

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

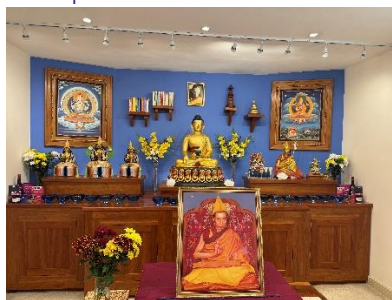
I hope you all had a fantastic May half term and enjoyed the glorious weather! It has been great to welcome students back this week as we head into the final phase of our summer term.

Our Year 11 GCSEs continue and arrangements for next week have been emailed to our Year 11 Parents/Carers, so please check your email.

On Wednesday, our Year 10 Religious Studies students went on a fantastic trip to Birmingham Buddhist Vihara and Cradley Buddhist Centre. They visited a Theravada Burmese branch of Buddhism to begin with and explored a range of Buddhist beliefs, teachings and practices. They saw first-hand a Buddhist shrine, and asked questions that delved into very specific aspects of Buddhist philosophy and psychology. Then they visited a more westernised form of Mahayana Buddhism and met an ordained monk, who demonstrated mindfulness and mandala visualisations, again students asked thoughtful questions.

Both speakers realised quickly that they needed to pitch their ideas at a higher level, and it was great to see both temples refer to the full range of diverse Buddhist practices, including Amitabha Japanese worship.

The level of respect and inquisitiveness these students demonstrated made Mr Salton-McLaughlin and Mrs Gidda very proud teachers. Both temples spoke at how visits are now mostly from primary schools, and they were so impressed at how the secondary school students had a genuine curiosity about those different to themselves in the current political climate. Thank you to Mr Salton-McLaughlin and Mrs Gidda for all their hard work with organising this trip.



On Wednesday, our Year 7 Football Team won the Dudley Champions league which is brilliant! Congratulations and well done to the team and Mr Cooksey for all their hard work, skill and dedication.

On Thursday, I had the privilege of presenting our Learner of the Month Winner for May 2026 to Sophie Duncan - 10TX for her hard work and dedication in English.



Mrs Millership, Sophie Duncan, Miss Adams and Mrs Sutton

Best wishes.

Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- Bronze DofE Assessed Expedition Letter & Equipment List.

Events/Reminders

- Year 11 GCSE Exams Continue - Monday 8 June 2026;
- PSHE - Monday 8 June 2026 - Periods 2 & 3;
- Ingestre Hall Code of Conduct/Parental Consent/Medical Form Deadline - Friday 12 June 2026;
- Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition - Sunday 14 July 2026.


Updates

Term Dates 2026 - 2027

We appreciate lots of our parents/carers are keen to know our Term Dates for 2026/2027, but as the Staff Academic Calendar is not usually finalised until July each year, it is difficult for us to confirm exactly when our INSET days will be. We do however follow Dudley Term Dates, so please see the below link which will give you a good idea of Term Dates for 2026/2027 (excluding any of our INSET days). <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-school/school-information/school-term-dates/>

Making Appointments

Please see below regarding making appointments to see us at Dormston School.



MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!

Have you got an appointment?

We are really sorry but unless you have made a **prior appointment** staff are often teaching or involved in other meetings.

If this is the case, our Reception Team will take your details so that an appointment can be requested.

Please note although we always aim to get back to you as soon as possible, we do have a 48 hours response time.

Thanks for your co-operation.

Routes & Reflections

Please see below information from Routes and Reflexions.



CRANSTOUN
Empowering People, Empowering Change

Support with Low Mood Workshop

Feeling low, unmotivated or not quite yourself?

We can help!
Join us to explore simple and effective ways to boost your mood and take care of your wellbeing. Learn practical tools to help you boost your mood!

Ages 13-17

Friday 3rd July 2026
CRANSTOUN ROUTES
Unit L14, The Boulevard
Merry Hill Shopping Centre
Dudley
DY5 1QX
12:00pm - 1:00pm

PE Expectations During Exam Period

Students are expected to attend PE on their scheduled days in full PE kit, in line with the school's PE and uniform policy.

