

Parent/Carer Update Sheet

September 2026/October 2026



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September 2026

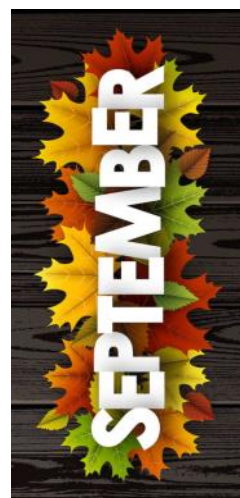
Welcome back to all our parents/carers, students and staff! For our NEW Year 7 parents/carers, this is our **Monthly Update Sheet** and it is designed to share all the latest news and success stories at The Dormston School, as well as giving you the heads up about what's happening in the next few weeks. You can of course read it from cover to cover if you want to be fully up-to-date with all things Dormston, or you can just scan the headings to see what relates to you and your child!

First off however, a **BIG** congratulations goes to all of last year's Year 11 for their GCSE success this Summer. GCSE Results Day was on Thursday 20 August 2026 and it was fantastic to see our students come in and open their well deserved results.

Just a reminder that we have our Open Evening on Thursday 8 October 2026, so please be aware that we will close at the earlier time of 1.30pm on this day. Students in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to collect a packed lunch. Please see our recent letter for further details.

We really do hope this academic year is going to be our best one yet and we are looking forward to working with all our staff, students and parents/carers during the year ahead!

Don't forget to share any success stories with us that happen outside of school so that they can appear in our Monthly Update Sheet by emailing kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk.



Learner of the Month

June 2026 & July 2026

Our Learner of the Month Winner for **June 2026** was **Katie Bowater - 8TY** for her outstanding effort in Maths. Our Learner of the Month Winner for **July 2026** was **Lucie Lakin - 11TY** also for her outstanding effort in Maths. Congratulations and well done goes to all of our other students who were nominated recently!

You did it!
Congratulations



LEARNER
OF THE MONTH

What's Happening

Year 11 Post 16 Evening - Thursday 17 September 2026

Our Post 16 Evening which takes place on Thursday 17 September 2026 at 6.00pm is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 students and parents/carers to talk to local colleges, sixth forms, universities, employers and apprenticeship providers regarding all Post 16/18 routes available to them. All Year 11 students are expected to attend and hopefully all parents/carers too! The evening includes a parent talk in the Theatre. Please see our Post 16 Evening Letter that was recently sent out for further details and for the timing of your talk.



Year 11 Exam Stress Parent Workshop - Thursday 24 September 2026

Workshop: Managing Exam Stress with Reflexions (part of NHS). On Thursday 24 September 2026, parents and carers of Year 11 pupils are invited to attend an hour-long workshop with Katie Lawley (Reflexions) and Mrs Mescam. This is an opportunity to pick up tips and advice from experienced and trained staff in relation to managing exam stress in the final year of school. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and find out what support we can offer your child to help them navigate their final year. The evening starts at 5.00pm. If you would like to attend, please follow the link below: [Managing Exam Stress with Katie Lawley - Reflexions \(NHS\)](#) Thursday 24th September – Fill in form



Black History Month - October 2026

All students will celebrate Black History Month this October with form resources and assemblies on the struggles of black people throughout history and celebrating their successes and positive impact on British life. Students will also be treated to special meals served in the canteen with food influenced by black culture. All students will be taught about key black figures in every subject area and how they have made an impact. This year we will let students decide how they would like to celebrate and we will be getting feedback over the next couple of weeks. This could be students leading dance classes at lunchtimes, hair braiding, food tasting, language classes all influenced by black culture!



Inktober 2026 - Draw Every Day in October!

