



Monthly Parent/Carer Update Sheet February 2018/March 2018

New School Website

We are delighted to announce that our new school website is now live. Please take some time to have a look at the site and the new design. The calendar for the school year can be downloaded to your mobile phone or laptop if you wish to have the dates logged on your personal calendars, there is a download button available next to the website calendar which will sync the dates. Parent Pay is available on the **Quick Links** tab at the very top of the **Home Page**, along with the RM Unify link which will enable students to access the VLE from home. In order for parents and carers to log into the VLE we currently have a link available on the **Useful Links** page of the **Parents'** Section. If you encounter any problems please contact Miss Ball via the school contact number.

Year 11 Parents- High Achievers' Evening Update

As you may recall, this event originally got cancelled due to the snow. We had then hoped to re-arrange it to Wednesday 31 January 2018 but unfortunately due to the unavailability of speakers this was not be possible. We will however be holding special assemblies for pupils on this topic.

Parking Outside Queen Victoria Primary School

Please be mindful when parking outside the Queen Victoria Primary School entrance. The 'No Parking' markings have apparently worn away. We have received parental concerns that should there be an emergency the emergency services may not be able to access the school.

Careers Updates

Year 11 College Applications - Year 11 students should have now applied for at least one college/sixth form place. Ideally, two college applications should be made to ensure that students have options and a 'back up plan' on results day! We will be holding an Apprenticeship Workshop after school on 13 March 2018 for students applying for Apprenticeships. We will provide information on the various types of apprenticeships available and students will be able to register for vacancies on The National Apprenticeships website. A letter confirming full details will be issued nearer the date. Students considering apprenticeships should still apply for college places, again as a 'back up' plan.

Year 10 Work Experience - As you are aware, we launched the new 2018 Work Experience (WEX) at the end of the summer term. The pupils were issued with WEX packs containing a letter and

forms for your attention. The deadline for your child to secure a placement and return the completed form to school was 31st January 2018. At the time of writing this we still have over 100 pupils who have not returned the placement form. Please support your child in finding a placement as this experience helps pupils gain social/communication skills and aids confidence building. **The final deadline has been extended until Friday 16 February 2018** but we cannot guarantee that all Health and Safety checks are complete for any placement form returned after this date.

Mrs Bradnick or Mrs Dawes are available in the Careers Office to offer assistance, and also every Wednesday lunchtime in A10 (for both Year 10 and Year 11 students).

Year 9 GCSE Option Process

On Wednesday 7 February 2018 we will launch the GCSE option process to all Year 9 students. In assembly Mr Grundy will explain the options process to the pupils and they will be issued with an options booklet which they will bring home. There will be an Options Evening for parents on **Thursday 15 March 2018** (details to follow). Our independent careers advisor will also be in attendance.

Forensic, Science and Courtroom Workshop

In March, a small group of Year 9 students will be involved in an exciting workshop starting with crime scene forensic science and working through the judicial system culminating in a mock courtroom. This gives pupils the opportunity to experience various roles and careers associated with this line of work.

Women in Construction/Motor Vehicle

36 Year 9 girls will be attending Stourbridge College to experience sessions relating to the construction and motor vehicle industries. As well as hands on activities, the students will have the opportunity to speak to a number of female professionals from these industries.

All Year Groups - National Careers Week

To celebrate National Careers Week during 5 to 9 March 2018 we will be holding a number of careers related activities and visiting speakers. Details will be given to students nearer the date.

MFL Trip Reminder

Just a reminder that the 2nd payment of £70.00 is due on Monday 5 February 2018. Can we **PLEASE** ask that passports are checked to ensure that they will be in date for the 9 - 13 July. If pupils don't have any passport, or an up-to-date passport, can these please be ordered as soon as possible to avoid tears later on. European Health Cards will also need to be ordered. We will not be able to issue refunds to those who are unable to go because their passport has not arrived in time.

GCSE French Students - Play

We have a very exciting treat for our GCSE French students as Wednesday 14 February 2018 sees the arrival of our French Play - Mes Chers Voisins.

Forgotten Items

Could parents/carers please kindly note that Reception will be unable to receive and send on any items that pupils have forgotten to bring into school i.e. PE Kits, Water Bottles, Break-time snacks. Thanks for your on-going support.

Lost Property Reminder

Just a reminder to encourage all parents to ensure that their child's property is named wherever possible. This ensures that any lost property can be returned swiftly. It is ultimately the pupil's responsibility to look after their property. We advise pupils not to bring in expensive items. All identified lost property is handed in to Pupil Reception and any items not claimed are displayed every Thursday after school in the atrium.

Year 7 & 8 STEM Club...is back!

