Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Headteacher

It's been another great week in school, with so much wonderful stuff going on! It's hard to believe we have only been back 6 weeks when already so much has been accomplished.

Thursday was just one of those days when being a Headteacher becomes the best thing ever! It started with our Learner of the Month Presentation for September 2026 which was awarded to Niamh Bolton – 11DY who was nominated by Miss Jacques for her hard work and commitment in Maths.



Mrs Sutton, Mrs Bolton, Niamh Bolton, Mr Bolton and Mrs Jacques.

On the afternoon, we held our 'Roll of Honour Presentation' for the Class of 2026. This year, Tessa Gonbourn, Reece Oakley, Lillie Jukes, Sophie Devey and Rohan Sandhu all received the accolade of having their name etched in gold on our Roll of Honour Board for their outstanding effort, resilience and hard work during their time at The Dormston School. As in previous years, there wasn't a dry eye in the house as we shared moving and memorable feedback from staff about these wonderful students' achievements.



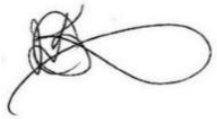
Sophie Devey, Lillie Jumes, Reece Oakley, Tessa Gobourn, Rohan Sandhu

As you know, it was also our Open Evening on Thursday. It was a fantastic event and a big thank you goes to all the many staff and students who came along to support on the night. As always, Sedgley was gridlocked and it was lovely to meet so many of our potential future students and their parents/carers.

Today, we had a fantastic Year 7 author visit from Dough Naylor. Please see our update section for more information about exactly what happened in this fantastic all day event. A big thank you to Mr Fox and Mrs Ellsmore for making this amazing opportunity happen! We will hopefully share some more photos from this fantastic event with you next week.

Well done to our Year 8 Football Team won their match against Wombourne (4 - 1) and to our Year 10 Netball Team who won their match against Ellowes Hall (12 - 4).

Best wishes.



Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Events/Reminders

- PSHE - Monday 12 October 2026 - Periods 2 & 3;
- Year 6 School Tour - Tuesday 13 October 2026 at 9.30am;
- Year 6 School Tour - Wednesday 14 October 2026 at 9.30am;
- Germany Trip 2028 Expression of Interest Deadline - Wednesday 14 October 2026;
- Year 6 School Tour - Thursday 15 October 2026 at 9.30am.

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- All Parents/Carers - British Values Letter - October 2026;
- All Parents/Carers - Parent/Carer Governor Opportunity Letter & Nomination Form;
- Year 10 Parents/Carers - Year 10 Work Experience Update Letter - October 2026
- Year 9 & 10 German Parents/Carers - German Trip Easter 2028 Letter;
- Year 9 Parents/Carers - Year 9 Update Letter.

Updates

Year 7 Author Visit – Dough Naylor

The Dormston School was thrilled to welcome bestselling author and television writer Doug Naylor for a very special day with our Year 7 pupils this week. Doug's visit followed his successful win in the Dudley Children's Book Awards, where his novel *Sin Bin Island* had been nominated by Mr Fox. After the awards, Doug kindly kept in touch with the school and arranged to visit Dormston for an action-packed day of reading, writing, creativity and conversation. It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to meet a hugely successful author and discover the person behind one of the books they had been enjoying in form time.

Doug Naylor was a particularly exciting guest for Dormston, with a career that was nothing short of extraordinary. He co-created, wrote and directed the hugely successful BBC series *Red Dwarf*, as well as writing the bestselling *Red Dwarf* novels. He also wrote for the iconic satirical series *Spitting Image* during the 1980s and, perhaps most unexpectedly, wrote the number-one single *The Chicken*

Song! For staff of a certain age, this certainly brought back some memorable musical memories! Doug's incredible career provided plenty of inspiration and showed pupils just how many different directions a love of writing and storytelling could take them.

The day began with a special Year 7 assembly in the theatre, where Doug introduced pupils to his world of writing and spoke about *Sin Bin Island*. There was a lively question-and-answer session, with pupils asking about his favourite books, his influences and where he got his ideas from. Doug also explained how he approached writing a book and what it took to turn an initial idea into a finished story. It was a brilliant opportunity for pupils to hear directly from a professional writer and to discover that even bestselling books began with a simple idea, a spark of imagination and a willingness to put pen to paper.

