

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

It's been Mental Health Awareness Week in school this week which is a time for more talking and thinking about mental health and what we can do to improve our wellbeing and the wellbeing of those around us. In school this week, students have been engaging in thoughtful discussions during Form Time about mental health. They also watched a short video (linked below), which you might like to view and discuss with your child at home. <https://youtu.be/wr4N-SdekqY>. Last week, during PE lessons, students took part in a mini marathon activity as part of our focus on mental health. Certificates will be generated shortly for those that completed this. In assemblies, we also explored the importance of taking time away from social media and mobile phones. Reducing screen time can help improve sleep, boost face-to-face interaction, and support overall well-being.

Mr P Amos took some of our Year 9 students to The Dell Stadium on Thursday for athletics and they all did really well! Layla Williams - 9DY was lapping other students in the 1,500m and we also had lots of other 2nd and 3rd places! A special mention also goes to Tyler Stevens - 9TX who has never done anything like this before. He competed in the 300m and made it all the way to the semi-finals and finished 4th which is an amazing achievement!

Year 11 are continuing to plough through their GCSEs as another week of exams is done and dusted! We continue to be incredibly proud of their attitude and maturity. The Prom deadline has now passed, so if your Year 11 child is invited to attend, please now ensure you have purchased their ticket on ParentPay ASAP as final arrangements will shortly need to be made.

Today I got to present our Learner of the Month Award for April 2025 to Daniel Teece - 10DY for his effort and perseverance in his Core Skills Lesson. As you know, this is always a very special occasion and it was a pleasure to present this award to Daniel.

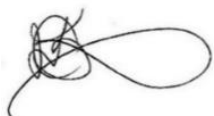


Attendance this week in school has been brilliant and it is the 3rd highest it has been all year, so thank you to all our students and parents/carers for your support with this. It really does make a difference!

As you know, we love to share the musical talent at Dormston with you. Below is Quinn Tidman's GCSE composition which he achieved a Grade 8 for. Well done Quinn, this is fantastic!

<https://youtu.be/2zT9ncNa9qU>

Best wishes.



Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

The vast majority of all letters are now emailed home and we use electronic reply slips as much as possible. The criterion for 'selected student only' opportunities are based on various factors depending on its focus. Unfortunately, we are unable to allow every student the opportunity to be involved with every activity which we understand sometimes causes disappointment. If you require more details about the selection process for any opportunity please contact the event organiser.

- Year 10 Citizenship & RS Shrewsbury Prison Trip Letter;
- New York Trip Payment Update Letter.

Events/Reminders

- Year 11 GCSEs - WC 19 May 2025;
- Year 8 & 10 'Rivers of Change' Charity Event - WC 19 May 2025.
- Ice Cream Reward Event - Thursday 22 May 2025 **Selected students only!*

Updates

Year 9 - Black Country Food Bank Update

Following our recent Year 9 Black Country Food Bank event **we donated enough to provide 160 meals and 21 toiletry packs!!** 🙌👏. Thank you to everyone who participated!

'Rivers of Change' - Year 8 & 10 Charity Event

Between Monday 19 May - Friday 23 May 2025, we are asking all pupils and staff to dig deep for that spare change as we will be holding our Year 10 and Year 8 Charity Event 'Rivers of Change'! We are asking for coins to be donated to support two of our year groups chosen charities.