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are key skills that all pupils should develop. If your child enjoys explosions, dissecting organs and exploring the unknown why not chat to them about joining STEM Club, this will take place every Wednesday, Week 1, 3.00pm - 4.00pm. Activities taking place this half term include; eye dissections, exploding bubbles, screaming jelly babies and much more. Everyone is welcome. Please ask your child to speak to Mr Cox if they are interested.

Year 11 Pupils - Science Revision Reminder

All Year 11 pupils are expected to attend Science revision on Thursday Week 1 from 3.00pm - 4.15pm. This is to ensure all pupils are given access to revision resources that cover the new exam specification in preparation for the first exams in May 2018. It is clear from evidence that pupils who attend these sessions perform better in the final exam, and achieve better grades overall. If for any reason your child cannot attend one of the sessions, please inform the teacher so pupils can be made aware of the content covered.

Safeguarding

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 Mr Dixon, Mrs Elliott or Miss Smith. Further information and guidance for parents/carers on safeguarding issues can also be found on the school website.

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.

Pupil Illness

When you report your child's absence you may be asked to provide information and discuss the symptoms that are being displayed by your child. You may then be advised whether time off is recommended or not. We are relying upon **Public Health England Guidelines**.

Year 7 Parents' Consultation - Thursday 8 February 2018

We are holding a Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 8 February 2018. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all their teachers so we can update you on their progress.

Year 9 Boys/Girls DTP/MENACWY Injections - Thursday 8 February 2018 *CHANGE OF DATE

Year 9 Boys/Girls DTP/MENACWY Injections are now taking place on Thursday 8 February 2018 instead of Friday 26 January 2018. Please return consent forms to school as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

School Production Week - Tuesday 13 February 2018 to Friday 16 February 2018

Our School Production of 'Chicago' will be running from Tuesday 13 February 2018 to Friday 16 February 2018. Tickets can be purchased over the phone from the Dormston Centre on 01384 816388 by parents. Tickets can be collected by pupils during lunchtimes and after school from the Centre Reception. They cost £7.00 each. The pupils and staff have been working exceptionally hard on this production and it promises to be a fantastic show.

Year 11 Mock Exams - WC Monday 26 February 2018 & WC Monday 5 March 2018

Year 11 Mock Exams will commence Monday 26 February 2018. Please ensure your child is fully prepared and has revised in readiness for these important exams. Year 11 Practical Mock Exams commence on Monday 5 March 2018.

Year 7 Jump Rope - Thursday 29 March 2018

On Thursday 29 March 2018 Year 7 will be taking part in a sponsored Skipathon to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. This will involve each tutor group skipping for 1 ½ hours. Last year's Year 7 raised a staggering £3,500 for this worthy cause. Sponsorship forms will be given to pupils shortly.

World Book Day/DEAR - Thursday 1 March 2018

We are delighted to welcome the fantastic storyteller John Edgar to join staff and Year 7 pupils for World Book Day on Thursday 1 March 2018. Pupils from **all years** will also be able to take part in lots of book and reading related activities in the run up to this special day, to include:

- **Scholastic Book Fair in the PLC from Monday 5 February until Thursday 15 February 2018:**
Pupils will be able to browse, choose and buy brand new books before school, at break, lunchtime and after school during this period. Payment will need to be made with cash only please.
- **Book Review Competition:**
Pupils can now take part by reading a book of their choice and submitting their review to Mrs Ellsmore in the PLC by Monday 26 February 2018. Judging will be done by a panel of English teachers. Winners will be announced and prizes given on World Book Day
- **World Book Day Tokens:**
World Book Day Tokens will be given to pupils in all year groups. Tokens can be taken to a local participating book shop and swapped for one of the TEN exclusive, new and completely FREE World Book Day books, OR book tokens can be used to get: £1 off any full price book or audio book from a book shop or £1 off a book purchased at the Dudley Teen Book Award celebration in school on Tuesday 24 April 2018.

Debate Competition Week - WC Monday 12 March 2018

On Monday 12 March 2018, Dormston is launching its second House Debate Competition. Two students from Year 10 and 11 will represent their House in a series of debates. The winners of the semi-finals will go head-to-head on Friday 20 April 2018. The heats will take place during lunchtime in the theatre and students from all Year groups are welcome to come along and watch and/or participate in the floor debate.

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening - Thursday 22 March 2018

We are holding a Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 22 March 2018. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all their teachers so we can update you on their progress.

Severn House Charity Day - Friday 23 March 2018

Severn House will be holding their annual Charity Day on Friday 23 March. There will be top prizes up for grabs along with a whole 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, Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Bank Holiday - Friday 30 March 2018 *SCHOOL CLOSED

School will be closed on Friday 30 March 2018 for the Bank Holiday. The Easter Holidays then start on Monday 2 April 2018 to Friday 14 April 2018.