- **PE Leggings:** The new PE leggings are now available from our suppliers and can be worn. Pupils are welcome to purchase and wear these in advance of September.
- **Other Leggings:** All other styles of leggings must be worn with skorts.
- **Tracksuit Bottoms:** Plain black tracksuit bottoms are also acceptable. No other colours will be permitted.

- **Shorts:** Plain black shorts are permitted; no other colours will be accepted.
- **Tops:** Students must wear their Dormston PE top. They may also wear the ¼ zip Dormston top or the new mid-layer top, which is now available to purchase. Coats or other tops are not acceptable in PE lessons and must not be worn in other lessons on PE days.

BTEC Sport Students:

Students should check G4S regularly, as teachers will inform them there of the days they are required to attend in PE kit and the days they should attend in full school uniform and get changed for lessons. Please ensure your child follows these expectations to maintain consistency and adherence to the school uniform policy.

Dudley Performing Arts Opportunities

Please see below information from Dudley Performing Arts that we have been asked to share with you.

Instrumental Music Lessons 2026 - 2027

We are now opening up registration for instrumental lessons with Dudley Performing Arts (DPA) starting in September 2026. Lessons are available on most instruments including Keyboard, Piano, Electric Guitar, Classical Guitar, Bass Guitar, Ukulele, Drum Kit, Voice, Trumpet, Trombone, Cello, Violin, Saxophone, Clarinet, and Flute.

Instrument hire is available on most instruments except Piano, Keyboard, Guitar and Ukulele. The 15-minute group lessons are usually £10 a lesson but are subsidised to £5 for a 15-minute group lesson. Payment is made to school via ParentPay. Click this link and complete the form to sign up before Friday 12th June: <https://forms.office.com/e/qTQzjcVNaE>

Individual 20-minute lessons are available too at £14 a lesson but these need to be booked and paid directly with DPA: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/things-to-do/dudley-performing-arts/information-for-parents-and-young-people/music-lessons-in-schools/>

If you require more information please send an email to arichardson@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

Come and Play Projects

Come and Play in the Park with Dudley Performing Arts - Sunday 5th July 2026

To celebrate the end of your child learning an instrument or singing in school we would like to invite them to join Dudley Performing Arts Festival in the Park performance, where you will be able to invite friends and family to watch them free of charge.

Where: Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge

When: Sunday 5th July 2026

Time: Between 1pm - 4pm (exact times published soon)

All music will be taught in their weekly school lessons or choir rehearsals with a massed rehearsal at Cable Plaza (address below) a few days before the park event.

There is no charge to take part; this project is open to anyone who has been having whole class instrumental, whole class singing lessons or is a member of a school choir. If they don't bring an instrument home every week don't worry, your child can still take part, and we will sort the instruments.

All you have to do:

Enrol your child using the link below

Instrument players (violins, clarinets, flutes, fifes, recorders, guitars, ukuleles and brass instruments)

Dudley Performing Arts Come and Play in the Park Project, Sunday July 5th 2026 – Fill in form

Singers (take part in a choir or have whole class vocal lessons in school)

Dudley Performing Arts Come and Sing in the Park Project, Sunday July 5th 2026 - Vocal – Fill in form

Bring them along to the correct rehearsal at Cable Plaza (details below)

Bring them to Mary Stevens Park on Sunday 5th July and enjoy being part of Dudley Performing Arts Festival in the Park

Rehearsal Dates

Where: Cable Plaza Waterfront West, Brierley Hill DY5 1LW	When:
Violins	Thursday 25 th June 16:45 - 17:45
Wind and Brass (flutes, fifes, recorders, clarinets and all brass instruments)	Thursday 25 th June 18:15 - 19:15
Guitars and Ukeleles	Thursday 2 nd July 16:45 - 17:45
Singers	Thursday 2 nd July 18:15 - 19:15