

Parent/Carer Update Sheet

March 2026/April 2026

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March 2026

We hope you all had a fantastic February Half Term. It was great to welcome students back to school after the break! The nights are starting to get that little bit lighter now and it won't be long before Spring is on its way!

March is a really important time for our Year 9 students as they will be picking their Options. We hope lots of our Year 9 parents/carers attended our recent Options Evening and found this helpful. Don't forget that our Year 9 Consultation Evening takes place on Thursday 12 March 2026. The deadline for Options Choices is Monday 23 March 2026.

There are lots of exciting trips taking place this month, with our Ski Trip and DofE Trip! We wish everyone a fantastic time and look forward to sharing with you how they got on in our next update sheet

Please note that we break up for the Easter Holidays on Friday 27 March 2026, so school will be closed for students for 2 weeks from W/C Monday 30 March 2026. Students should return to school on Monday 13 April 2026 to a Week 1 timetable.

Don't forget, all parents/carers, staff and students are invited and encouraged to share their success stories with us by emailing kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk.



Learner of the Month

February 2026

Our Learner of the Month Winner for **February 2026** was **Reece Oakley - 11SX** for his outstanding effort and contribution to the school ethos.

Congratulations and well done also goes to all of our other students who were nominated recently!

You did it!
Congratulations



What's Happening

Pizza Reward Evening - Wednesday 4 March 2026

We will be holding our Pizza Reward Evening on Wednesday 4 March 2026, for selected pupils. Invitations will be sent out to those pupils who are fully embracing our Core Value of 'Effort' in their everyday school life. The evening will consist of a pizza buffet, followed by a film to celebrate your child's determination and hardworking nature within school.



Year 8 National Careers Challenge - Thursday 5 March 2026

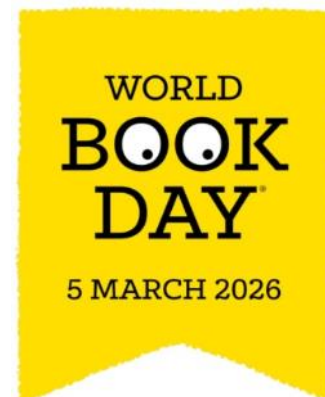
The Inspirational Learning Group will be in school on Thursday 5 March 2026 to deliver the National Careers Challenge to Year 8. This year's challenge is set by British Airways and is aiming to develop skills in young people around teamwork, creativity and working to a brief. Learners will be working in groups of 6 to design a new airplane for the company and create a pitch and unique selling point. We look forward to seeing their creations!



World Book Day - Thursday 5 March 2026

On World Book Day, each of our students will receive a World Book Day token. The £1.00 vouchers can be exchanged for a FREE World Book Day book at any participating book shop or supermarket. Alternatively, the voucher can be used to get £1.00 off a full price book or audio book (as long as the book or audio book costs at least £2.99). <https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/> Our World Book Day celebrations this year will include:

- ◆ a World Book Day Assembly for Year 7 pupils;
- ◆ 'The Masked Reader' Competition;
- ◆ Book themed 'Decorate a Door';
- ◆ Lunch-time quizzes in the PLC;
- ◆ 'Book Giveaway' in the PLC (used books).



Year 9 Consultation Evening (Face to Face) - Thursday 12 March 2026

Just to give you the heads up that we will be holding our Year 9 Consultation Evening on Thursday 12 March 2026. This will be a face to face evening and it is incredibly important in light of Year 9 Options. Appointments will still need to be made via our on-line appointment booking system. The booking system opens on Thursday 5 March 2026 at 8.00am and closes on Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 3.00pm. Please see our recent letter that has been sent for further details.



What's Happening

Silver DofE Expedition - Sunday 22 March - Monday 24 March 2026

Our first DofE Expedition of the year is for Year 10 pupils taking part in the Silver Award. Pupils will be camping and walking for 2 nights/3 days as part of their award around the Cannock Chase area. This expedition is being managed by Miss Dolan and Miss Pajaj. Further details on expedition and transport to follow.



