

Parent/Carer Update Sheet

March 2025/April 2025



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March 2025

We hope you all had a fantastic February Half Term. It was great to welcome students back to school! The nights are starting to get that little bit lighter now and it won't be long before spring is on its way!

We hope our Year 10 & 11 students who attended our 'An Inspector Calls' theatre trip had fantastic time on Wednesday 5 March 2025. Seeing a live performance can really bring a story to life and we hope that this has really supported students who are studying this text enormously with their studies. Please talk to your child about the experience if they attended.

March is a really important time for our Year 9 students as they will be picking their Options. We urge all Year 9 parents/carers to attend our Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 12 March 2025 and also our Year 9 Consultation Evening on Thursday 27 March 2025 to ensure students are making informed choices.

March is also the month when our Year 10s take part in their Work Experience. This is such a valuable experience for them as they take their first tentative steps into finding more about the world of work. Any students who have not managed to find a place will be expected to attend school as normal.

Please note that we 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.



Learner of the Month

February 2025 & March 2025

Our Learner of the Month Winner for **February 2025** was **Annabelle Bevington-King - 11DY** for her hard work and dedication in Religious Studies and our Learner of the Month Winner for **March 2025** was **Jaiden Takhar - 11SY** for his outstanding effort in **English**.

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



What's Happening

Year 8 National Careers Challenge - Thursday 6 March 2025

The Inspirational Learning Group was 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 worked to develop a business idea that is inspired by the skills and heritage of their own local town or city. Students considered 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 have contacted 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.



The Oscars - Thursday 3 April 2025 at 6.30pm

Our annual Oscar Awards Evening will take place Thursday 3 April 2025 at 6.30pm. The event is packed with entertainment, prizes and awards and promises, as always, to be a great evening. This awards evening is all about celebrating the success and hard work of some of our brightest and best pupils in Years 7 - 10. Unfortunately, due to seating restrictions not all pupils can receive an invitation. Please reassure your child that if they do not get invited to this event it is not because we do not recognise their hard work and effort. Our Gold Envelope invitations will be coming out shortly!



What's Happening

March Action for Happiness Calendar

Why not take a look at our March Action for Happiness Calendar which we share with students during Form Time.



Easter Holidays - W/C Monday 14 April 2025

Just to remind you that we break up for the Easter Holidays on Friday 11 April 2025, so school will be closed for students for 2 weeks from W/C Monday 14 April 2025. Students should return to school on Monday 28 April 2025 to a Week 1 timetable.



Summer Uniform - WC Monday 28 April 2025

Just a reminder that we switch over to our summer polo shirts when we return after the Easter holidays! If you want to save some money and the environment FoDC have lots of #Pre-Loved summer polo shirts available to purchase at a fraction of the cost and will be open during the Easter Holidays. FoDC Pop Up Shop Opening hours to follow shortly!



Year 8 HPV Vaccinations - Wednesday 30 April 2025

Our Year 8 HPV Vaccinations will be taking place on Wednesday 30 April 2025. Please ensure you have completed the permission link from Vaccinations UK.



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.**

Horseball Success - Samantha Mason - 11AY

Samantha Mason - 11AY has been playing 'Horseball' for just over a year, although she has actually been riding since she was just 5 years old. Horseball is like rugby/basketball on horseback, the ball is passed amongst players and taken to goal, if dropped it has to be picked up off the floor by leaning over from your horse, and it is a fast paced game! Samantha's team came 3rd overall in the league last year and she also played in the championships at the end of the season. Samantha is playing again this year in the league and she is also training with the Under 16 GB Horseball Team, who play in France in July! We had never heard of Horseball before, but it sounds fantastic! Well done Samantha on this brilliant achievement.



Samantha Mason - 11AY

Mixed Martial Arts Success - Hannah Ockendon - 11SY

A massive congratulations goes to Hannah Ockendon - 11SY who achieved her black belt 2nd Dan back in November 2024 in Mixed Martial Arts after attending classes for over 10 years! It's hard to really comprehend the dedication and hard work that must have gone in to achieving this outstanding result. Well done Hannah, we are all very proud of you!



