

Parental Communication & Engagement



☎ 01384 816395 ✉ info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk 🌐 @DormstonSch 🌐 <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk>

Message from Headteacher

On Monday, 19 Year 10 pupils got to visit Girton College, University of Cambridge on Monday to find out all about what Cambridge as a university has to offer. They had taster sessions in History of Art and Astrophysics as well as a tour of the college and Q&A with current students. Afterwards they had free time to explore the city of Cambridge before their journey home. All pupils were excellent, showing great interest in learning about the courses on offer and the opportunities available to them

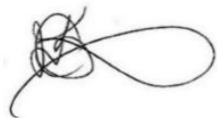
Our Food Practical GCSEs have been taking place since Tuesday and the students have been amazing! A big thank you goes to Mrs Abbott for her support in the classroom this week, as it has been an immense amount of hard work!

On Thursday, we held our Year 9 Options Evening. It was great to welcome so many parents/carers into school for the evening. We hope both parents/carers and students now have a good understanding of the options process so that you can make an informed decision on your child's option choices. The options deadline is Monday 23 March 2026.

Today our staff wore pink to mark Anti Bullying Day and to visibly demonstrate our commitment to keeping every student safe, valued and supported. During registration, members of our Student Leadership Team visited forms to share a short video, requested by our School Council, highlighting the impact bullying can have on individuals and to never be bystanders. Students also created a pink paper chain within their forms, which is now proud of place in the atrium, symbolising their continued commitment to the Anti-Bullying Pledge they signed in September. We were proud to stand together as a school community in reinforcing the importance of kindness, respect and safeguarding for all.



Best wishes.



Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- Year 7 New Behaviour & Punctuality Introduction Letter;
- Year 8 New Behaviour & Punctuality Introduction Letter;
- Year 9 Behaviour & Punctuality Introduction Update Letter;
- Year 10 New Behaviour & Punctuality Introduction Letter;
- Bronze DofE Update Letter - February 2026;
- Silver DofE Update Letter - February 2026.

Events/Reminders

- National Careers Week - WC 2 March 2026;
- Year 11 Photography Free Delivery Order Deadline - Tuesday 3 March 2026;
- Pizza Reward Evening - Wednesday 4 March 2026;
- World Book Day - Thursday 5 March 2026;
- Year 9 Consultation Evening On-line Booking System Opens - Thursday 5 March 2026 at 8.00am.

Updates

Year 11 Photographs

Year 11 'Back Up' QR Codes for ordering photographs have now been passed to Form Tutors to give out to students in case they have lost their original one! Parents/Carers have until **Tuesday 3 March 2026** to order their photographs if they wish to have **Free Delivery to School**. Year 11 QR Codes for ordering Friendship or Leadership Team Photographs are available from Pupil Reception. You will need to order and pay for any photographs direct with DSP Photography.

World Book Day Token

All Students will start receiving their World Book Day token (if they would like one) which they can exchange for one of the £1 World Book Day books. The books are pictured on the back of the token and are for a wide age range. Students should therefore select their book appropriately. Books should be available at participating bookshops such as Waterstones and The Works, and possibly from some major supermarkets. Historically, we have given the tokens out on World Book Day, but the books are now available and only while stocks last, so we encourage your child to use their token as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

DPA Open Mic Sessions Message

We have now opened the enrolment for our 'Open Mic' sessions on **Tuesday 3 March 2026 at Cable Plaza**. Come and join our Open Mic Day celebrating live music. We welcome young people, from beginners to those who have been learning for a while, to come and play whatever style or piece of music they choose.

The Open Mic will take place at Cable Plaza our base at Brierley Hill from 5.30pm onwards on the 3 March 2025. If you've never experienced one before, an open mic event is highly informal and gives the opportunity for people to perform whatever they want, to an audience of other musicians, families and friends. Our Children's Open Mic will be exactly that but just for children and young people who live in the borough of Dudley.

We will be able to provide an accompanist (Mr Colley will be attending!) if needed or help with tech if performing with backing tracks. There is no charge to take part, no ticket costs – just come along, bring family, friends and enjoy an evening of entertainment. (The Friends of DPA will be there accepting any donations and providing refreshments so any loose change is very welcome.)

Click [here](#) to register and we will be in touch.

[Open Mic at Cable Plaza - 3rd March 5.30pm-8pm – Fill in form](#)

FoDC School Production/Easter Raffle

If you fancy winning some super market shopping vouchers of your choice to make Easter that extra bit special, why not have a go on FoDC School Production/Easter Raffle. Winners will be announced WC 16 March 2026. Tickets are £1.00 and available on ParentPay now.

A purple poster for the FODC School Production/Easter Raffle. The left side features a vertical strip of colorful tinsel and streamers. The main text is white and yellow. It includes the title, a description of the prize, ticket information, prize details, the draw date, and a 'Good Luck!' message.

FODC SCHOOL PRODUCTION/EASTER RAFFLE

Fancy winning a shopping voucher of your choice to make your Easter Break just that little bit nicer?

Tickets are £1.00 and can be purchased via ParentPay or at FoDC Tuck Shop during our School Production Week.

- 1st Prize - £100;
- 2nd Prize - £50;
- 3rd Prize - £25.

The Raffle will be drawn WC 16 March 2026 and winners announced shortly afterwards.

Good Luck!

Congratulations/Well Done

Piano Success - George Dupree – 10SX

Well done to George Dupree - 10SX who has passed his Grade 4 piano exam with merit!

Headteacher Commendations

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

Henry Cooper	George Dupree	Isabelle Willis	
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