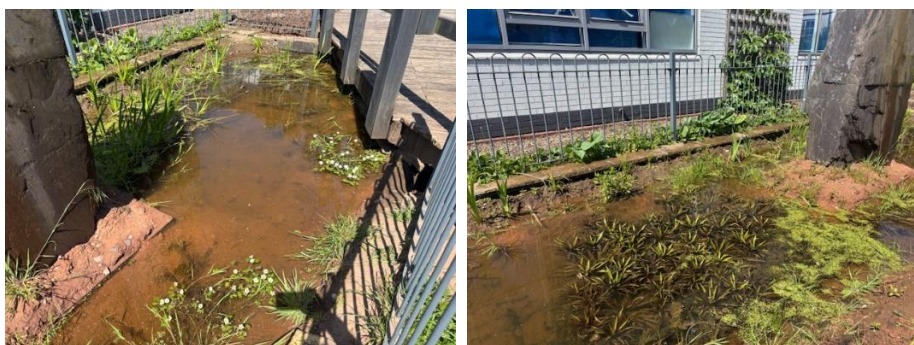
Year 8 - Sedgley Activity Centre - A few of our own pupils' volunteer at this centre. This service provides the opportunity for visitors to embrace the outdoors, bond with animals and have forestry family fun.

Year 10 - Beacon Blind Institute - Supporting those with visual impairments and making a positive difference on so many people's lives.

Please could you support the school in championing our local charities with providing these donations. **We are only asking pupils for spare change, we do not expect any pupil to donate any notes.**

Eco News

We are delighted to have been able to create an eco-pond and garden area for pupils and staff at Dormston. This will be a quiet, safe space for pupils to sit during break and lunchtimes. There will be a grand opening on Wednesday 5 June 2025 at lunchtime with Year 7 being invited ahead of this next Wednesday. Year 7 will be given the opportunity to plant a sunflower seed and nurture their plant in their form rooms. These will then be planted into bigger pots and left to bloom in the eco garden for all to enjoy. There will also be a prize for the best sunflower! Once again, we would like to thank 'Friends of Dormston' for providing the money to place 6 benches in the eco garden. We will be looking to find ways to secure more seating in the future. We would also like to send out a huge thank you to Mr Young and his site staff for working hard to get the surrounding decking and wood work spruced up and safe to use.



Our pond is new and is only recently starting to bloom!



Our tree was pollarded but is starting to show new growth.



Our biodome has been cleared out and we have a buddleia in the centre. Surrounding this, we have planted wild flowers.

Reflexions Creative Event

Please see below Reflexions Creative Event flyer that we have been asked to share with you.

REFLEXIONS & POWEREDBYCAN

CREATIVE EVENT



COME AND JOIN REFLEXIONS/ROUTES AND ARTISTS FROM
POWEREDBYCAN WHO ARE HOLDING A CREATIVE EVENT FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 12-19 IN THE BLACK COUNTRY!

ACTIVITIES ON OFFER



- Music Writing
- Jewellery Making
- Creative Writing
- Music Production
- Street Art
- Sculpting



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR BRIEF SIGN UP FORM TO
REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS EVENT, PLEASE EMAIL
BCHFT.REFLEXIONS@NHS.NET

DATE & TIME:

29TH MAY 2025

START FROM 1 PM - 6:30 PM

AGES
12-19

AT MERRY HILL SHOPPING CENTRE
- (BY THE BIG NEXT)

 BCHFT Reflexions

 bchft_reflexions

<https://www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/reflexions>

Bookworm Boosters

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." **Dr. Seuss**

A reminder that the PLC & Library is now closed to students at break and lunchtime due to GCSE exams taking place. However... the great news is that the Pop-up PLC provides a fabulous temporary alternative!

Students should go to the Pop-up PLC in E2 at break or lunchtime to:

- request to borrow a PLC book (which they will be able to collect the next day if it is readily available);
- collect a book;
- renew a book;
- return a book;
- sit and read;
- sit and draw;
- sit and revise.

The PLC & Library will re-open on Wednesday 18 June 2025.

Waterstones Books of the Month: May 2025

<https://www.waterstones.com/campaign/books-of-the-month#childrens>

The Children and YA (young adult/teen readers) titles can be borrowed from the PLC. Students should go to Pop-up PLC to request their copy.

Oliver



Our school uses the library system called Oliver. Students can browse the catalogue and access their own library account to reserve a book/renew the book(s) they currently have on loan/write a book review, via the tile (as shown above) on RM Unify. This is particularly useful for students to browse the catalogue when they can't access the bookshelves in the PLC & Library.