Hannah Ockendon - 11SY

Dance Success - Maisie Jacob - 10AX

Maisie Jacob - 10AX has been dancing since she was 4 years old and has performed at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. Her dance group are 'Expressions Dance Academy' and she dances every Saturday between 9.00am and 3.30pm. During the morning, she gives up her time to train and support the younger dancers, which is incredibly kind and demonstrates her love for dancing. Maisie will be dancing at Disneyland Paris this July. Her Dance Academy had to rehearse and submit videos to Disney in order to be accepted and Maisie will be on stage in Paris!!! Her family are all going to see her and are incredibly proud of her dedication and talent! Well done Maisie we are very proud of you too!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Success StORiES

Stage School Success - Evie Cooper - 8DX

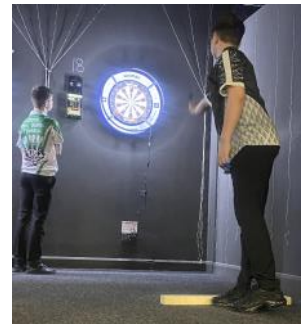
Congratulations go to Evie Cooper - 8DX who over half term was in her Stage School's 10 year anniversary show called 'Over the Rainbow' (a take on the musical 'Wicked'). Evie played the part of good witch Glinda and absolutely shone on stage. Well done on this amazing achievement. We hear the show was absolutely fantastic! We are all very proud of you!



Evie Cooper - 8DX as 'Glinda'

Darts Success - Jordan Preece - 8DY

Jordan Preece - 8DY represented Black County Darts U18s recently winning his game. He is currently sitting in 22nd place in the under 18 county table nationwide which is an amazing achievement. Jordan has played in Tours 1 - 4 in the JDC Foundation Tour, getting through to the top 16 out of 201 entries world wide in Tour 2. He played some AMAZING darts and had some super averages. Well done Jordan!



Jordan Preece - 8DY in action!

Running Success - Layla Williams - 9DY

For those of you who regularly read our Monthly Update Sheet, you will know that Layla Williams is an exceptional and very talented runner. On Saturday 22 February 2025 Layla raced in the National Cross Country Championships, at Parliament Hill, London. The race was 4km and the course was extremely muddy (as you can see from the picture!) Layla's run was outstanding and she finished 24th out of 305 runners, and she still has another year in the U15 girls age group! Layla has also been selected to represent West Midlands Schools Athletics Association in the All England Schools Cross Country Championships (ESAA), which take place on Saturday 15 March 2025. This was following a trial race she did in January where she finished first WM athlete in her age group. Good luck Layla!



Layla Williams - 9DY



success stories

School Production Celebration!

As you know, our School Production of 'Grease' took place just before we broke up for February Half Term. As students who took part, gained so much from the experience, we thought we would share a few cast members thoughts and feelings about what it was like being part of the School Production 2025!

Evja Duba - 10SX - played the character of Marty

"School production has honestly been one of the best experiences of my Dormston journey. I think what I enjoyed most was the constant excitement about what's coming next – the cast list being released, rehearsal of my favourite scenes and of course, opening night. I was lucky enough to get a principal role this year, and I must admit all the hard work has been so worth it! Working with the rest of the cast has helped me meet people I wouldn't normally talk to, yet I have gained friendships and forever memories with these amazing people. I am endlessly proud of everyone who worked to make this happen, and I must admit it has made me realise how proud of myself I am too! Things like this give people recognition of what you can actually do, and I think that honestly is great; I would 100% recommend doing production for anyone considering it, I still think I won't fully get over the fact that it's over with now, and that's something you only start to appreciate once you experience it. Grease will honestly be something I will never forget!"

Payton Bryan- 8AY - supported as backstage crew

"Doing the production as backstage crew took a lot of my free time, but I wouldn't have had it any other way since I really enjoyed doing it instead of sitting at home and by the end I got to see the final product of all of the cast and backstage crew's hard work come together! I was hesitant to join at first, but it was one of the best choices I have made. It was more than just doing something productive; it helped me gain confidence when working with others and helped my leadership traits shine through. People tend to focus on the main cast (as they rightfully should) but being in the chorus or backstage, is still a huge responsibility and you need to be mature enough to understand how the cast is feeling and make it easier for them. You also have to be prepared to put something on stage if someone else is unwell or not there in time. I totally recommend joining the school production, as backstage crew or cast!"

