

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

It's been a great second week back and things are really in full swing now!

This week marked an exciting and high-energy start to our school year as every single pupil in Years 7, 8, and 9 stepped up to participate in Round 1 of the Key Stage 3 Spelling Bee. During their English lessons, students faced a series of challenging vocabulary tests designed to push their spelling skills to the limit. The enthusiasm and focus across all three year groups was fantastic to see. Whether tackled with quiet concentration or rapid-fire confidence, our pupils gave it their absolute best. The top 5 spellers from each group will move forward to Round 2 to determine who will be the top 5 from each year group for the final before Christmas.

On Tuesday evening, we held our 'Welcome to Year 11 Evening'. Thank you to all our parents/carers who attended. We hope you found the evening useful and informative. Please see our recent email that was sent to all our Year 11 parents/carers following the evening which contains the PowerPoint and lots of other useful links.

On Wednesday evening, we welcomed parents/carers of Year 10 students to launch our Work Experience programme for this year. There was a short presentation outlining the process and some frequently asked questions with a chance at the end for parents/carers to talk to Ms Froggatt and Mrs English about any queries they had. The presentation and link to the employer form were sent out Thursday via G4S. Thank you to all who attended.

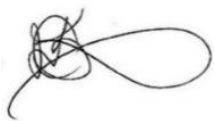
On Thursday, we had our Student Leadership Team Presentation where members of our Student Leadership Team were awarded their blazers. This is always a very special event and I am sure they will wear these blazers with pride!



Student Leadership Team

On Friday, 'Reflexions' came in to see our Year 7 students to help support them with transition.

Best wishes.



Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Events/Reminders

- New York Trip Parents/Carers Meeting - Monday 14 September 2026 at 6.00pm;
- Year 9 & 10 Science Parent/Carer Information Evening - Wednesday 16 September 2026;
- Year 11 Post 16 Evening - Thursday 17 September 2026 at 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

Striving to be a Nut Free School!

Just a reminder that we 'strive to be' a Nut Free at The Dormston School. Please do not send your child in to school with any nuts and remind them not to purchase any themselves.

Allergy Aware - Strive to be NUT FREE

Nuts

Please note that we 'strive to be' a **Nut FREE School!**

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

Thank you for your support with this matter.



**SAFE FOOD MATTERS:
ALLERGEN AWARENESS**

This includes:



Common foods containing nuts:

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

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

Year 7 Photograph Order Deadline

Just a reminder that the **deadline date for FREE DELIVERY to school for Year 7 photographs is Sunday 13 September 2026.** Any orders placed after the deadline will be subject to postage & packaging costs with delivery direct to parents/carers at their home address.

Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that we have a Breakfast Club available to students every day from 8.15am - 8.40am. All students are welcome!



The poster features a purple background with a sun icon on the left and a star icon on the right. At the top center is the Dormston School logo, which includes a lighthouse icon and the text "Dormston SCHOOL Knowledge is Strength". The main title "BREAKFAST Club" is prominently displayed in the center, with "BREAKFAST" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font and "Club" in a large, stylized, cursive purple font. Below the title, a dark blue brushstroke banner contains a location pin icon followed by the text "RIVERCAFÉ" in white, bold, sans-serif font, and "8.15AM – 8.40AM" in yellow, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath the banner, a white box with a purple border contains the text "OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS" in purple, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, there are four food items: a croissant on a purple napkin, a slice of toast with a pat of butter, and a clear plastic cup filled with various fruits and cheese cubes. Below these items are four circular icons: a croissant, a slice of toast, a glass of orange juice, and a bowl of fruit. Each icon is labeled with its respective category in purple, bold, sans-serif font: "PASTRIES", "TOAST", "DRINKS", and "FRUIT".

Dormston
SCHOOL
Knowledge is Strength

BREAKFAST Club

📍 RIVERCAFÉ
8.15AM – 8.40AM

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

PASTRIES | TOAST | DRINKS | FRUIT

Attendance Reminder

Please see below regarding attendance and booking holidays during term time.

Thinking about booking a holiday during term time?

REMEMBER: ANY ABSENCE MUST BE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE

Absence for an activity or holiday that can be arranged during the annual 13-week holiday time will not be authorised during the school term.

A penalty notice may be issued if there are five days/10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. This can include irregular attendance.

First offence - the first time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be **£160** per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. Reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.*

A penalty will be issued for each child



£160 + £160 + £160

3 x children + 1 parent = **£480**
reduced to £240 if paid within 21 days

A family of two parents and two children



£160 + £160

2 x children + 2 parents = **£640**
reduced to £320 if paid within 21 days

Second offence (within 3 years) - the amount will be **£160** per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.*



2 parents +



1 child
£320



2 children
£640



3 children
£960

Third offence - a penalty notice will not be issued, the case will be presented to the Magistrates' Court for prosecution, where either a fine of up to **£2,500**, a community order or a custodial sentence of up to three months can be imposed. A conviction in the Magistrates' Court may be disclosed on future DBS certificates.

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council



Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- All Parents/Carers - The Dormston School On-line Safety Newsletter;
- KS4 English Newsletter - Autumn Term 1;
- New York Trip 2026 September Update Letter;
- Year 7 Choir Sign Up Letter;

- Year 7 - 9 Parents/Carers - Parent & Pupil Reading Group Launch Letter;
- Year 7 Reading Intervention - Lexia PowerUp Letter; **Selected Year 7 Students Only*
- Year 7 Reading Intervention Letter; **Selected Year 7 Students Only*
- Year 8 Update Letter - September 2026;
- Year 11 Parents/Carers - Welcome to Year 11 Letter;
- Year 11 Parents/Carers - Post 16 Evening Letter;
- Year 11 Textiles Birmingham Sealife Trip Letter;
- Year 11 English Intervention Letter; **Selected Students Only*
- Year 11 Maths Intervention Letter; **Selected Students Only*
- Year 11 Science Intervention Letter. **Selected Students Only*

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.

The image is a screenshot of the Department for Education's website page titled 'Statutory guidance: Mobile phones in schools'. The page is dated 'Updated 29 June 2026' and 'Applies to England'. A large yellow box on the right side of the page contains the text 'Confiscated if Seen' and 'It's the law'. Below this, the heading 'Prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school' is followed by two columns of text. The left column explains that the guidance means from when you come into school until you have left through the main exit, and that staff will enforce this during tutor time, at the start of each lesson, and at the end of the day. The right column states that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, and that schools must have a behaviour policy aligned with their legal duties and standards relating to the welfare of children.

Department for Education

Statutory guidance
Mobile phones in schools
Updated 29 June 2026

Applies to England

Contents
About this guidance
[Prohibiting the use of mobile phones](#)

This guidance became statutory on 29 June 2026.

Confiscated if Seen
It's the law

Prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school

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.

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.