Ski Trip - Friday 27 March 2026

The countdown is officially on for this year's Easter ski trip, and excitement is building fast! On **Friday 27 March, 39 pupils and 5 staff members** will set off on an unforgettable adventure to the stunning alpine resort of Les Deux Alpes in France. Nestled high in the French Alps, Les Deux Alpes is renowned for its spectacular scenery, extensive ski terrain, and excellent facilities. Our pupils will have the incredible opportunity to ski on one of Europe's largest skiable glaciers, surrounded by breath-taking mountain views.

Skiing and Skill Development

During the trip, experienced ski instructors will provide **over four hours of detailed tuition each day**. These professional lessons are designed to support all ability levels - from complete beginners finding their balance on the slopes to more advanced skiers refining their technique. With expert guidance, pupils will gain confidence, improve their skills, and explore everything the mountain has to offer. The structured lessons ensure that everyone progresses safely while making the most of this exciting alpine experience.

Fun Beyond the Slopes

The adventure doesn't end when the skis come off! After a full day on the mountain, pupils will take part in a range of enjoyable evening activities. From **crêpe making to laser tag**, there will be plenty of laughter and opportunities to relax and bond as a group. These shared experiences, both on and off the slopes, are what make school trips so special. They build friendships, encourage independence, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

A Trip to Remember

There is no doubt that this trip will be a memorable one, filled with achievements, new experiences, and plenty of stories to tell back at school. Ski trips are always a highlight of the year, and this Easter adventure promises to be no exception. And for those already thinking ahead - don't worry! Soon after we return, the process will begin all over again as plans get underway for the next ski trip. For now, we continue the countdown. France, here we come!



What's Happening

Easter Holidays - WC Monday 30 March 2026

Just to remind you that we break up for the Easter Holidays on Friday 27 March 2026, so school will be closed for students for 2 weeks from W/C Monday 30 March 2026. Students should return to school on Monday 13 April 2026 to a Week 1 timetable.



Year 10 Consultation Evening (On-line) - Thursday 23 April 2026

Just to give you the heads up that we will be holding our Year 10 Consultation Evening online on Thursday 23 April 2026. Appointments will need to be made via our on-line appointment booking system. Further information to follow shortly.



INSET - Friday 24 April 2026

Please note that school will be closed for INSET on Friday 24 April 2026. Students should return to school on Monday 27 April 2026 to a Week 1 Timetable.



Summer Uniform - WC Monday 27 March 2026

Just a reminder that we switch over to our summer polo shirts when we return after the Easter holidays! If you want to save some money and the environment FoDC have lots of #Pre-Loved summer polo shirts available to purchase at a fraction of the cost and will be open during the Easter Holidays. FoDC Pop Up Shop Opening hours to follow shortly!



The Oscars - Thursday 30 April 2026

Our annual Oscar Awards Evening will take place Thursday 30 April 2026 at 6.30pm. The event is packed with entertainment, prizes and awards and promises, as always, to be a great evening. This awards evening is all about celebrating the success and hard work of some of our brightest and best pupils in Years 7 - 10. Unfortunately, due to seating restrictions not all pupils can receive an invitation. Please reassure your child that if they do not get invited to this event it is not because we do not recognise their hard work and effort. Our Gold Envelope invitations will be coming round to classrooms shortly!



Our Successes

REAL SUCCESS STORIES



We know we have many brilliant students who deserve a mention but here are a few stories that have been shared with us, which we thought we would share with you! **Don't forget, ALL parents/carers, staff and students are invited and encouraged to share their success story with us by emailing kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk.**

Karate Success - Hattie Jenkins - 10TY

As some of you may already know, Hattie Jenkins - 10TY has had the most amazing success with her Karate. She recently competed in Harlow where she smashed her section taking gold! She also competed in the Open Cadet/Junior Section, losing narrowly 3 - 2 to the 17 year old winner. She then went on to compete in World Youth League in Fujairah (United Arab Emirates) where she beat, Latvia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Netherlands to take the bronze! This is her biggest success to date, officially being ranked 15 in the world now! Doesn't get much better than this! Hattie says it was the best day of her life!



