

Parental Communication & Engagement



☎ 01384 816395 ✉ info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk 📧 @DormstonSch 🌐 <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk>

Message from Headteacher

On Sunday, 70 of our Year 11 students visited Alton Towers as a reward trip for their attendance and behaviour in Year 10. They had a glorious day in the sunshine, making the most of their final months here with us, celebrating their achievements! We always strive to ensure that school is an enjoyable experience for our learners and that memories are made that will last forever. This picture of Mrs Downie 'smiling' on the Smiler shows even the staff had a great time! A big thank you goes to Mrs Downie and all the staff who supported this trip in their own time in order to make it possible!



On Monday evening, we held our Parent/Carer New York Trip Meeting. Thank you to all our parents/carers who attended. As the trip gets closer, excitement is building amongst students and staff. Please see our latest New York Trip Update Letter for more information.

On Thursday, I presented our Learner of the Month Award for June 2026 to Katie Bowater - 8TY for her hard work and commitment in Maths. Well done Katie for this amazing achievement!



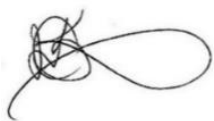
Thanks to all our Year 11 Parents/Carers and students who attended our Post 16 Evening on Thursday. We hope you found the evening useful as you start to plan your next steps.

We are really proud to share the latest developments in our school's commitment to anti-bullying. Our Executive Student Leadership Team and Peer Mentors have completed their anti-bullying training and can be easily identified around school by their blue anti-bullying badges. In addition, every member of staff and all pupils have signed our Anti-Bullying Pledge which is now displayed in our Atrium.

This pledge represents our collective commitment to building a safe, supportive and respectful school environment, where kindness and empathy are at the heart of everything we do. Together, we are taking a strong stand to prevent bullying and ensure the well-being of all members of our school community.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that aerosols and spray deodorants should not be brought into school. When used, aerosols can trigger asthma symptoms and cause difficulties for students with asthma. Suitable alternatives include **pump sprays and roll-on deodorants**. Students have been reminded of this expectation during assembly, and we appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Best wishes.



Mrs Sutton
Headteacher

Events/Reminders

- Year 11B Textiles Trip to Birmingham Sealife Centre - Thursday 24 September 2026;
- Year 11 Parents/Carers Exam Stress Workshop - Thursday 24 September 2026 at 5.00pm;
- Year 11C Textiles Trip to Birmingham Sealife Centre - Friday 25 September 2026;
- Year 7 'Sin Bin Island' Book Order Deadline - Friday 25 September 2026;
- New York Trip Lunch Order Deadline - Friday 26 September 2026.

Prepared for Learning Reminder!

Can we please remind parents/carers about the importance of students coming to school fully prepared for learning. We have had a lot of items being dropped off this week in Main Reception which has caused interruptions to valuable learning time.

Key Letters/Information Sent Out Recently

- All Parents/Carers - September/October 2026 Monthly Update Sheet;
- Year 11 Parents/Carers - Year 11 Revision Timetable - Autumn Term;
- Year 7 Author Event Letter;
- Choir Parents/Carers - Open Evening School Choir Performance Permission Letter;
- New York Trip Update Letter - September 2026;
- KS3 SEND Extra Curricular Clubs Letter.

Updates

Parent Governor Opportunity

Would you like to join our Governing Body as a Parent Governor? If you are interested, please get in touch with kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

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 statutory guidance titled 'Mobile phones in schools', updated on 29 June 2026. It applies to England. The document is divided into sections: 'Prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school' and 'This guidance became statutory on 29 June 2026.' The 'Prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school' section states that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, and anything other than this should be by exception only. It also states that 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. The 'This guidance became statutory on 29 June 2026.' section states that 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.

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 in school

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.

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.

Congratulations/Well Done

Headteacher Commendations

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

Mya Chamberlain	Faith Chamberlain	Emily Fellows	Jesen Fellows
Tyler Smith			