Get creative this October with **Inktober 2026!** Students are encouraged to draw **every day** using our daily list of fun and inspiring prompts. Whether you're a confident artist or just love to doodle, everyone is welcome to take part. **Prizes and House Points will be awarded for the best entries**, so get your ideas flowing and see where your creativity takes you! **One month. One prompt a day. Endless possibilities.**



Inktober 2026

What's Happening

Open Evening - Thursday 8 October 2026 *Early Close

We will be holding our annual Open Evening on Thursday 8 October 2026 at 6.00pm - 8.00pm and will be closing at 1.30pm on this day in order to prepare. Students in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to collect a packed lunch. School Tours will also be taking place on Tuesday 13 October 2026 - Thursday 15 October 2026 at 9.30am. If you wish to book on to one of these School Tours please contact the School Office. You do not need to book if you wish to attend our Open Evening.



Parent/Carer & Pupil Reading Group - Tuesday 13 October 2026

Following the success of last years' Parent/Carer and Pupil Reading Group, we are again excited to invite parents/carers and pupils to take part in the scheme. This year we are very delighted to announce the book we will be reading is the Dudley Children's Book Award winner 'Sin Bin Island' by Doug Naylor. **Launch Event** - We would like to invite parents/carers to a special event to discuss this fantastic book and share opinions! **The event will be held on Tuesday 13 October 2026 from 6.00pm to 6.30pm in our P.L.C where refreshments will be provided.** Please look out for further information (including details on how to sign up and take part).



Year 7 Targeted Parent/Carer Week - Wednesday 14 October 2026

On Wednesday 14 October 2026 we will be holding a Year 7 Targeted Parent/Carer Evening. This evening is designed to support pupils transitioning into secondary school and to check in on those pupils who need additional support. This will be by invite only and not necessary for all pupils. Mr Cooksey/Mrs Garratt/Mrs Beer will be in touch with those invited shortly.



House Arts Auditions - WC Monday 19 October 2026

This year's House Arts Competition will be launched in assembly this half term and auditions are due to be held WC Monday 19 October 2026. The evening showcase will happen on Tuesday 24 November 2026. More details to follow shortly.



New York Trip - Friday 23 October 2026

On Friday 23 October 2026, 48 Year 10 and 11 students with 5 members of staff will be travelling to New York for 4 days of sightseeing. While they are there, they will be visiting The Empire State building, The Statue of Liberty and Liberty Island, The 911 Memorial museum as well as Central Park and Times Square and various other famous sights. It promises to be an exciting and busy few days!



October Half Term - WC Monday 26 October 2026

School will be closed for October Half Term on Monday 26 October 2026 - Friday 30 October 2026. Students should return to school on Monday 2 November 2026 to a Week 1 Timetable.



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.**

Rugby Success - Amelia Horton - 8TX

Well done to Amelia Horton - 8TX who was really brave and decided she wanted to try a new sport back in March 2026.....Rugby! Amelia absolutely loves training with the girls at Stourbridge Rugby Club and has even joined in with some of the ladies first team sessions as well. In September, she will move to the Under 14s and is really excited to continue training and hopefully play some matches too! Well done Amelia, we know that this is doing wonders for your confidence and that you are also having so much fun along the way too!



Amelia Horton - 8TX

Roller-Skating Success - Amelia Parkes-Simpson - 8TY

Well done to Amelia Parkes-Simpson - 8TY for her continued Roller Skating success! Back in May, Amelia took part in Evofest Roller Skating Competition at Flint, Wales. She competed in 3 routines where she came 1st in 2 of the routines. She had to step in with 20 minutes notice to do a duo routine, where they came 1st having not had any practice which is just amazing! Then on Sunday the 28 June 2026, Amelia participated in her clubs Merit Competition for roller skating where she won 1st place for her glide waltz, 2nd place for a free dance routine and 3rd place for her duo's. Both her family and us here at Dormston are very proud of her and everything she achieves!



