



Our Ref: FMM/KON

September 2026

ALL YEAR 11 PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

Re: Welcome to Year 11

I hope you and your family have had a restful and enjoyable summer break, filled with opportunities to relax and make special memories together.

As we begin this final academic year, we would like to warmly welcome you and your child back to a crucial and exciting few months ahead. As you are aware, Year 11 is not only the shortest school year but also the most intense. It will move quickly, and we are committed to working closely with you to ensure that your child achieves their very best.

This year, our Year 11 Team will be made up of myself as Head of Year, Mrs Laker (Pastoral) and Assistant Headteacher Mrs Fay Mescam who will once again, lead the Year Group from an academic and strategic perspective. Together, we will be overseeing your child's progress in lessons, personal development, and overall well-being to ensure that they have every opportunity of reaching their individual potential.

Welcome to Year 11 Evening

On **Tuesday 8 September 2026 at 6.00pm**, Mrs Mescam will be holding our annual '**Welcome to Year 11**' evening with a focus on how to support your child through their final year. Pupils and parents/carers are strongly encouraged to attend. The evening will also include subject specific revision tips for Science with Mr Wilkinson, advice and support around managing stress from the Reflexions team and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the year ahead.

*Please note if your child is participating in this year's school production, there is an earlier meeting at **5.45pm with Miss Toy** our Head of Drama. It's essential that any Year 11 pupils who are involved in the show take on board all the advice this evening will provide, so as to ensure success both on the stage and in the classroom.

'The Study Hubs'

To support pupils with their studies in Year 11, all pupils will continue to have access to 'The Study Hubs' (A10 and A9) throughout the year. These rooms are both computer suites meaning that pupils will have access to the technology they need to complete homework or revision tasks. Study Hubs will be open every day from 3.10pm to 4:30pm and there will be refreshments available. Please note in line with our whole-school policy, these rooms are mobile-phone free.

Revision Guides

If your child would like to borrow revision guides, please ask them to speak with Mrs Mescam as this is something we can do to support pupils should the need arise. All we would ask is that they are returned at the end of the year so that future pupils can also make good use of them.

Form Time Intervention Sessions (Maths, English and Science)

Following on from their success over the last two years, we will be re-running our form-time intervention sessions week commencing 14 September 2026 for targeted pupils only. Attendance at these sessions is compulsory and we would ask you for your support in ensuring that your child attends if and when they are invited. If your child is not required to attend, they will be expected in form time as usual. Other cycles of support will run throughout the year and will involve different pupils.

Revision Sessions

A revision session timetable will be sent out to parents/carers shortly. Sessions will take place early in the morning for some subjects, during lunch time and after school. There may also be revision sessions offered in key subjects during half term holidays.

Post-16 Evening

Mrs Froggatt and her Careers Team will be leading a **Post-16 Evening on Thursday 17 September 2026** details will follow. The evening will be divided into two sections with a presentation in the theatre along with an opportunity to meet and speak with our many Post-16 providers

Looking further Ahead

GCSE Examinations

A full official timetable of summer exams will be sent to parents as soon as they are officially published as will your child's individual exam timetable. Mrs Mescam will also host a GCSE preparation Evening before February half term. More details to follow.

Leavers' Assembly

Our final 'Goodbye' assembly will take place on **Tuesday 22 June 2027 at 9.00am**. More details to follow.

The Prom

Our annual end of year prom will be held on **Thursday 1 July 2027** at the **Park Hall Hotel** Wolverhampton. More details to follow.

Attendance & Engagement and Punctuality

This year, attendance is a significant focus at the national level as well as here at The Dormston School. Research shows that one of the most impactful ways to support your child to succeed academically is to encourage full attendance and engagement at school.

Our goal is for every student to aim for 100% attendance and to maintain a minimum of 97% by the end of Summer 2027. While occasional absences due to illness are understandable, minor ailments (such as a cough, cold, or sore throat) should not prevent students from attending school. Please encourage your children to be resilient and attend school whenever possible, even if they are experiencing minor disruptions.

Please may I also remind you that your child must be on time for school and **in form** (or their intervention sessions where relevant) for **8.40am**. If there is a reason they may be late that is not their fault, please email Mrs Downie at: mdownie@dormston.dudley.sch.uk to avoid sanctions.

Due to the government's increased priority on punctuality, there will be detentions in place if your child does not arrive until after 9.00am. If they do not attend until after 9.10am, this also now has to be recorded as an unauthorised absence for the morning session. **We have to comply with government standards and implement these changes.** We also strongly support the notion that punctuality and attendance are vital to your child's success. Please see the table below for the impact of reduced attendance on final outcomes.

Subject	Target Grade	Attendance			
		97% +	<95%	<90%	<80
English Lang	5	6	4	4	4
English Lit	5	6	4	4	4
Maths	5	6	4	4	4
Science	5/5	6	5/5	4/4	4/4
Geography	5	6	5	4	3
Art	5	6	5	5	3
PE	5	6	5	5	3

97% attendance - gives a Year 11 student a progress score of +1. **On average**, this means that in every subject the student gets 1 grade higher than expected in every subject.

95% attendance - the progress score becomes -0.3. This means that, **on average** the student is 1 grade below their target in 3 out of 8 subjects.

90% attendance - the progress score becomes -0.5. This means that, **on average** the student is 1 grade below their target in 5 out of 8 subjects.

All that remains to say is a huge and heartfelt thank you for all your support over the years; the role that parental support plays in securing strong outcomes for pupils cannot be overestimated. It's going to be a busy year with its challenges and its highlights so I would like to thank you for your ongoing support in encouraging your child to work hard each and every day because together we can help them get where they need to be.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Downie

Mrs Downie
Head of Year 11

Mrs Mescam

Mrs Mescam
Assistant Headteacher (KS4 Strategic Lead)

