

## Parental Communication & Engagement



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## Message from Headteacher

It's been another busy but great week in school and there have been lots of fantastic trips going out recently!

Last Friday, we were delighted to be given the opportunity to take a small group of students to Earls High School where Alexander Armstrong, star of television and radio, talked about his latest book, *Evenfall: The Golden Linnet*. Students listened to how he created this modern children's fantasy and he treated them to a reading from the book and gave an insight into his thoughts for a second book! He also shared ideas and tips for inspiring budding authors. There was lots of audience participation throughout, along with the chance to ask questions. The event concluded with students being able to meet Alexander whilst he signed their copy of his book which was fantastic! One of our students said that this event had been a dream come true for them as they had always wanted to see an author. A BIG thank you goes to Mrs Ellsmore our PLC Manager for organising this great trip!

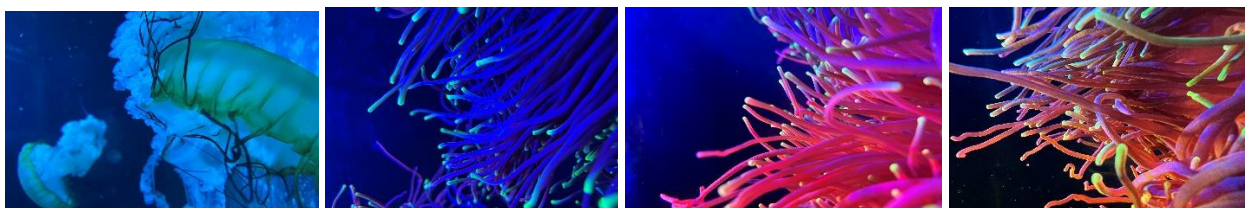


Alexander Armstrong with Dormston students.

Monday - Wednesday this week Year 11 GCSE Citizenship students visited Wolverhampton Combined Courts and witnessed criminal trials in real life! They got to see a wide range of cases, ranging from plea hearings, trials by jury and verdicts, with murders, serious assaults and drug dealing all being heard. This has been an invaluable learning experience for the pupils as they have seen the roles and workings of the criminal justice system played out in real life. Thank you to Mrs Downie for organising this great opportunity!

Tuesday and Wednesday our Year 11 Textiles students enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. The visit was organised to inspire their upcoming design projects, with a particular focus on using natural forms, textures, and colour schemes as a source of creative ideas.

Throughout the day, students explored a wide range of underwater environments and observed the incredible variety of sea creatures, from brightly coloured tropical fish to the elegant movement of jellyfish. They sketched patterns, photographed interesting shapes, and collected ideas that could be translated into fabric prints, embroidery, or surface decoration. The immersive displays and close-up encounters gave students plenty of fresh inspiration for their coursework. The trip ran very smoothly, with everyone fully engaged and enthusiastic. Behaviour was excellent, and staff at the Sea Life Centre praised the group for their curiosity and respectful attitude. Students came away buzzing with ideas, and many commented on how valuable the experience was for sparking their creativity. Overall, the day was a great success – not only enjoyable but also highly beneficial for the development of their design work. Thank you to Mrs Poleykett for organising the trip!



On Wednesday evening, we held our 'Success in Science Evening' for Years 9 - 11. Thank you to all our parents/carers who came along. We hope you found the evening informative and helpful.

This term, we are continuing with our rewards initiative to celebrate pupils' effort and commitment. On set dates, pupils nominated by their teachers will be invited to the atrium to enjoy a 'sweet treat' as recognition of their consistent hard work. Nominations are based on our school's core values of **Respect, Responsibility, Effort, Knowledge and Resilience**. Pupils chosen will have consistently demonstrated these values in their learning and behaviour. We look forward to celebrating their achievements throughout the year. On Thursday, we held our first 'Sweet Treat Rewards' of the academic year, which was definitely enjoyed by the students who were nominated.

We wish all of our DofE staff and students all the very best with their expedition which went out today. Fingers crossed for good weather!

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mrs Sutton'.

**Mrs Sutton**  
**Headteacher**

## Events/Reminders

- Year 9 & 10 Germany 2026 Trip Initial Deposit Due - Monday 22 September 2025;
- Year 9 & 10 Alton Towers Trip - Friday 26 September 2025;
- Year 11 Post 16 Evening MS Forms Response Deadline - Friday 26 September 2025.

## Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- Year 7 Update Letter - September 2025;
- Year 8 Update Letter - September 2025;

- Year 9 Attendance & Punctuality Letter - September 2025;
- Year 9 & 10 Germany 2026 Trip Successful Letter;
- Year 9 & 10 Germany 2026 Trip Unsuccessful Letter;
- Year 10 English Language & Literature Revision Guide Letter;
- Year 11 History Revision Letter;
- Year 11 English Language & Literature Revision Guide Letter;
- Year 11 Post-16 Evening Letter;
- French Christmas Market Trip EHIC/GHIC Health Card Letter.

## Updates

### Year 8 Weekly Achievements

It has been another fantastic week for Year 8 – full of effort, achievement, and celebration!