Amelia Parkes-Simpson - 8TY

Running Success - Layla Williams - 11DY

Well done to Layla Williams - 11DY who returned from America in July where she had an amazing time and visited three universities in Oregon, Seattle, and Portland. Whilst there, she won a mile race in the very famous Hayward field stadium and took part in training sessions every day. We are all very proud she had the courage to go by herself with a group of people she had never met before! Layla is now very focused on achieving her dreams as she wants to go out there to university eventually. Well done Layla on undertaking this amazing experience!



Layla Williams - 11DY



Our Successes

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Heros - Mya Chamberlain - 10DY & Faith Chamberlain - 9DX

A huge well done goes to both Mya Chamberlain - 10DY and Faith Chamberlain - 9DX who have recently been awarded medals at their cadets for an incredible act of bravery! Thanks to their quick thinking, they managed to stop a neighbour's house fire from spreading. By staying completely calm under pressure, they immediately rang the fire brigade and successfully helped get the neighbours safely out of the house. We are all exceptionally proud of how they handled such a dangerous and stressful situation. A huge well done both!



Faith Chamberlain - 9DX & Mya Chamberlain - 10DY

Performance Success - Jensen Fellows - 8TX

Well done to Jensen Fellows - 8TX for all his performance successes recently. Jensen took part in the prestigious Grand Theatre Summer School, where he worked tirelessly to learn and perfect an entire show in just two short weeks which culminated in a fantastic performance at the Wolverhampton Arena Theatre. What an amazing achievement! Straight from that success, Jensen barely paused for breath before diving into one intense week of rehearsals to perform in the hit musical 'We Will Rock You' with Bedazzle Company. What dedication and commitment! And to top it all off in true style, Jensen passed his Grade 2 LAMDA examination with a **DISTINCTION** — the highest possible grade! If that wasn't enough also over the summer holidays Jensen took part in the filming of "The Lonely Chair" this was with the group Live4Lib raising awareness via a video on the dangers of street racing and dangerous driving. This was after a young girl lost her life to a driver of illegal street racing. This was filmed with other school children at Ellowes Hall School. https://www.live4lib.org/?fbclid=IwVERDUAUM5RpwZG9mBWV4dG4DYWVtAjEwAHNyDGMGYXBwX2lkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTCyOAABHkc-vR1IR6EpIeHhIodi8pP9E1da2wVewOloqt-pJAX27Kh6RWhEwDC4v4-7_aem_a5wGmD3XpNKh1TSqRqBTHw Well done Jensen on everything you have achieved!



Jensen Fellows - 8TX

Swimming Success - Tyler Smith - 9TY

A big well done goes to Tyler Smith - 9TY who has quietly continued his learning to swim journey this year and has gone from completing his stage 3 in January to finishing his final stage 10 and swimming not just a mile but 2000 metres/80 lengths at Sandwell Aquatic centre. He has now enrolled on the junior lifeguard programme with his Tipton swim centre and we are all very proud of him. Well done Tyler!



Tyler Smith - 9TY



Our Successes

REAL SUCCESS STORIES



A Fantastic Week at Ingestre Hall Residential Arts Centre

Our students recently enjoyed an unforgettable time at Ingestre Hall and what a fantastic week it was!

Throughout the week, pupils threw themselves into every activity with enthusiasm, creativity and determination. They worked incredibly hard, embraced new challenges and produced some outstanding work across the various arts subjects. Their performances and artwork at the showcase are a real credit to everyone involved!

The staff at Ingestre Hall were full of praise for our students, commenting on their exceptional behaviour, positive attitudes and willingness to get involved. They told us that our pupils were *some of the best students they have ever worked with* – a wonderful compliment that made us all extremely proud!

A huge thank you must also go to Mr Richardson, Mrs Toy, Mr Salton-McLaughlin and Mrs Mansell, whose dedication, enthusiasm and support throughout the week helped make the experience such a success.

Well done to everyone who took part! You represented the school brilliantly and created memories that will last a lifetime! The picture below was taken of pupils enjoying the sunset together on the last night at Ingestre and captures perfectly what a wonderful experience the whole trip was.



WELL DONE!