

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

It's been a great and busy penultimate week in school with lots of trips going out!

Our Germany trip departed in the early hours of Monday morning. They arrived safely and are having a fabulous time! We will share more details about how they got on next week!

Year 10 students have enjoyed days of active learning this past week, with GCSE Citizenship and RS students travelling to Shrewsbury Prison to explore the criminal justice system and evaluate prison as a punishment. 95 pupils undertook an 'escape room' prison experience, being locked in a cell and trying desperately to escape! They had a guided tour of the prison, examining the whole process and hearing stories of the many unpleasant events that have taken place there, along with looking for the ghosts in the haunted C Wing! The lads were put to hard labour in the court yard and they all enjoyed their time locking each other in the pillory. Further to this, Year 10 Citizenship students experienced real life cases when they visited Wolverhampton Crown Courts this week, sitting in the public gallery of actual trials where they could identify the roles of the judge, jury, barristers and solicitors. They ventured into a range of trials from drugs to burglary, assault and a variety of other offences. This experience will stay with them and we may see some of them become judges in the future!



On Tuesday, some of our Year 7 students attended their Scholars Programme Graduation at the University of Birmingham which was great! Students even got to see some university students having their actual graduation ceremony which was lovely!

On Wednesday and Thursday, our Year 7s all enjoyed a trip to Dudley Zoo and Castle. Thanks to Mr Cooksey for all his hard work in making this large-scale trip possible and for all the staff who supported!

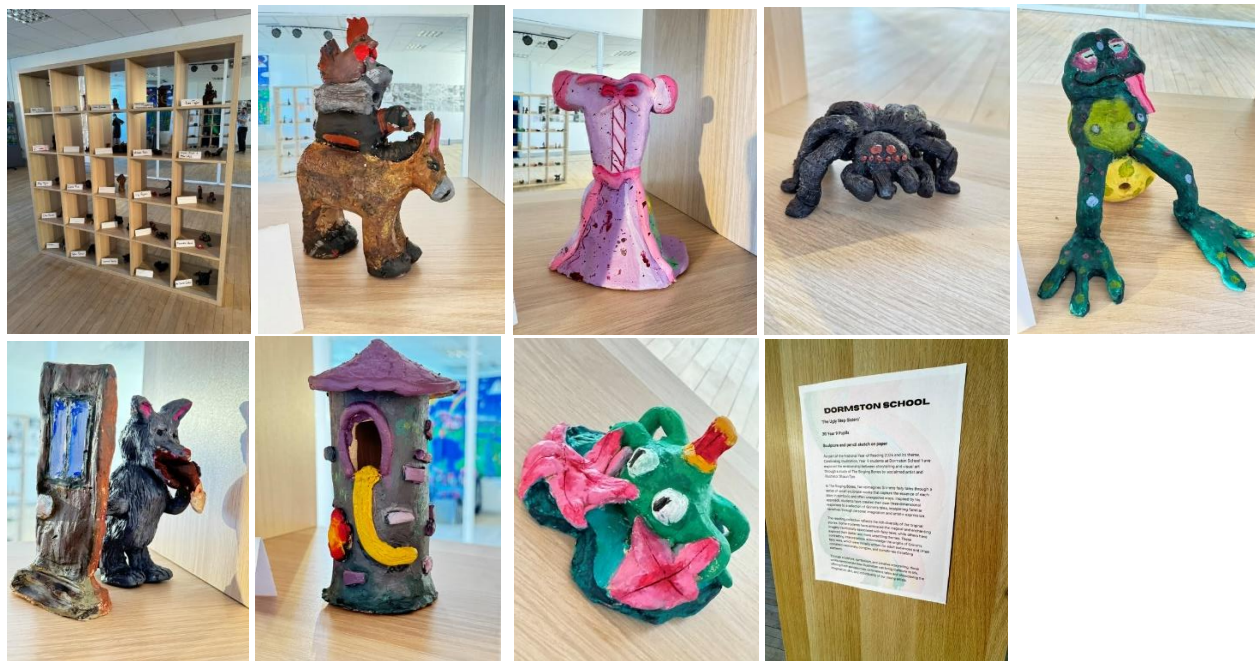
Today some of our Year 9 students attended the NDLP Art Exhibition where they got to see some of their amazing work displayed.

As part of the National Year of Reading 2026 and its theme, *Celebrating Illustration*, Year 9 students have explored the relationship between storytelling and visual art through a study of *The Singing Bones* by acclaimed artist and illustrator Shaun Tan.

In *The Singing Bones*, Tan reimagines Grimm's fairy tales through a series of small sculptural works that capture the essence of each story in symbolic and often unexpected ways. Inspired by his approach, students have created their own three-dimensional responses to a selection of Grimm's tales, interpreting familiar narratives through personal imagination and artistic expression.

The resulting collection reflects the rich diversity of the original stories. Some students have embraced the magical and enchanting imagery traditionally associated with fairy tales, while others have explored their darker and more unsettling themes. These contrasting interpretations acknowledge the origins of Grimm's fairy tales, which were initially written for adult audiences and often contained cautionary, complex, and sometimes disturbing elements.

Through sculpture, symbolism, and creative storytelling, these works demonstrate how illustration can bring literature to life, offering fresh perspectives on timeless tales and showcasing the imagination, skill, and individuality of our young artists.

