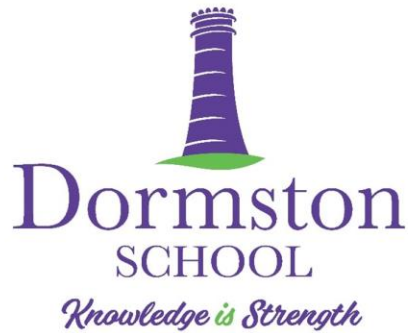


Our Ref: JWS/KON

September 2025

ALL YEAR 8 PARENTS/CARERS



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to see our Year 8 students back in school. I hope that you and your families have had a restful and enjoyable summer, and that the children are feeling refreshed and ready for a successful year ahead.

In our Year 8 assembly, I outlined the high expectations regarding behaviour, effort, and attitude, alongside uniform standards, correct equipment, and punctuality that will all be key areas of focus. These are essential foundations for success and will help ensure that every student has the best possible opportunities to thrive this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers of the critical importance of attendance and punctuality. Attendance is currently a significant focus at the national level, and our goal is for every student to aim for 100% attendance, with a minimum of 97% by the end of Summer 2026. While we understand that illness can occasionally prevent attendance, minor ailments (such as a cough, cold, or sore throat) should not keep students at home. Please encourage your child to be resilient and attend school whenever possible.

Punctuality is also vital. Students must be in form by 8.40am each day. If there is a reason beyond your child's control that may cause lateness, please notify me by email at cwilliams@dormston.dudley.sch.uk to avoid sanctions. In line with government guidance:

- students arriving after **9.00am** will receive a detention;
- students arriving after **9.30am** will be recorded as having an **unauthorised absence** for the morning session.

We are required to comply with these standards, and we fully support the principle that excellent attendance and punctuality are key to your child's academic success.

We will also be rewarding positive behaviour and attendance this year. Each week, the form group with the best behaviour and the form group with the highest attendance will receive treats. Individual students will also have the chance to gain Year Leader Commendations. In addition, students with 0 negative points and 100% attendance each term will earn extra rewards.

Our motto for the year is:

Dream Big, Study Hard, Achieve Your Goals.

- *Dream Big* - Have ambitions and aim high. You are capable of amazing things;
- *Study Hard* - This year is a fresh start. Put in the effort and be ready to learn;
- *Achieve Your Goals* - With big dreams and hard work, success will follow.

The Year 8 team will support every child along the way, but ultimately, it is their commitment and effort that will make the difference.

Finally, I want every student in Year 8 to feel supported throughout their journey this year. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above email address. I will always do my best to assist.



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Headteacher: Mrs C Sutton



Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to working with you and your children during what I am sure will be a fantastic year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Williams

Mrs C. Williams

Year Leader - Year 8