Hattie Jenkins - 10TY

Swimming Success - Tyler Smith - 8TY

Well done to Tyler Smith - 8TY for completing his Grade 7 Swimming. He has also done amazingly well at his level 8 trials. His family are very proud of him for continuing with this! Well done Tyler this is an amazing achievement. Keep up the good work!



Tyler Smith - 8TY

Acting Success - Jensen Fellows - 7TX

Congratulations to Jensen Fellows - 7TX who recently sat his Grade 1 LAMDA exam in Birmingham. He received his results in February and gained a distinction with a score of 84! He will be starring in 'Oklahoma' between 10 - 14 March 2026 at Stourbridge Townhall. Well done Jensen!



Jensen Fellows - 7TX

Roller Skating Success - Amelia Parkes-Simpson - 8TY

Well done to Amelia Parkes-Simpson - 8TY who recently took part in Fusionfest where she completed in 2 routines coming 2nd and 3rd position. Amelia's family are super proud of Amelia who puts 100% into everything she does. Congratulations Amelia!



Amelia Parkes-Simpson - 8TY



success stories

High School Musical

As you know, our School Production of 'High School Musical' took place just before we broke up for February Half Term. As students who took part, gained so much from the experience, we thought we would share a few cast members thoughts and feelings about what it was like being part of the School Production 2026!

Tessa Gobourn - 11DY - Chorus

"Taking part in school productions throughout my time at Dormston has created so many happy memories and I have really enjoyed being involved. I've been in Guys and Dolls, We Will Rock You, Grease and High School Musical here, taking each as an opportunity to make great friends across year groups, while enjoying art, music and drama - being so refreshing in the midst of GCSEs. Most of all, I love the excitement in the greenrooms on performance nights! We are so fortunate to have a theatre at Dormston, and I would thoroughly encourage people to get involved in the next production to experience the thrill of being on stage, and being part of the team putting together a great performance for our audiences. Being in the school production is a memory I'll cherish for the rest of my life!"

Reece Oakley - 11SX - Dancer

"One thing about me is that I love performing, dance and the arts are, and always will be, a huge part of who I am.. I've been in every single production as a dancer since I joined this school, in fact I still remember the feeling I had after the first time I watched a Dormston production (on a trip with my primary school), it made me feel seen and my passion appreciated in a way that was fun and engaging. From then, sitting in that seat in Year 5 buzzing with energy, I knew that by the time I was old enough to, performing in front of an audience with my peers was how I wanted to immerse myself in school life. This year, I'm in Year 11 and the most recent show, High School Musical, has recently passed. Everything about it has been so incredibly amazing, from auditioning, to the cast list being released, countless singing, acting and dancing rehearsals, people praising your talents and dedication, programme photos and the undeniable thrill that comes with blocking/and actually performing the show. The feeling that comes with hearing the roar of an audience when the curtains rise and feeling the warmth of stage lights on your face is truly irreplaceable. I've shared so many laughs and tears that can't be traded for the world, I know how proud my younger self would be of where I am now. Looking back I really do understand how privileged I am to have been part of such dynamic, sometimes crazy but nonetheless talented casts especially this year with the role of dance captain. Production has provided me with the platform I needed to represent boys in dance, to massively improve my confidence as well as skill set and to gain sets of values I use and cherish every single day. I strongly believe in the fact that everyone deserves a chance to do what they love rather than solely focusing on school work, a healthily balanced school life is vital to enjoying your time in secondary education. None of it would be possible without the backstage crew, the lighting and sound team, the students who audition, parents and members of the public who watch and the teachers who give up so much of their time to bring it together, especially Mrs Toy. She is honestly the best drama teacher anyone could ask for, so hard working, selfless and much much more. I heavily encourage everyone to do at least one school show during their time here at Dormston, even if you are unsure the best thing you can do is go for it! I still can't believe I have took my final bow on that stage, I don't think I ever will to be honest, the whole experience feels so surreal."

