

Parent/Carer Update Sheet

February 2025/March 2025



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February 2025

HAPPY

Valentine's
DAY



Dormston School are entering into the spirit of Valentines with our Valentines Day Celebrations this month which have been masterminded by Mrs Downie. There will be a special valentines 'Post Box' set up in the Atrium for Valentines Cards. This is not just for those who have a secret crush or boyfriend/girlfriend, as students are being encouraged to post a card to friends or someone who just needs cheering up! We will also have Roses available to be purchased via ParentPay. On Friday 14 February 2025, LIVE Love Songs will be performed in the Year 11 Café before school and at lunchtime where students are welcome to go for a sing along. Word on the street is that some staff will also be doing some singing! Special love heart chocolates, sweets and cakes will also be available to purchase. We have asked as many staff as possible to wear pink or red on this day and students can wear a red accessory! At 3.00pm there will be a whole school sing-along, where the entire school will sing the same song, at the same time. Please see our recent letter for full and further details.

There are lots of great Careers related activities taking place during both February and March. Can we urge all our Year 9 Parents/Carers to attend our Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 12 March 2025. We look forward to seeing lots of you at our School Production which takes place on Wednesday 12 February 2025 - Friday 14 February 2025.

Don't forget that we break up for February Half Term on Friday 14 February 2025. Students return to school on Monday 24 February 2025 to a Week 2 Timetable.



Learner of the Month

January 2025

Our Learner of the Month Winner for **January 2025** was **Melodeii Trowers - 10SX** for their outstanding effort in **English**.

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



What's Happening

National Apprenticeship Week - WC 10 February 2025

National Apprenticeship week will be taking place WC 10 February 2025. As part of this, Careers will be putting on various assemblies and workshops over the week all around apprenticeships and what they involve. There will also be an application workshop for those students in Year 11 who are looking at this pathway for next year. Further details to follow shortly.



'Grease' - Wednesday 12 February - Friday 14 February 2025

Experience the friendships, romances and adventures of a group of high school kids in the 1950s. Welcome to the singing and dancing world of "Grease," the most successful movie musical of all time. Wholesome exchange student Sandy and a leather-clad Danny have a summer romance, but will it cross clique lines? 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 NOW!



Half Term - WC 17 February 2025

Just to give you the heads up that school will be closed for February Half Term WC 17 February 2025. Students should return to school on Monday 24 February 2024 to a Week 2 timetable.



International Stand Up for Bullying Day - Friday 28 February 2025

International Stand Up to Bullying Day is scheduled for Friday 28 February 2025, which seeks to foster empathy and eliminate bullying and harassment. It is recognised by schools, workplaces, and organisations across more than 25 countries. The impact of bullying can be profound and enduring on an individual's mental health, making it crucial to identify and address bullying incidents promptly.



Year 10 & 11 Cambridge University Trip - Friday 28 February 2025

On Friday 28 February 2025, our top 20 attaining pupils will be visiting the University of Cambridge to raise their aspirations towards university. They will meet current Cambridge students and lecturers as well as getting a tour of colleges and the city itself.





National Careers Week - WC 3 March 2025

The aim of this week is to highlight different career and educational 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 to discuss what routes are available for learners and aim to develop knowledge of employability skills.



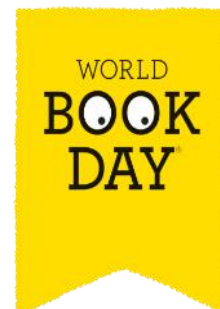
Year 11 Theatre Trip 'An Inspector Calls' - Wednesday 5 March 2025

All Year 11 pupils have studied the play 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley as part of their English Literature G.C.S.E. course. The critically acclaimed National Theatre production of this play is due to be performed locally in March 2025. On Wednesday 5 March 2025, all Year 11 students will be given the opportunity to watch this production which will help them in their G.C.S.E. studies. This trip is to take place at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, where the students will experience the magic of a live professional performance. The trip has very kindly been funded by Mrs Sutton and the school so there is therefore no cost to parents – the ticket and return coach travel to Wolverhampton will be arranged by school. We hope Year 11 enjoy the performance and it helps them further with their GCSE studies!



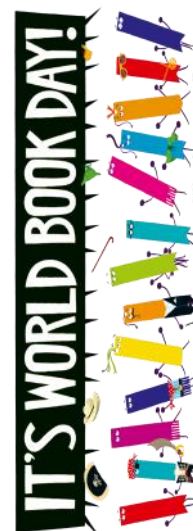
World Book Day - Thursday 6 March 2025

World Book Day is Thursday 6 March 2025 – and once again Dormston School will be joining in with the celebrations with our Year 7 pupils! Our WBD celebrations this year will include a Special Year 7 World Book Day assembly and the Masked Reader competition. The World Book Day charity's biggest campaign to date will focus on the helping children discover a love for reading, while providing more opportunities than ever to get their own £1 book and get involved across a huge range of fun reading activities.



