

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

This week has of course been all about our School Production of 'High School Musical'! A massive thank you goes out to all the many staff, performers and back stage crew who made this possible! A very special thank you also goes out to Mrs Toy for all her hard work in running the show.





School Productions are very much a rite of passage here at Dormston School and we know that all students who took part will have really gained massively from this amazing experience. Thanks to everyone who also came along to see the show! It was fantastic!

On Tuesday, we celebrated 'Safer Internet Day'. This year's theme was exploring the safe and responsible use of AI. Form Tutors discussed this with all students, looking at the positive and negative use of AI. Did you know... AI can also be used to guide surgeons on how best to treat brain tumours whilst they are in surgery. The tool can rapidly decode a tumour's DNA, which normally would take days. One AI powered app can narrate the world around someone, so the blind and low vision community can have assistance with daily tasks like reading and identifying products. Technology and the internet today is incredible as long as it is used correctly and positively. As always, if you have any concerns over your child's Internet use please do not hesitate to contact the school.

On Thursday, our Year 10 GCSE Music students attended '*An Orchestral Adventure Through Time*', a live concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall delivered by Wolverhampton Music Service. The programme featured a wide range of well-known music performed by a full orchestra, including works by Beethoven, Elgar and Stravinsky, alongside film music from *Slumdog Millionaire* and musical theatre favourites such as *Defying Gravity* from *Wicked*. Hearing this music performed live helped students deepen their understanding of musical elements, styles and context, all of which directly support their GCSE Music studies. The experience also gave students the opportunity to see a professional orchestra in action, bringing their classroom learning to life! A big thanks goes to Mr Richardson for organising this opportunity.

Also on Thursday, as part of 'National Apprenticeship Week', a small group of Year 10 learners went on a visit to the Arnold Clark training centre. They got to undertake a series of practical workshops and find out more about the automotive industry and apprenticeships. The students were already interested in pursuing a career in the automotive sector and hopefully this day has inspired them even more!

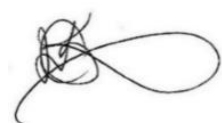
It's also been 'Staff Appreciation Week' in school this week and students have been given the opportunity to send postcards to any staff members they would like to thank. 100s of postcards and have been written and

received. The resounding message that has come across from our students is how kind and supportive they think the staff at Dormston is!

Well done to everyone who took part in 'Amelia's Wish' last week. We have heard that Amelia has received over 80,000 Birthday Cards which is just amazing. Well done Dormston, we made a difference by taking part! It seems a long time ago now, but we also raised £418 for our festive jumper day which has recently donated to 'Shelter'

As you know, we break up for February Half Term today! Students return to school on Monday 23 February 2026 to a Week 2 timetable. Wishing you all a great February Half Term.

Best wishes.



Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- New York Trip 2026 Update Letter - February 2026;
- Festival of Song Permission and Ticket Availability Update Letter;
- Children's Book Award Letter.

Events/Reminders

- Year 10 University of Cambridge Trip - Monday 23 February 2026 at 7.00am - 6.30pm;
- Festival of Song Tickets available to purchase <https://boroughhalls.co.uk/whats-on.html> - Monday 23 February 2026;
- Year 9 Options Evening - Thursday 26 February 2026;
- International Stand up for Bullying Day - Friday 27 February 2026;
- Bronze & Silver DofE Training Day at Dormston - Saturday 28 February 2026.

Updates

Dormston pupils shine in recent Cross-Country Races

Dormston students did brilliantly at the West Midlands Schools Cross Country Championships at Warley Woods this January, competing against pupils from across Solihull, North Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Coventry and Sandwell. Our runners showed fantastic determination and team spirit throughout the event.

A fantastic effort from Year 7 pupils with Oscar Williams finishing 7th and Luke Murphy securing 20th place. In the girls' race, Stella Ashton ran superbly to take 11th place.

Superb performances from our older pupils. Layla Williams delivered an exceptional race, finishing 2nd in the Year 10/11 girls' event. Seb Clarke, taking part in his first ever secondary school cross country race, impressed everyone by finishing 10th.

A huge congratulations goes to Layla Williams, who has now qualified to represent the West Midlands at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Sefton Park, Liverpool this March.

Our pupils who are members of Tipton Harriers have also been busy competing in the West Midlands Cross Country League, a series of five races. The final race took place on 8th February in very muddy conditions at Aldersley Stadium.

Year 7 pupils Stella Ashton, Luke Murphy and Oscar Williams ran in the U13 category, while Archie Williams and Layla Williams represented the school in the U15 races. Layla finished the league in 2nd overall in the U15 girls' individual standings.



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](#)

Katie Lawley - Reflexions

Ms Smith would like to thank Katie Lawley for the outstanding service she provides through Reflexions. Katie has made a lasting difference to a number of our students and their families. Her ability to build trusting relationships, combined with her calm manner, ensures that those she supports feel heard and understood.

Katie provides practical and effective strategies that empower both students and families. Her guidance has helped young people develop confidence, resilience, and improved emotional wellbeing. She goes above and beyond to ensure that support is tailored to individual needs, and the approach has had a measurable impact on engagement and progress.

With her strong background in pastoral care within schools, Katie brings experience and understanding that is clearly reflected in her work. She understands the complexities of school life and the challenges that students may face, and she uses this insight to advocate effectively on their behalf. We greatly appreciate the positive contribution Katie and the Reflexions team make to our school community and look forward to continuing our successful partnership in the future.



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.



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!

Allergy Awareness

Please note that we are a Kiwi Free School and 'stive to be' a Nut Free School! Please support us by ensuring your child does not come into school with either of these allergens.

KIWI FREE & 'Strive to be' NUT FREE

Kiwi & Nuts

Please note that we are a **Kiwi FREE School** and also **'strive to be' a Nut FREE School!**

We kindly ask that you refrain from bringing food in containing either nuts or kiwi of any kind in packed lunches/snacks.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Dormston SCHOOL
Knowledge is Strength

This includes:

- Almonds
- Brazil nuts
- Cashews
- Pine nuts
- Pistachios
- Walnuts
- Peanuts
- Hazelnuts
- Macadamia nuts
- Pecans

Common foods containing nuts:

- Nutella and chocolate spread
- Cereal/breakfast bars
- Granola
- Chocolate bars
- Crackers
- Snack pots
- Pesto

SAFE FOOD MATTERS:
ALLERGEN AWARENESS

We kindly ask that you refrain from bringing/sending food in containing nuts of any kind, both in packed lunches and in snacks.

Congratulations/Well Done Headteacher Commendations

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

Ethan Lloyd	Arianna Rutter		
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