



Our Ref: PAS/KON

September 2025

ALL YEAR 11 PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a restful and enjoyable summer break, filled with opportunities to relax and make special memories together.

As we begin this final academic year, we would like to warmly welcome you and your child back to a crucial and exciting few months ahead. As you are aware, Year 11 is not only the shortest school year but also the most intense. It will move quickly, and we are committed to working closely with you to ensure that your child achieves their very best. This year, our Year 11 Team will be made up of myself as Head of Year, Ms Smith (Designated Safeguarding Lead), and Mr Farley as Pastoral staff. Assistant Headteacher Mrs Fay Mescam will once again lead from an academic and strategic perspective. Together, we will be overseeing your child's progress in lessons, personal development, and overall well-being to ensure that they have every opportunity of reaching their individual potential.

Key Events:

In addition to the main events detailed below, please find attached a Year 11 Academic Calendar which details all the main events in one place for your ease.

Welcome to Year 11 Evening:

On Thursday 11th September at 6pm, Mrs Mescam will be holding our annual **Welcome to Year 11** Evening with a focus on how to support your child through their final year. Pupils and parents are warmly welcomed. Please note if your child is participating in this year's school production, there is an earlier meeting at **5.30pm with Miss Toy** our Head of Drama. It's essential that any Year 11 pupils who are involved in the show take on board all the advice this evening will provide so as to ensure success both on the stage and in the classroom.

Success in Science Evening:

On Wednesday 17th September at 6pm, Mr Wilkinson will be running his annual Success in Science evening. This is for parents/carers of all pupils in Years 9 - 11 but it is particularly valuable for Year 11 pupils and parents/carers who may feel overwhelmed with the content of the Science GCSE curriculum, or aren't sure how best to revise Biology, Physics and Chemistry. More information will follow.

'The Study Hubs':

To support pupils with their studies in Year 11, I am delighted to announce that we have expanded our after-school study facilities. In addition to A10 'The Study Hub' where pupils can complete homework, get help with revision or revision techniques, we are also now opening the 'Silent Study Hub' (A9). This room will only be for pupils who need a silent space in which to work and so strict adherence to this will be required. Both A9 and A10 will open from Monday 15th September. The rooms will be open from after school until 4:30pm and refreshments will be provided.

Help with Revision Guides:

If your child would like to borrow revision guides, please ask them to speak with Mrs Mescam as this is something we can do to support pupils should the need arise. All we would ask is that they are returned at the end of the year so that future pupils can also make good use of them.

Form Time Intervention Sessions (Maths, English and Science):

Following on from their success last year, we will be re-running our form-time intervention sessions week commencing 15th September for targeted pupils only. Punctuality at these sessions is vital! Attendance at these sessions is compulsory and we would ask you for your support in ensuring that your child attends if and when they are invited. If your child is not required to attend, they will be expected in form time as usual. Other cycles of support will run throughout the year and will involve different pupils.

Revision Sessions:

A revision session timetable will be sent out to parents/carers shortly. Sessions will take place early in the morning for some subjects, during lunch time and after school. There may also be revision sessions offered in key subjects during half term holidays.

Post-16 Evening:

Ms Froggatt and her Careers Team will be leading a **Post-16 Evening on Thursday 2nd October** details will follow. The evening will be divided into two sections with a presentation in the theatre along with an opportunity to meet and speak with our many Post-16 providers

Looking further Ahead:

GCSE Examinations:

A full official timetable of summer exams will be sent to parents/carers as soon as they are officially published as will your child's individual exam timetable. Mrs Mescam will also host a GCSE preparation Evening before February half term. More details to follow.

Leavers' Assembly:

Our final 'Goodbye' assembly will take place on **Friday 19th June 2026**. More details to follow.

The Prom:

Our annual end of year prom will be held on **Thursday 2nd July 2026** at the **Park Hall Hotel** Wolverhampton. More details to follow.

Attendance & Engagement and Punctuality:

This year, attendance is a significant focus at the national level as well as here at Dormston School. Research shows that one of the most impactful ways to support your child to succeed academically is to encourage full attendance and engagement at school.

Our goal is for every student to aim for 100% attendance and to maintain a minimum of 97% by the end of Summer 2025. While occasional absences due to illness are understandable, minor ailments (such as a cough, cold, or sore throat) should not prevent students from attending school. Please encourage your children to be resilient and attend school whenever possible, even if they are experiencing minor disruptions.

Please may I also remind you that your child must be on time for school and **in form** (or their intervention sessions where relevant) for **8.40am**. If there is a reason they may be late that is not their fault, please email Mr Phil Amos at pamos@dormston.dudley.sch.uk to avoid sanctions. Due to the government's increased priority on punctuality, there will be detentions in place if your child does not arrive until after 9.00am. If they do not attend until after 9.30am, this also now has to be recorded as an unauthorised absence for the morning session. **We have to comply with government standards and implement these changes.** We also strongly support the notion that punctuality and

attendance are vital to your child's success. Please see the table below for the impact of reduced attendance on final outcomes.

Subject	Target Grade	Attendance			
		97% +	<95%	<90%	<80
English Lang	5	6	4	4	4
English Lit	5	6	4	4	4
Maths	5	6	4	4	4
Science	5/5	6	5/5	4/4	4/4
Geography	5	6	5	4	3
Art	5	6	5	5	3
PE	5	6	5	5	3

97% attendance – gives a Year 11 student a progress score of +1. **On average**, this means that in every subject the student gets 1 grade higher than expected in every subject.

95% attendance – The progress score becomes -0.3. This means that, **on average** the student is 1 grade below their target in 3 out of 8 subjects.

90% attendance - The progress score becomes -0.5. This means that, **on average** the student is 1 grade below their target in 5 out of 8 subjects.

All that remains to say is a huge and heartfelt thank you for all your support over the years; the role that parental support plays in securing strong outcomes for pupils cannot be overestimated. It's going to be a busy year with its challenges and its highlights so I would like to thank you for your ongoing support in encouraging your child to work hard each and every day because together we can help them get where they need to be.

Yours sincerely

P Amos

Mr P Amos
Head of Year 11

Mrs Mescam

Mrs Fay Mescam
Year 11 Strategic Lead

Ms Smith

Ms Smith
DSL

Mr Farley

Mr Farley
Year 11 Pastoral Officer