Every year on World Book Day, all young people throughout the country are given a £1 book token which can be taken to a participating book shop or supermarket and exchanged for one of the 15 World Book Day titles, or can be used to get £1 off any book of their choice. <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/> Pupils from Key Stage 3 groups will also receive their World Book Day Voucher on this day which can be taken to a local book shop and swapped for one of the exclusive, new and completely FREE World Book Day books. These can be exchanged in local book shops or at the PLC. OR book tokens can be used to get:

- £1 off any full price book in a book shop
- £1 off an audio book (that costs at least £2.99) in a book shop



More information can be found on the official World Book Day website: <https://www.worldbookday.com/> The World Book Day site is an absolute delight – packed with book recommendations, author podcasts, resources and activities for families and children and young people of all ages. For some fantastic reading inspiration: <https://www.worldbookdaysocial.com/power-reads/> Happy reading!

What's Happening

Year 8 National Careers Challenge - Thursday 6 March 2025

The Inspirational Learning Group will be in school on Thursday 6 March 2025 to deliver the National Careers Challenge to Year 8. 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, students 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 Options Evening - Wednesday 12 March 2025

An evening to hear about how the options process works for Year 9 pupils will take place on Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 6.00pm until 8.00pm. There will be a chance to talk to the teachers of the subjects on offer as well as to some colleges and post-16 courses. More information will follow in due course.



Year 9 DTP/MenACWY Injections - Friday 14 March 2025

All Year 9 pupils will be offered the DTP/MenACWY vaccination on Friday 14 March 2025. It is very important that you fill in the link in the recent email sent out **even if you don't want you child to have the vaccination**. If you have already filled in the link, then you have already registered your child with the vaccination team.



Army Work Experience - Monday 17 March 2025

W/C 17 March, 5 of our Year 10 students will be undertaking a residential Army work experience week. They will complete a number of fitness and team building activities and get an insight into life in the Armed Forces.



INSET Day - Friday 21 March 2025

Please note that school will be closed for INSET on Friday 21 March 2025. Students should return to school on Monday 24 March 2025 to a Week 2 Timetable.



What's Happening

Year 10 Work Experience Week - WC 24 March 2025

Work Experience will take place for Year 10 students who have secured a placement WC 24 March 2025. Over February Half Term 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 logbooks in school beforehand. All students without a placement need to attend school as usual. The week will comprise of some careers related activities and GCSE lessons. More details of the week will be provided nearer the time and we will be contacting parents in due course to collect parental consent



Year 7 Theatre Trip - Wednesday 26 March 2025

On Wednesday 26 March 2025 all of Year 7 will be visiting the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to watch a performance of Charlie & The Chocolate Factory. We will leave school at 1.30pm and return at 5.30pm. Pupils will be allowed to take mobile phones but these must be switched to silent and in their bags. They will only be allowed to use them to update you on their expected return time. Pupils will need to be in school uniform. Please can you ensure payment for the trip is made via ParentPay before the 28 February 2025. If you need any further assistance please email:

arichardson@dormston.dudley.sch.uk



Year 9 Consultation Evening - Thursday 27 March 2025

Just to give you the heads up that we will be holding our Year 9 Consultation Evening on Thursday 27 March 2025. This will be a face to face evening and it is incredibly important in light of Year 9 Options. Appointments will still need to be made via our on-line appointment booking system. Further information about this evening 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.**

Running Success - Layla Williams 9DY

On Saturday 18 January 2025, Layla Williams - 9DY took part in the West Midlands Schools Cross Country Championships, at Warley Woods. Layla was representing Dormston and the borough of Dudley - competing against Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Solihull, South Birmingham and Coventry. Layla competed in the Year 8 and 9 age group, running 2.5km in 8 minutes 25 seconds and came away as Champion! This has gained her automatic selection to represent West Midlands schools in the English Schools Cross Country Championships, taking place on Saturday 15 March at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, East Sussex! Well done Layla on this amazing achievement!



Layla Williams - 9DY

Active Citizenship Project - Finley Purchase - 11TY

We just wanted to share Finley Purchase's brilliant and ambitious 'Active Citizenship Project' with you! Finley has a real passion for History, so set himself the task of getting the old First World War South Staffordshire Regiment Territorial Army Drill Hall and Recruitment Office re-located from its resting place on the Sedgley Road, to the Black Country Living Museum! Finley emailed MPs and the Museum itself and received a reply from the Head of Preservation at the museum saying that he was interested in his proposition, but the museum couldn't take on the project due to their current development with the recreation of Woodside Library as part of their 1940s-60s Street, however, they asked Finley for an overview of his Citizenship GCSE course, and then offered for him to help them with the Woodside Library project as an alternative. Even though Finley's campaign to get the drill hall restored and relocated to the museum was not as successful as he had hoped, he still plans on continuing with his preservation project so that he can hopefully be the spark that lights the fire to help rescue this once crucial building that played a role in our local areas wartime past back to her former glory. Well done Finley!





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