The excitement continued throughout the English lessons, with pupils taking part in special activities inspired by *Sin Bin Island*. They explored an extract from the novel before developing their own creative writing, putting their imaginations to the test. Doug visited classrooms throughout the day, chatting to pupils about their ideas, reading their work and offering encouragement and tips from his own experience as a successful writer. Having the author of the book sitting alongside them and talking about their writing made the experience particularly special and gave pupils a real sense that their own ideas and stories mattered.

Doug also visited the Art Department to see the fantastic creative work that had been produced by our pupils. Mr Goldie and Mrs Taylor had worked with pupils to create imaginative artwork inspired by the maps and monsters in *Sin Bin Island* and Doug was delighted to see how pupils had brought elements of his story to life through their own creativity.





At lunchtime, staff and pupils were also able to meet Doug in the PLC, chat with him and have their books signed. There was a real buzz around school throughout the day, with pupils excited to meet an author whose work had already captured their imaginations.

Doug's visit was a fantastic success and provided Year 7 with an unforgettable experience of reading, writing and creativity. We were incredibly lucky to spend time with such an accomplished, entertaining and inspirational writer, and his visit gave pupils a fascinating insight into the world behind the books, television and stories they enjoyed. The visit was also particularly fitting as 2026 is the National Year of Reading, and formed part of our wider 'Go All In' campaign to encourage reading for pleasure amongst our pupils.

By bringing authors into school, celebrating books and giving pupils opportunities to talk about, enjoy and create stories, we hoped to inspire a lifelong love of reading — and Doug certainly helped us take another big step towards that goal.

We were delighted that the day may not be the last time we see Doug at Dormston, as we hope to welcome him back later in the year to work with other pupils and to join our Parent and Pupil Reading Group, where *Sin Bin Island* is being read and enjoyed by our school community. We certainly hope there would be plenty more opportunities to talk books, share ideas and hear from Doug again!

PE Department - Important Reminders

As we continue into the new academic year, we would like to remind students and parents/carers of a few important PE expectations that help us keep lessons safe, inclusive and enjoyable for everyone.

Jewellery

For safety reasons, all jewellery must be removed before PE lessons. This includes earrings, piercings, necklaces, bracelets, rings and watches. Jewellery cannot be covered with tape or plasters as an alternative to removal. If a student is unable to remove jewellery, their participation in practical activities may be restricted.

PE Kit

Students should bring the correct PE kit to every PE lesson and be ready to participate. Having the correct kit allows students to take part safely and get the most out of their lessons. Students who are unable to participate due to a medical condition may be supported through an appropriate risk assessment where required.

If Your Child Cannot Take Part

If your child is unable to participate in one PE lesson, please provide them with a note explaining the reason. Students should still attend the lesson and may be given an alternative role or suitable activity. For long-term non-participation, medical evidence such as a doctor's note will be required so that we can understand any restrictions and make appropriate arrangements.
We really appreciate the support of parents/carers in helping students arrive at PE prepared and ready to learn. Correct kit, removal of jewellery and clear communication around medical needs all play an important role in keeping our students safe and ensuring they can enjoy PE.

Thank you for your continued support.

Celebrating Our Sporting Stars at Dormston!

We are incredibly proud of the sporting achievements of our students here at Dormston! We have recently updated our Sporting Stars Board and would love to expand it even further to recognise and celebrate more of our talented young athletes.

Does your child participate in a sport outside of school? Whether they compete at local, county, regional or national level, we would love to hear about their achievements! If you would like your child to be featured on our Sporting Stars Board, please email Mr Biddlecombe (Head of PE) at nbiddlecombe@dormston.dudley.sch.uk with:

- a few photographs of your child participating in their chosen sport;
- the sport they take part in;
- the club or team they represent;
- the level at which they compete.

We look forward to celebrating even more of our fantastic sporting stars and showcasing their achievements!

House Arts Competition

Please see below details for our House Arts Competition this year which has the theme of 'Conflict'.



Year 7 Theatre Trip

Please see below information for our Year 7 Theatre Trip to Treasure Island. Don't forget that the payment deadline for this trip is Friday 30 October 2026.

