

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

As you may know, last Friday we were delighted to welcome award winning author Ross Montgomery into school to celebrate his new fantasy adventure, 'Small Wonder'. In this interactive event, Ross talked to our Year 7 students about how he writes and where he gets his ideas from! Students were then invited to come up with ideas to help him plot his next book. Ross also signed copies of his book at the end giving students the chance to meet and talk to him. Thank you to Mrs Ellsmore for organising this lovely event. Dormston was selected to host the event as one of only 4 schools in the country from hundreds who applied so it was quite a coup for us!



On Monday, I presented our Learner of the Month Award for September 2025 to Josh Evans - 10DY for his outstanding work in Citizenship which was fantastic!



Also on Monday, students attended an Inter-school Book Quiz. Well done to 'Team Dormston' who came 3rd in the quiz which was held at The Wordsley School and attended by other Dudley secondary schools. Team members were required to read the selected books and work together as a team to answer a round of

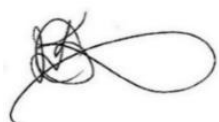
questions on each book. The selected books provided a variety of different reading presentations - Graphic Novel, Chapter Book, Verse Novel, Illustrated Novel, and Dyslexia Friendly format read.

Our House Arts Auditions have also been taking place all week. Please see more information with regards to this in our update section.

As part of 'Diversity in Dormston' we celebrated Diwali on Monday at lunchtime and also held our Black History Month lunchtime celebration today with food sales, arts and crafts, dancing, film, music, decorations, posters. A BIG thank you to Mrs Downie for all her hard work with organising these wonderful celebrations.

Well done to Mr Cooksey and the Year 7 Football Team who won 8 - 0 against Kingswinford this week!

As you know we break up for October Half Term today. Students should return to school on Monday 3 November 2025 to a Week 1 Timetable. Please can we ask for your continued support with regards to our uniform expectations and in particular skirt length. Wishing you all a great October Half Term!



Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Events/Reminders

- Year 9 Drama REP Workshop Permission Deadline - Tuesday 4 November 2025;
- Year 9 Drama REP Workshop - Wednesday 5 November 2025.

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- Year 7 Reading Intervention Letter; **Selected Year 7 Parents/Carers*
- Year 7 Reading Intervention Lexia PowerUp Letter; **Selected Year 7 Parents/Carers*
- Year 9 GCSE Drama Workshop Letter; **Selected Year 9 Parents/Carers*
- New York Trip Update Letter - October 2025;
- Pupil & Parent Reading Group Launch Update Letter; **Selected parents/carers*
- Climate Change Conference Trip Permission Letter; **Selected parents/carers*
- Uniform Expectations Letter. **Selected Parents/Carers*

Updates

Anti-Bullying Week - WC 10 November 2025

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will take place from Monday 10th - Friday 14th November 2025, with the theme: Power for Good. Odd Socks Day is taking place on Monday 10th November 2025, with staff and pupils being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. As part of anti-bullying week, we are asking for donations of odd socks to be brought into school to help us to create bigger and better 'sock bunting' to show our support against bullying. Can donations please be left in the odd socks box located within the atrium each morning. The wackier the socks, the better!

House Arts 2025 Update

Auditions have taken place after school each evening this week for Dance, Drama and Music. Well done to all pupils who have taken part; the standard has been incredibly high, and it's clear that everyone has worked extremely hard to prepare their performances. Pupils will find out after half term whether they have been selected for the *Showcase Evening* on **Tuesday November 2025**. A reminder that all **Art entries** must be submitted to **Mr Goldie** by the end of the day on **Friday 24 October 2025**.

Year 7 Theatre Trip - Wednesday 12 November 2025

On Wednesday 12 November 2025, all Year 7 students will watch the live adaptation of *Elf* at The Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. Please can you ensure that all payments are made on ParentPay by Friday 31 October 2025. Thank you to everyone who has already paid. Contact Mr Richardson if you have any issues via email: arichardson@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

DPA Opportunities

Pulse

DPA currently have space in their Secondary DPA group – Pulse, for a guitar and bass guitar player. This exciting opportunity is open to any secondary aged guitar/bass player that would like to come and join our group. We rehearse every Tuesday 6-7pm at Cable Plaza, the Waterfront in Brierley Hill, DY5 1LW (There is no payment required for this group). These places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis, reading music would be required (either tab or notation) and being a minimum of a beginner or intermediate standard would be favourable. If you would like to join us after the half term holiday, please contact rebecca.gullick@dudley.gov.uk for enrolment or more information. We look forward to welcoming you to Pulse!

