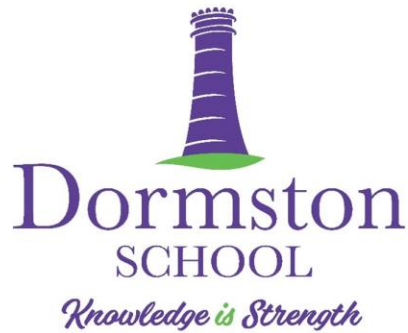


Our Ref: CWS/KON

October 2026

ALL YEAR 9 PARENTS/CARERS



Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on how Year 9 has settled into the new academic year so far.

I am incredibly pleased with the start that the year group has made. Pupils have settled back into school life well, and I have been particularly impressed with how productive lessons have been. Pupils are engaging positively in their learning, taking responsibility for the presentation of their work and demonstrating a real commitment to making progress. I have also received lots of positive feedback from staff about how mature the year group have been since returning to school. I am so pleased to hear this and wanted to make sure that I passed this feedback on to you. The maturity, attitude and effort being demonstrated by many pupils is something they should be proud of.

Thank you for your continued support in making sure that pupils arrive at school looking smart and ready to learn. The year group are looking very smart and this really does make a positive difference.

As a reminder, we have the **Dormston Pop-Up Shop** available for any uniform requirements. Please also remember our expectations around appearance:

- the **Rule of One** applies to jewellery;
- nails should be natural-looking;
- make-up should be natural and appropriate for school;
- hair should be a natural colour;
- trousers and skirts should be **Trutex** uniform;
- no trainers;
- pupils should arrive each day in the correct uniform and ready to learn.

Equipment is checked daily, and I am pleased to say that the majority of pupils are coming to school fully equipped. Thank you again for your support with this. Please remember that pupils need a **scientific calculator for both Maths and Science**. These can be purchased through ParentPay if required. If you need access to this, please ask your child to speak to their Maths teacher, who can provide the relevant link. We also have the **Blewitt's Stationary Shop** available for any additional equipment that pupils may need.

Pupils are also adapting very well to the updated government guidance and our **no-phone policy**. Thank you for supporting us with this. The vast majority of pupils are following the expectations well, allowing them to focus fully on their learning throughout the school day.



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One of the things I am particularly proud of is the number of positive points the year group has already achieved. **Year 9 have received over 6,000 positive points so far!** This is a fantastic achievement and demonstrates the commitment that many pupils are showing towards their learning, behaviour and the wider school community.

Please continue to celebrate these successes with your child at home. Positive recognition and encouragement from home make a real difference.

We did experience a couple of weeks where illness affected attendance across the year group. I am pleased to say that attendance is now beginning to improve again. Please continue to support us by ensuring that, wherever possible, your child attends school every day and arrives on time. **Lost learning cannot simply be caught up**, and every lesson provides an opportunity for pupils to develop the knowledge and skills they need for their future. Good attendance is particularly important as we continue our Year 9 focus on **getting GCSE ready**. The habits pupils develop now will support them throughout the rest of their secondary education.

We have an exciting and important year ahead. As pupils continue to develop their independence, maturity and approach to learning, we will be working together to ensure that they are fully prepared for the next stage of their education.

There are already some important dates for your diary:

- **Options Evening - 25th February 2027;**
- **Parents'/Carers' Evening - 18th March 2027.**

More information about both of these events will be shared with you nearer the time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is incredibly important, and I really appreciate everything you are doing to support your child and the Year 9 team. I am extremely pleased with the start Year 9 have made, and I look forward to seeing them continue to grow, develop and achieve throughout the year.

Let's continue working together to get Year 9 **GCSE ready**.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Williams

Mrs Williams
Year 9 Year Leader

