final set of mocks in a few weeks' time. There will be one week of written exams in the Sports Hall, followed by a week of practical exams and then the mocks will end with a final week of written exams in the Sports Hall. The mock revision timetable will be sent out to parents/carers and issued to pupils shortly. Completing their exams in the formal setting of the Sports Hall provides pupils with another opportunity to adhere to the JCQ regulations as well as getting first-hand experience of completing past exam papers, and the important feedback that they generate. Engaging and responding with such feedback is one of the best ways pupils improve and so talking to your child about their next steps in each subject is something we would recommend. Revision sessions are continuing - please note that since our return there have been a couple of additions to the revision offer. Our Year 11 Study Hub (A10) is open every day after school from 3.10pm - 4.30pm and all Year 11 pupils are encouraged to attend for support with revision techniques, help with homework or, to use the IT resources and revision guides. If you have any concerns about how much (or how little) revision your child is doing, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Mescam who is more than happy to support all pupils through this tricky time. For parents/carers whose children have been taking part with the MyTutor sessions, we are very happy to report that attendance to and engagement with these 1:1 lessons has been excellent on the whole. There will be an assembly on Monday 11 November 2024 on healthy study habits and getting the most out of revision sessions as well as going back over the JCQ regulations. Year 11 have also recently completed their half term programme of PSHE Revision and Study Skills and their final lesson this week involved comparing their June results with those they recently received in October. Making such a comparison can be quite an eye-opener for some pupils and for others it motivates them to keep on applying themselves as they can see the difference that consistent hard work is making to their results. We would like to thank you for your on-going support in what is often a very challenging year and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year for the Year 11 Parents'/Carer's Evening on 6 February 2025. If you have any questions or queries, please contact [fmescam@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:fmescam@dormston.dudley.sch.uk). Here's to another fabulous half term!



# What's Happening

## Year 10 Virtual Parents/Carers Evening - Thursday 12 December 2024

Just to give you the heads up that our Year 10 Parents/Carers 'Virtual' Consultation evening will be taking place on Thursday 12 December 2024. Further details about booking arrangements will be sent to Year 10 parents/carers in due course.



## PSHE - Thursday 12 December 2024

**Year 7** - Will be looking at how they can maintain a healthy lifestyle, focusing on diet, exercise and sleep habits. They will identify different influences on decisions regarding diet, exercise and sleep, consider the barriers that may be faced when trying to maintain a healthy lifestyle and evaluate strategies to overcome these potential barriers.

**Year 8** - Will be working in small groups to present their ideas on children's rights and responsibilities which has been the PSHE focus this half term. This is a great opportunity for them to practice their speaking and listening skills. They will focus on what are children's rights and why are they important, what may happen if they didn't exist and give real life examples of where children's rights have not been met.

**Year 9** - Will be continuing their study of British Values and respecting differences. In one session they will have an assembly on the events of Stonewall and its historic significance. In the second session they will be looking at sustainability and the environment and being a global citizen.

**Year 10** - Will be continuing their study of sexual health and healthy relationships. In the first session they will look at how to access support from sexual health services. In the second sessions they will focus on what makes a relationship healthy; focusing on positive characteristics and unhealthy behaviours.

**Year 11** - Will be learning how to take care of their mental and physical health in the run up to their December mocks. We will look at the importance of good sleep, balanced nutrition and how to reduce stress levels at key times such as exam season. As part of the programme, pupils will also be sign-posted to sources of extra support if needed.



## GCSE Drama Theatre Trip - Wednesday 18 December 2024

Year 10 & 11 Drama students are off to see War Horse at The New Theatre in Oxford on Wednesday 18 December 2024 at 2.30pm. We have been lucky enough to also take part in a Q&A session with the producers of the show before we sit down to watch. Payments can be made online using the ParentPay site. All payments need to be received by **Friday 6 December 2024**. Please see our recent letter for further details.



## Christmas Holiday Break Up - Friday 20 December 2024 \*EARLY CLOSE

We break up for the Christmas holidays on Friday 20 December at the earlier time of 12.30pm. Students return to school on Tuesday 7 January 2025 as Monday 6 January 2025 is an INSET Day. Students will return to a Week 2 timetable.

