



Monthly Parent/Carer Update Sheet

January 2019/February 2019

Careers Updates

Year 9

During PSHE pupils will be studying the topic 'My Career, My Future'. They will gain insight into jobs of the future and be looking at their skills.

Year 10

10W students were given the opportunity to attend The Skills Show at the end of November. 10V students will be attending WhatCareer/WhatUniversity Live at the NEC in March – details to follow.

Work Experience 18 - 22 March 2019

Work Experience is only 8 weeks away. During PSHE next half term, we will be helping students prepare so that they get the most out of their placement.

Year 11

We have a legal obligation to provide the Local Authority with intended destination (Post 16) data for all our Year 11 students. Form Tutors have distributed a questionnaire from Connexions, which students must complete as accurately as possible and return to tutors by Wednesday 16 January. Students have also been issued a privacy notice from the LA explaining how this data is used.

The 'Careers Education & Guidance' section on our website is regularly updated with detailed information regarding the school's careers programme. There are also many useful links for students, parents and teachers.

Mrs Bradnick and Mrs Dawes are available in the Careers Office (D2) to offer any careers related assistance/guidance/advice.

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening - Thursday 17 January 2019

We will be holding a Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 17 January 2019. Please ensure your child makes appointments with all their teachers so we can update you on their progress.

Year 11 Photographs - Thursday 24 January 2019

Year 11 Photographs are taking place on Thursday 24 January 2019. Pupils will have an individual and whole year group photo taken, proofs will then be sent in due course if parents/pupils wish to

order photos to purchase. Pupils will have the opportunity to have friendship photos taken at a cost of £5 for each individual in the photograph which will be payable on the day. Further information regarding arrangements will be sent to pupils via form tutors.

Avon Charity Day - Friday 25 January 2019

Avon House will be holding their annual charity day on Friday 25 January 2019. There will be top prizes up for grabs along with a host of exciting activities taking place across lunchtime. Pupils will be able to wear mufti and we look forward to raising money for a very worthy charity, MIND.

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening - Thursday 31 January 2019

We will be holding a Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 31 January 2019. Please ensure your child makes appointments with all their teachers so we can update you on their progress.

MFL Trip 2nd Payment Reminder - Thursday 7 February 2019

Many thanks for the deposits. The 2nd payment of £110 is due on 7 February 2019. We will need to make ferry payments shortly after this and hotel deposits, so we thank you in advance for paying on time.

Year 7 Oxbridge Aspiration Day - Thursday 7 February 2019

As part of the ongoing and ever successful Year 7 Strategy I am delighted to announce that yet again we are looking forward to welcoming the Outreach workers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities along with Undergraduates and post graduates from each University.

The Year 7 Strategy continues to push children's possibilities and to ask the question "What if? The day will dispel any myths our children may have about getting in to Oxford and Cambridge as well as informing Year 7 what College, Apprenticeships and University is and what paths may be open for them. Teaching from Year 7 that there should never be a ceiling placed on our children's capabilities is a crucial part of the Year 7 Strategy. I am sure, as past Years have, this visit will be enjoyed by all of the year group and continue to test their capabilities.

School Production - Tuesday 12 February 2019 - Friday 14 February 2019

Students have been in intensive rehearsals for approximately 18 weeks preparing for a full scale production of High School Musical directed by Miss Knight. The hit movie/musical originally directed by Kenny Ortega hit our TV screens in 2006 and has been growing through the world of Disney ever since. Students have undertaken vocal, choreography and acting workshops and others have even been mastering the world of production arts and back stage. Basketballers, cheerleaders, jocks, skater dudes, scientists, prom queens, thespians - we had it all! Tickets are £6.00 and go on sale on Tuesday 22 January 2019 from the Centre Office between 1.00pm - 1.30pm or via telephone on 01384 816388. The show runs from Monday 11 February to Thursday 14 February 2019 and starts at 7.30pm.

Half Term - Monday 18 February 2019 to Friday 22 February 2019

School will be closed for February Half Term from Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February 2019. Pupils should return to school on Monday 25 February 2019. This will be a Week 2 Timetable.

