

# Parent/Carer Update Sheet

## December 2024/January 2025

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## December 2024

It's certainly beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Dormston! The Christmas Tree is up in all its glory and as you will see from our Last Week of Term Arrangements Letter that has recently been sent out, we are putting on a range of Christmas related activities so that students can celebrate Christmas together in school!

Year 11 are of course undertaking their Mocks during December and we wish them all the very best of luck! Please ensure your child is revising and also taking some time to relax during this important and sometimes stressful period.

Could we please ask for parents/careers support to enable us to **BREAK A WORLD RECORD** for the most amount of school jumpers tied together by ensuring your child brings in as many jumpers as possible on Friday 20 December 2024.

Just a reminder that we break up at the earlier time of 12.30pm on Friday 20 December 2024 for Christmas. Any students who are entitled to Free School Meals will be able to collect their lunch before they leave.

Don't forget that we will be closed for INSET on Monday 6 January 2025 so students should return to school on Tuesday 7 January 2025 to a Week 2 timetable. Thank you for all your support this year. Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas!



### Learner of the Month

#### November 2024

Our Learner of the Month Winner for **November 2024** was **Millie Ellitts - 11AX** for her outstanding effort in **History**.

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



# 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. Booking lines close on Wednesday 11 December 2024 at 3.00pm.



## 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 it's 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.



## 'Winter Wonderland' at Dormston - WC 16 December 2024

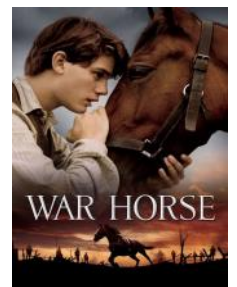
Please see below key events that will be taking place during the last week of term to get students into the Christmas spirit!

- Monday 16 December 2024: Year 7 - 10 Christmas Carousel Activities. Year 7 - 10 to arrive to school in their PE Kits;
- Thursday 19 December 2024: Festive/Warm Jumper Day/Lunchtime Activities & Karaoke/Film Day;
- Friday 20 December 2024 **\*12.30pm finish:** World Record Breakers Attempt - tying the most school jumpers together/Form Party/End of Term Assembly.



## 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.



# What's Happening

## 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.



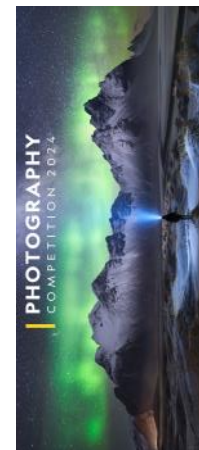
## INSET Day - Monday 6 January 2025

School will be closed to students on Monday 6 January 2025 due to INSET. Students should return to school on Tuesday 7 January 2025 to a Week 2 timetable.



## Geography Photography Competition - WC 13 January 2025

This year's Geography competition challenges students to discover evidence of **the power of physical geography**. When out and about, students are being invited to capture it in a photograph, explain why, and how their example illustrates the power of physical geography. Students need to think about how the landscape/environment has been shaped by the waves, winds, and water in the oceans and atmosphere. The photograph needs to be accompanied with its precise location, a title and a caption of up to 150 words that 'show and tell' the physical geography, describing the photograph focus and explaining how it shows the power of physical geography. All entries need to be on a PowerPoint Slide and emailed to [jperry@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:jperry@dormston.dudley.sch.uk) by **Friday 31 January 2025**.



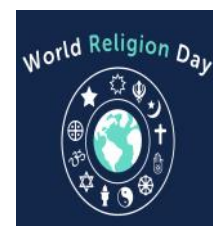
## Tie Rewards Assembly - Wednesday 15 January 2025

We will be holding our next Tie Rewards Assembly on Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 9.10am. Parents/Carers will be notified shortly if their child has been successful in gaining their next tie. Please note that we can ONLY facilitate 1 parent per pupil due to Theatre capacity.



## World Religions Day - W/C Monday 20 January 2025

In Religious Studies lessons W/C 20 January 2025, both KS3 and KS4 students will be taking part in a World Religions Quiz that will explore their interpretation and analysis skills on rituals performed by the major religious traditions in the world, including and going beyond the 6 major religious traditions taught in the curriculum.



## Year 8 Talking Heads - Thursday 23 January 2025

Loudmouth's Theatre in Education will be in school on Thursday 23 January 2025 to deliver Talking Heads to Year 8. Talking Heads is designed to promote and support mental health and wellbeing in schools through teaching about both positive mental well-being and mental ill health. Through dynamic drama and interactive workshops, students will explore essential topics like mental wellbeing, the impact of social media and body image. They'll also discover the "5 Ways to Well-being" with practical steps for resilience.





# What's Happening

## Chinese New Year - Wednesday 29 January 2025

Just to give you the heads up that as part of our 'Diversity in Dormston' programme, we will be holding Chinese New Year Celebrations with decorations, food tasting and crafts on Wednesday 29 January 2025. 2025 will be the Year of the Snake and there will be lots of information on our Weekly PowerPoint for students, along with lantern making and puppet colouring activities available for students to get involved with.



## Year 10 RE Debate - Thursday 30 January 2025

A group of our brave and opinionated Year 10 RE GCSE students will be engaging in theological, philosophical and ethical debates with students from local schools. They will be arguing for the motion that Incarnation is theologically sound. They will also be partaking in debate and discussion around the sanctity of marriage, the right to euthanasia and the use of animals in medical experimentation. Is another win in the bag???



# 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](mailto:kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk).**

## Kickboxing Success - Joshua Smith - 10DY

Well done to Joshua Smith in 10DY who did a 3 hour kickboxing exam and gained his 2nd Degree Black Belt in November and has been awarded his black belt at a presentation recently. This takes a huge amount of hard work and dedication. Both Joshua's family and all of us here at Dormston are extremely proud of him! Keep up the good work Joshua!



Joshua Smith - 10DY





### **School Production Tickets - ON SALE NOW!**

Come along and see our School Production of Grease. The show runs from Wednesday 12 February 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025. Tickets are £6.50 and are available from [seaty.co.uk](https://www.seaty.co.uk) NOW!

**Dormston School**  
Proudly Presents...

**GREASE**

**Wed 12th Feb - Fri 14th Feb 2025**

Tickets £6.50 each  
Available on [seaty.co.uk](https://www.seaty.co.uk)

7:30pm Start  
Mill Theatre at the Dormston Centre, Sedgley, DY3 1SN