



Monthly Parent/Carer Update Sheet

February 2019/March 2019

Careers Updates

National Careers Week, 4 - 8 March 2019

To celebrate National Careers Week we will be linking the school curriculum and the world of work in your child's lessons. There will be employer drop-in sessions at lunchtimes and visiting speakers.

Year 9

Year 9 started their GCSE options journey on 6 February 2019 with Mr Grundy launching the process and giving out the options booklet. An important event on the horizon for them is 'Options Evening' coming up on 14 March 2019. The event will begin at 6.30pm with a talk in the theatre outlining the process and the importance of making the correct choices. There will then be an opportunity to talk to all of the relevant curriculum leaders about their subjects and perhaps get more detail than is available in the booklet. A careers advisor will also be in attendance along with representatives from local colleges to give their advice should you need it.

Year 10

10V students will be attending What Career/What University Live at the NEC in March 2019.

Work Experience 18 - 22 March 2019

During PSHE sessions Year 10 will be preparing for their work experience placement. Please ensure that your child makes contact with their placement at least 4 weeks prior to 18 March 2019 and where applicable has an induction meeting. Please make sure you are clear on the timings for the day, dress code and if any special safety clothing is required. If your child is unable to attend their placement due to illness, please ensure that you let the employer and the school know by 9.00am.

If you still have consent forms to be returned to school, please return to Mrs Bradnick as a matter of urgency.

Tuesday 5 March 2019 - 6pm in the Theatre we will be holding an advice evening for parents and pupils on Apprenticeships. The event is open to all Year 10 and Year 11 students who are interested in the apprenticeship route. Letters will be sent home regarding this event.

Year 11

Thursday 7 March 2019, invited Year 11 students will be attending The Real Apprentice event at WBA Football ground. Letters will be sent home to selected students.

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 and parents and teachers.

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

School Production - Monday 11 February 2019 - Thursday 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 are available 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.

Dudley Children's Book Awards - Tuesday 12 February 2019

We are proud to again host the annual Dudley Children's Book Awards celebration which this year takes place on Tuesday 12 February 2019. Pupils who have taken part in reading the 7 nominated books will be invited to this prestigious event and will have the opportunity to listen to the author presentations, ask questions, meet the authors and get a book signed.

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.

Year 9 Injections - Friday 1 March 2019

DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio) and Meningitis ACWY Injections are taking place on Friday 1 March 2019 for all Year 9 pupils. If you have not already done so, can you please complete and sign the parental consent form and return to Pupil Reception as soon as possible. Your child will NOT be able to have their injections without a completed and signed consent form.

World Book Day - Thursday 7 March 2019

We are delighted that local author and poet John Edgar is to host our World Book Day celebration in school on Thursday 7 March 2019. John will inspire our pupils with poetry and writing workshops throughout the day and will, together with staff, lead our World Book Day assembly. Book related quizzes for all pupils will run in the PLC.

Drop Everything and Read - Thursday 7 March 2019

We will be having a Drop Everything and Read Session on Thursday 7 March 2019. Please make sure your child has an appropriate book on this day.

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening - Thursday 7 March 2019

We will be holding a Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 7 March 2019. Please ensure your child makes appointments with all their teachers so we can update you on their progress.

Attendance Week - Monday 11 March - Friday 15 March 2019

Attendance week is taking place Monday 11 March 2019. More details to follow.

Parent/Pupil Reading Group - Tuesday 12 March 2019

Our Parent & Pupil reading group are next meeting on Tuesday 12 March for a book discussion and questions on the book 'The Darkest Minds'.

Severn House Charity Day - Friday 29 March 2019

Severn House will be holding their annual charity day on Friday 29 March 2019. 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 the very worthy charity Birmingham Children's Hospital.

House Debate Competition - March 2019

The Key Stage 4 House Debate Competition will launch at the end of March. The debate will see the houses go head-to-head in a series of heats. The winners of each year group will then face each other in the grand final in May.

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.