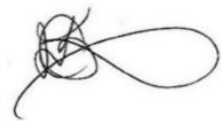


We have also attracted butterflies into the Eco Dome recently and they are thriving on the buddleia which is growing in there. The pupils were fascinated!

Next week we have our Sports Day and lots of other end of term celebrations such as Reward Assemblies, a Summer Fayre and Karaoke fun! **Please ensure your child attends school in their PE Kit on Monday and has some money on them if they wish to buy any drinks or sweets at our Summer Fayre on Wednesday!** We also have students going out on our Ingestre Hall Trip next week!

As you know, we break up next week for the Summer Holidays. **Please note that we will be breaking up at the earlier time of 12.30pm on Friday 17 July 2026.** Any students who are Free School Meals will be able to collect a grab bag before they leave.

Best wishes.



Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- Year 11 Parents/Carers - GCSE Results Day Collection Arrangements Letter;
- Year 7 - 10 Parents/Carers - Sports Day Update Letter 1;
- Year 7 - 10 Parents/Carers - Sports Day Update Letter 2;
- Year 7 - 10 Parents/Carers - Year 7 Sands Charity Collection;
- Year 7 - 10 Parents/Carers Relationships and Sex Education Consultation.

Updates

Mobile Phones in School: New Statutory Guidance

The government issued statutory guidance that came into effect on 29th June to help schools create calm, safe and focused learning environments by restricting mobile phone use during the school day.

Mobile phones may be useful before and after school, but they can disrupt learning, reduce concentration, increase the risk of bullying and online conflict, and make safeguarding more difficult.

In line with this guidance, mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight throughout the school day unless a member of staff has given permission for a specific educational or medical reason. As the school has a confiscation policy, any mobile phone seen or heard during the school day may be confiscated in line with school procedures. This helps keep lessons focused and pupils engaged.

We ask parents/carers to support this expectation by speaking with your child at home. We also ask parents and carers never to communicate with students or answer their calls during the school day. This expectation has been written into our home-school agreement for next academic year. Working together helps us maintain a positive environment where pupils can learn, socialise and thrive.



Statutory guidance
Mobile phones in schools
Updated 29 June 2026

Applies to England

Contents
About this guidance
Description of the use of mobile phones

This guidance became statutory on 29 June 2026.

Prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school

All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.

All schools must have a [behaviour policy](#) that is aligned with the school's legal duties and standards relating to the welfare of children. This is essential in establishing and maintaining high standards of behaviour ensuring that the school is a calm and safe environment for all pupils and staff. As part of this policy, schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example, the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

Confiscated if Seen
It's the law

This means from when you come into school, until **you have left through the main exit**.

Staff will enforce this during tutor time, at the start of each lesson and at the end of the day.

On-Line Safety Parental Controls Booklet

As part of online safety, please find a link below to a Parent Online Safety booklet
[Parental Controls booklet 2026](#)

Fostering

Please see the below Fostering leaflet that we have been asked to share with our parents/carers.



The leaflet collage features four photographs of diverse families and children. The main text reads: 'We foster... YOU can too'. It states that Dudley Council needs new foster carers and offers a rewarding career with 24-hour support, training, and guidance 365 days a year. It provides the website www.fosteringindudley.org.uk, a phone number (01384 815833), and an email (fosteringrecruitment@dudley.gov.uk). It also includes a QR code and the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council logo.

Dudley Fostering offers a rewarding career. 24 hour support, training and guidance 365 days a year

Dudley Council's fostering service is looking for new foster carers to provide homes for looked after children in the borough.

It's easy to find out more on our website www.fosteringindudley.org.uk or we're always happy to have a chat over the phone or at one of our drop in sessions.

The team is interested in hearing from anyone who has an interest in fostering children of any age, but in particular from people who would consider caring for teenagers, children with disabilities or those who could take more than one child so brothers and sisters can stay together.

To find out more visit www.fosteringindudley.org.uk
email fosteringrecruitment@dudley.gov.uk
or call 01384 815833

Events/Reminders

- Ingestre Hall Trip - WC Monday 13 July 2026;
- Sports Day in School - Monday 13 July 2026;
- Year 10 Mock Results - Monday 13 July 2026 - Period 5;
- Summer Fayre - Wednesday 15 July 2026;
- Year Group Karaoke - Thursday 17 July 2026;
- Last Day of Term - Friday 17 July 2026 ***EARLY FINISH - 12.30pm.**

Congratulations/Well Done

Congratulations to Alice Miller - 8SX who took her Grade 6 Musical Theatre for Singers exam recently and passed with a Merit. Congratulations also goes to Robyn Harrison - 7TX who took her Grade 4 Musical Theatre for Singers exam recently and passed with a Distinction!

Headteacher Commendations

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

Stella Aston	Flo White	Maisie Bate	Jamie Cattermole
Nash Davies	Tyler-George Ellwood	Jasmeet Gill	Lyra Haddock

Parent/Carer Weekly Bulletin
WC 13 July 2026

Hollie Halford	Robyn Harrison	Elijah Higgins	Millie Tatton
Amelia Horton	Hattie Jenkins	Lucie Lakin	Evie Smith
Ethan Lloyd	Roman Tyler	Grace Parsons	Lillian Rushton
Lucas Sellick-Greenly	Bella Smith	Layla Smith	Arnie Southall
Layla Williams			