

Our Ref: SDN/KON

March 2020

ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers



COVID-19 UPDATE - 19 MARCH 2020 - 2ND LETTER

We would like to update you further with regards to arrangements at Dormston School.

Key Workers

We are still awaiting confirmation from the Government as to exactly who is classed as a key worker but we have already started collating details from our parents who think they may fit into this category. From research we are assuming that this may include the following. Please note however that this list is not definitive or exhaustive and we are providing it as guide only at this stage.

- National Health Service;
- Armed Forces;
- Teachers and Childcare staff;
- Care Home workers;
- Social Workers;
- Police Officers, Community Support, civilian staff;
- Prison Officer or other Probation staff;
- Firefighters;
- Local Authority planners;
- Environmental Health Officers;
- Highway Agency Traffic Officers.

Thank you to those who have already responded to us as it really helps us plan for next week. If you have not already done this, please when you ring or email us at info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk provide us with:

- your child's name;
- confirmation that they do not have a medical condition which they should not be in school for;
- your job role and contact details.

Year 11 - Changes to Arrangements for Friday 20 March 2020

We are working on some special plans to celebrate their journey through Dormston and we would like to request that they **do not arrive at school until 10.30am**. They need to come in school uniform but will be allowed to bring a shirt to sign. **They will be allowed to leave at 12.00pm**. Unfortunately, those students who have been absent today due to self-isolation should not attend tomorrow to avoid putting themselves and others at risk. Please aware that a Prom will take place and this will be their final celebration. We will keep you informed of the date and time as soon as we are able to. If they have any spare PE kit that they would like to donate to the PE department this would be gratefully received.

Year 7 & 10 should attend school as normal tomorrow.

Students Working from Home - Access to Computer

We are getting a few queries regarding students who don't have access to laptops. We are looking into this and will try and come up with a solution where we can. In the interim, we are asking students to log-in to GO4Schools on their phones and complete their work on paper.

Year 9 Options

Could we please ask that Year 9 students email their options choices to info@dormston.dudley.sch.u.k by **Friday 27 March 2020**. You can do this by taking a photograph of your form and attaching it to the email or just list your child's option choices in the email. Please enter the following on the subject line of your email **Year 9 Option Choice - insert your child's name**. We appreciate that making these choices may have been slightly more difficult due to the cancellation of our Options Evening and Year 9 Parents' Evening. The Year 9 data is now live on GO4Schools which will give you a good idea which subjects your child is excelling in. If you have any particular questions or concerns in relation to this please feel free to email any member of staff. It is important to have a good discussion about their options before these choices are made. There is also lots of careers advice on our website which you may want to consider as part of this process.

General Advice/Support for Parents with students at home

We appreciate that not all parents will be able to support their child with their learning at home as much as they would like to but teachers are available on email to answer questions. For those parents that want to work with their child we will share some strategies with you in the coming weeks. One thing all parents can do straight away, in addition to making sure that Knowledge Organisers are being looked at and work on GO4Schools is being completed, is to encourage your child to simply read for an hour a day. We have just updated our Reading Lists on our Website under Parents > Reading Lists. Many students have been sent to the PLC today to collect books but there is an on-line reading list on the website so they can read on their phone or a PC. All studies show that reading regularly improves outcomes in subjects as wide as Science and Maths.

Please try and encourage your child to follow their school timetable as far as possible allowing them to have breaks as they normally would. We all know that routine is good for children, although this is an unprecedented situation it is an opportunity for our students to embody our core values of Effort, Knowledge, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Dixon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'S' and a small 'D'.

Mr S Dixon
Head Teacher