- **Students of the Week**  
Nominated by their form tutors for their hard work and positive attitude, this week's Students of the Week will each receive a Year Leader Commendation. Congratulations to Mason Haines, Jack Jones, Noel Wilkinson and Ellie Norwood.
- **100% Attendance Champion**  
Every pupil with 100% attendance this week was entered into our raffle. Well done to Poppy Bate, who has been drawn as our Attendance Champion and will receive a certificate and a small treat!
- **Core Value Champion - Effort**  
Our core value focus this week has been *Effort*. The pupil with the highest effort positive points is Sofia Pemberton. They will be awarded a Headteacher Commendation, a certificate, and a small treat – a huge well done!
- **Best Form Attendance**  
Congratulations to 8AY for achieving the best attendance, 99.64%. They will receive sweets and a certificate to display proudly on their form board and the Year 8 notice board.
- **Highest Form Positive Points**  
This week's top form for positive points is 8AX with 283 points. They will enjoy sweets and a certificate for their fantastic teamwork and positivity.
- **Form of the Week**  
Finally, the form with the best combined attendance and positive points is 8AX. They will enjoy a special Friday morning registration treat of their choice, as well as a certificate to showcase their achievement.

### Scientific Calculator

As part of their equipment list, all pupils are required to have a scientific calculator with them. Unfortunately, at the moment this is not the case for some of our students and this could impact on their learning and progress if not rectified as soon as possible, as they cannot access some of the key learning points without one. Please can you support us by ensuring your child has this vital piece of equipment and brings it to school with them. You will shortly receive a letter with further details on how you can purchase a calculator from school should your child require one. We recommend for our 5-year curriculum a Casio fx-83GT X. The Maths Department welcomes the use of other models of scientific calculator, however, please note that both staff and students are more proficient in using the Casio model.

## Forgotten Items of Equipment

Can we please remind parents/carers that students should be coming to school fully prepared for learning. We have seen a significant increase in forgotten items of equipment being dropped off for some of our older year groups recently. We are trying to decrease the number of lessons that are interrupted for these sorts of reasons so your support with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

## PE Extra-Curricular - Autumn 1

Please see below our PE Extra-Curricular Timetable for Autumn 1.

| PE Extra-Curricular<br>Autumn 1                   |                                             |                                          |                                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday                                            | Tuesday                                     | Wednesday                                | Thursday                                        | Friday                              |
| Lunch-time                                        | Lunch-time                                  | Lunch-time                               | Lunch-time                                      | Lunch-time                          |
| Cricket<br>Club Pupils<br>Sportshall<br>NAB & ILS | Badminton<br>7-9<br>Sportshall<br>NBE & ILS | After school                             | Badminton<br>10 & 11<br>Sportshall<br>NBE & ILS | After school                        |
| After school                                      | After school                                | Basketball<br>7-11<br>Sports Hall<br>RCL | After school                                    | Football<br>Year 11<br>Astro<br>NBE |
| Girls Football<br>7-11<br>Astro<br>Outside staff. | Football<br>Year 9<br>Astro<br>JWS          | Football<br>Year 7<br>Astro<br>SCY       | Football<br>Year 10<br>Astro<br>PAS             |                                     |
|                                                   | Netball<br>8-11<br>Sportshall<br>ILS        | Rugby<br>7-11<br>Field<br>NBE            | Football<br>Year 8<br>Field<br>NBE              |                                     |
|                                                   |                                             |                                          | Netball<br>Year 7<br>Sportshall<br>ILS          |                                     |

## PE Reminders

- for extra-curricular PE clubs full Dormston PE is required to be worn, plus any sport specific items required for that sport (e.g. Shin Pads for Football);
- all students who have PE during Period 5 are required to get changed at the end of PE back into full Dormston uniform to go home;
- please note there will be no Rugby Club on Wednesday 24th September and Wednesday 1st October due to other fixtures.
- No Year 11 football on Friday 26th September and Friday 24th October.

## 'The Band' - Wednesday 8 October to Saturday 11 October 2025

WBOS is extremely proud to present..... 'The Band' a new musical with music from 'Take That' at The Dormston Mill Theatre Sedgley on Wednesday 8 October to Saturday 11 October 2025 at 7.30pm for evening performances and there is also a 2.30pm Saturday matinee performance. "The Band" is a crowd-pleasing musical that delivers a fun and nostalgic experience, particularly for 'Take That' fans. It offers a feel - good night out with plenty of singalong moments and impressive staging.

**Ticket prices:**

£18.00 - Wednesday - Thursday.

£20.00 - Friday - Saturday.

Concession - £3.00 less for 16 and under and 60 and over.

Groups over 10 an extra £2.00 discount per ticket.

Tickets obtainable from: <https://cas5-0->

[urlprotect.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=www.seaty.co.uk%2ftheband&umid=b5ffda3f-417d-4a75-866a-0e4a589f8694&rct=1752243139&auth=edfca55fd17cb539967b79a433eef60454a16a48-c3cc6a4acc4343e1cd63c5006672cf634b842cdd](https://cas5-0-urlprotect.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=www.seaty.co.uk%2ftheband&umid=b5ffda3f-417d-4a75-866a-0e4a589f8694&rct=1752243139&auth=edfca55fd17cb539967b79a433eef60454a16a48-c3cc6a4acc4343e1cd63c5006672cf634b842cdd)

Ticket hotline 07970 279728

## **Congratulations/Well Done**

### **Headteacher Commendations**

Congratulations go to the following who received Headteacher Commendations this week.

|                   |            |  |  |
|-------------------|------------|--|--|
| Ellie-Mae Norwood | Josh Evans |  |  |
|-------------------|------------|--|--|