Year 11 Mock Exams - WC Monday 25 February 2019

Year 11 Mock Exams will start WC 25 February 2019. It is vital that all pupils attend every day of the exam period. The results of these exams form the basis of our predictions and will be used as part of the college application process.

GENERAL REMINDERS

Request for Leave of Absence

Dormston School's Attendance Policy is not to grant any leave of absence. However, we are aware that there are times of family crisis when leave of absence may need to be given. The Head Teacher may grant special permission but permission must be sought in advance of any bookings being made, and parents should be prepared that some may not be authorised. Should you insist on taking your child out of school without permission, then the absence does have to be recorded as unauthorised and a fine may be issued by the Education Investigation Service. The fine is £60 per parent for each child, if not paid within 21 days then the fine would increase to £120. The progress and development of your child is our main priority and it is because of this that we have taken this matter seriously.

School Attendance *REMINDER

We would like to congratulate the many parents/carers who make sure their children attend school regularly. **It is parents'/carers' responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education. Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence.** Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Are you aware that children who do not attend regularly:

- × do not achieve well in exams;
- × find it difficult to maintain friendships;
- × are more likely to become involved in crime;
- × miss out on opportunities in further education and the world of work.

Please remember that going shopping, visiting family, truancy, not wanting to go to school, alleged bullying (speak to school immediately to resolve the issue) are not acceptable reasons to be absent. All of these will be recorded as unauthorised absence which can lead to a referral being made to Dudley Council.

Pupil's Medical Information *REMINDER

If your child has any medical illness or conditions can you please update the School Nurse so we can keep our records up-to-date. Please can this be done every September or throughout the year if anything changes. Please write to Mrs Lewis, School Nurse, with the child's name, form group,

the condition(s) and any treatments given/needed. Mrs Lewis may need to ring you to talk about any concerns so please leave a contact number. If you wish to discuss your child's medical concern in person, please make an appointment through Main Reception.

Medical Appointments *REMINDER

The school will not authorise medical or dental appointments unless they are supported by a doctor's/dentist's letter (a copy is acceptable) or an appointment slip or card clearly stating the appointment date and time. When a pupil needs to leave school for a medical or dental appointment, the parent/carer or child must show a letter/appointment slip/card to the Office when they sign out, or when they sign in after attending the appointment, or the absence will not be authorised. **Pupils should only leave school for appointments if they are collected by a parent/carer. Pupils can only leave school alone for appointments if there are extenuating circumstances discussed and agreed with the school prior to the appointment.** GP/Dental surgeries can issue appointment slips. When a pupil arrives late to school after a medical or dental appointment, a parent/carer or child must show their letter/appointment slip/card to the Office when they sign in otherwise the absence will not be authorised.

Releasing Pupils in School Time/Emergency Situations *REMINDER

Please note that pupils will only be released from School if we are able to obtain consent from somebody who has 'Parental Responsibility' for the pupil in question. We do appreciate that emergency situations can arise, and a parent/carer with 'Parental Responsibility' may send another member of the family to collect a pupil on their behalf. In these situations, Parental Consent will be required prior to the child being released from school. It is therefore imperative that your contact details are up-to-date and you are contactable if you have made this arrangement.

Forgotten Lunch Arrangements *REMINDER

As you know, we no longer interrupt lessons to pass on forgotten equipment and break-time snacks due to the disruption to learning this inevitably causes. If for any reason your child has forgotten to bring in their lunch it is **their responsibility** to go to Main Reception at the start of lunch to check if any lunch has been brought in for them. Please make sure you talk to your child about this procedure. Form Tutors have been asked to speak to pupils about this arrangement as well. If their lunch has not been brought in for them they will be issued with a lunchtime pass which parents will then have to reimburse the school for.

Safeguarding *REMINDER

Dormston School takes the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils very seriously. If you have any concerns regarding the safety of pupils at this school please report them to either, Mrs Elliott, Mr Amos or Ms L Smith. Further information and guidance for parents/carers on safeguarding issues can also be found on the school website.