Join a band
Pulse
Music Group for Secondary School Students

Pulse is one of our newest bands that rehearses every Tuesday 6 to 7pm at Cable Plaza. This group is for secondary school students playing any instrument from beginner to intermediate standard and participation is completely free of charge.

Students need to register before coming to the first rehearsal and you can find out more information on our website, including how to enrol.

Make sure you choose Pulse when you enrol.

Cable Plaza, Waterfront West, Brierley Hill DY5 1LW

For more information contact Dudley Performing Arts
01384 813865 • dpa.cs@dudley.gov.uk Web: www.dudley.gov.uk/dpa

DPA High School Choir



DPA Open Mic Night - Monday 10 November 5.00pm - 8.00pm

On the night there is piano accompaniment or help with backing tracks. It would be wonderful to see students up there performing and shining! The evening has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with plenty of chatting and people milling around - a perfect chance to try out those tricky exam songs in front of an audience. You're welcome to sing or play (Keyboard) any song you like, either with piano accompaniment or a backing track.

👉 **To sign up for a time slot,** click here: [Open Mic Sign-Up Form](#)

The Sunday Times Get Britain Reading Campaign

Reading for fun transforms lives, but we're losing the habit. A stellar group of authors - from Ian McEwan to Marian Keyes agree with us: it's time to act.



The Sunday Times has today launched a campaign to Get Britain Reading as new data shows that people of all ages now read social media posts more often than books.



Among younger British adults, printed books have dropped out of the top three most popular reading formats, falling below subtitles and digital articles.

Decades of research shows that reading for fun can transform lives. It boosts children's and adults' mental health and has been found to be more important for a child's cognitive development between the ages of 10 and 16 than their parents' level of education.

Yet the proportion of children who never read for enjoyment is rising across every age bracket, according to the National Literacy Trust. One in five children aged 11 to 13 now never pick up a book voluntarily, and parents are reading less frequently to their children.

One in eight children aged five to 18 surveyed by the National Literacy Trust do not have a book of their own. Secondary school heads say many 11-year-olds arrive in Year 7 still in the early stages of learning to read. The problem affects up to 150,000 children a year in England. The crisis is also hitting our universities. This month it emerged that experts were teaching English literature undergraduates how to concentrate long enough to read long novels. Academics said the students had grown up with phones and often felt intimidated.

With our Get Britain Reading campaign you can take our pledge to read for pleasure for at least ten minutes a day for the next six weeks – follow the link or scan the QR code for further information:

<https://link.thetimes.co.uk/join/74t/signup-get-britain-reading>



Prom Pop Up Shop

Prom can be very expensive so this pop up shop has discounted dresses, mostly £200 or less to help parents keep the costs down.



28th & 29th November
LUXURY LUX
647 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD,
COSELEY, WV14 9JL
01902934155

LUXURY LUX
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KISS
me
KATE

Pop up shop

2026 PROM DRESSES

STUNNING KISS ME KATE DESIGNS

BIG DISCOUNTS WITH MOST DRESSES LESS THAN £200!



DB Leisure school holiday programme runs from Saturday 25 October to Sunday 2 November 2025 inclusive. We have our usual offerings of:

- Free swimming for eligible children aged 16 and under
- Quids In Badminton is once again taking place at Duncan Edwards in Dudley and Halesowen Leisure Centres on selected days and times for children aged between 8 and 15 years
- Older children can enjoy a kickabout on our fab 3G pitch during Quids In football sessions at Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill
- Try a game of Pickleball at Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge.
- Families can enjoy some quality time together at our Waikiki Waves water disco sessions (complete with a live DJ!) at Crystal

- Float Fest family adventure session at Duncan Edwards and family fun disability swim sessions which are taking place on various days across all three of our leisure centres
- Younger visitors can enjoy under 5s splash sessions at Halesowen, stay and play session at Crystal, and Planet Play (soft play) areas at Duncan Edwards and Halesowen.

Full details on all of the above can be found on our holiday webpage:

[School holiday activities](#) | [DB Leisure](#)

Congratulations/Well Done

Headteacher Commendations

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

Eva Aulton	Remaya Bennett	Violet Cowley	Nancy Deakin
Alice Guest	Robyn Harrison	Daria Juganaru	Ella King
Melissa Lal	Alissa Macintosh	Anabelle McIvor	Sadie Partridge
Mya Peplow	Tilly-Rose Rickett	Poppy Riddle	Isla Ringham
Evie Smith	Alexandra Ward	Flo White	