

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

As you may remember, some of our Year 10 students took part in their DofE expedition last weekend! All students successfully passed the expedition section which was great! They were a fantastic group and an absolute pleasure to take. They were all up at 6.00am sharp on Saturday with tents packed and the groups were away by 9.00am – which is a rarity! They finished in record time - and no one got lost! We had some really lovely comments from the staff of Gecko, the expedition organisers/leaders, *"Best group we have worked with this year!"* *"A dream to work with!"* *"Fantastic school to work with!"* which was lovely. Many thanks as always to Mr Fox, Mrs Millership and Mrs Pajaj for giving up their time on Friday night and Saturday, camping on very uncomfortable ground, and being kept awake by the shrieks of owls, and church bells!



As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a culture of vigilance in safeguarding, we were delighted to welcome PC Arch, our Secondary Intervention and Prevention Officer, into school this week. He delivered valuable input sessions to different year groups on a range of important topics: Year 7 focused on social media safety and the law, Year 8 explored darker nights, and Years 9 and 10 discussed antisocial behaviours and gang mentality. Our students were exceptionally well behaved, fully engaged, and took on board the advice given to help them keep themselves safe from harm.

We were also proud to present our Executive Leadership Team with their blazers and our Peer Mentors with their badges. A Peer Mentoring programme will begin next week for younger pupils who may need additional support. Our Executive Leadership Team are all fully trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and will be introducing themselves in assemblies. They will also be available for drop-in sessions during lunchtimes to offer guidance and support to their peers

This week we had our first fixtures of the year and began the Netball season. We had 3 games, all against Bishop Milner. The Year 9's won 19 - 0. Evie Darby - 9DX was awarded Player of the Match!



The Year 11's had an unlucky 13 -14 loss. Isobel Hobday - 11AX was awarded player of the match but also a shutout to Grace Haddock - 11AX who played her first ever game! The Year 8's had their first ever league game of netball, winning 20 - 0. Billie Wooldridge - 8DY was awarded Player of the Match.

On a separate note, the wonderful Ruby Baker - 8AY has successfully been accepted into the South Staffs County Netball Squad for this season. We are really proud of Ruby, especially as her love for Netball began at Dormston. This time last year, she had never played, so to be successful at County trials 12 months later is exceptional.

Today lots of our Year 9 & 10 students have been out on a trip to Alton Towers. A massive thank you to Mrs Downie and Mr Wilkes and all the many other staff who supported to make this trip possible.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Mrs Sutton.

Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Events/Reminders

- Attendance Rewards Week - WC 29 September 2025;
- Year 7 - 11 Flu Vaccinations (Nasal Spray);
- Year 10 RS Coventry Cathedral Trip - Thursday 2 October 2025 at 8.30am - 3.45pm;
- Triple Science Revision Session - Thursday 2 October 2025 at 3.15pm - B104
- Year 11 Post 16 Evening - Thursday 2 October 2025 at 6.00pm;
- New York Trip 2026 (5th Deposit) - Friday 3 October 2025;
- Year 10 & 11 English Language/Literature Revision Guide Order Deadline - Friday 3 October 2025.

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- All Parents/Carers - Maths Calculator Letter;
- All Parents/Carers - Open Evening Early Close Notification Letter;

- Open Evening Choir Permission Letter;
- Year 7 Go4Schools Update Letter - September 2025;
- Year 7 - 9 SEND Extra Curricular Clubs Letter;
- Year 7 - 9 Parent & Pupil Reading Group Letter.

Updates

Safeguarding Notice: Parent/Carer Online Safety Session

As a school, we work in partnership with Knowsley Council to ensure you have the most up-to-date and relevant information on how to keep your children safe online. For many of us, the rapid advances in technology can feel overwhelming, and it is not always easy to keep up with the latest trends or understand the potential risks that the online world can pose. To support you with this, we are pleased to share details of an upcoming Parent/Carer Online Safety Session.

Date: Wednesday 1st October 2025

Time: 4:00pm - 4:45pm

Link to join:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NzMxNjhZGMtNjRiMC00NmMyLWlxYjktMGEyYTAyZDVIMzRh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22dcdb1ea5-3b10-49a2-bf8f-5fd59edcd762%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%225772fa8f-9814-4199-aef2-9195804f833e%22%7d

You do not need to register, just simply click on the link above at 4pm to access the session. **Cameras and voice/audio will be switched off for all attendees.** You can ask questions by typing in the Q&A box, but this will be explained during the session. **The event will be streamed using Teams and you can watch the live event in:**

- **Teams app—desktop (Windows or Mac) or mobile.** (The Teams app is free to download if you would like to do that beforehand).
- **If you don't have Teams you can access it via one of the following browsers - Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge**

This short, focused session will provide practical advice, up-to-date information, and guidance on how you can best support your child to stay safe online. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to join. Together, we can help our young people make positive and safe choices online.

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

House Arts Competition 2025

We are excited to announce this year's **House Arts Competition**, based on the theme of **"Evolution."** This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and talent across a wide range of artistic disciplines. Categories include:

Music

- Solo Instrument Performance;
- Solo Vocal Performance;
- Ensemble Group Performance.

Drama

- KS3: Duologue;

- KS4: Monologue.

Dance

- Solo Performance;
- Group Performance.

Art

- Create your own artwork or photograph inspired by the theme.

House Points and Awards

- all pupils who enter receive **3 house points per entry** and can enter as many categories as they wish;
- pupils who make it through to the **Showcase Evening** are awarded an extra **5 house points**;
- runners-up of each category receive a further **5 house points and a trophy**;
- winners of each category earn an extra **10 house points and a trophy**;
- the winning House receives the **House Arts Trophy** and **1000 house points** (750 for 2nd, 500 for 3rd, 250 for 4th).

Key Information

- you can enter as many categories as you like;
- all work must be linked to the theme of '**Evolution**';
- **auditions** for Music, Dance, and Drama will take place **W/C 20 October 2025**;
- **artwork and photographs** are to be submitted to Mr Goldie by **Friday 24 October 2025**;
- the chosen performances that make it through auditions will perform on the evening of **Wednesday 19 November 2025** in the Theatre, and artwork will be displayed in the Gallery. Parents/Carers are invited to attend the evening to view the artwork and enjoy the live performances.

What pupils need to do:

1. Collect an entry form from **Mr Richardson in the Music Department** and return it by **Friday 10 October 2025**.
 2. Prepare the artwork or performance.
 3. Pupils entering Music, Dance, or Drama, will be given an audition day and time in advance.
- Art entries must be submitted to **Mr Goldie by Friday 24 October 2025**.

If pupils need any support, then please speak to your Arts teachers.

Good luck!

'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