



## Monthly Parent/Carer Update Sheet January 2018/February 2018

### **IMPORTANT - Emergency Contact Numbers**

If you have changed your mobile number over Christmas please ensure that you let the school have your new number to keep our records up to date.

### **PLC Library Books**

Please can you check with your child if they have a books or books from the PLC that need to be renewed or returned and if so, please ensure they do so as a matter of urgency. Your support is very much appreciated.

### **Forgotten Items**

Could parents/carers please kindly note that from January 2018 onwards 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.

### **Dudley Teen Book Awards 2017**

The Dudley Teen Book Awards is designed to encourage young people locally to read more and to consider choosing books that they would not normally read. The aim is for pupils to read all, or as many as they can, of the 6 nominated books then cast their vote for their favorite. The shortlisted titles are now available from the PLC for pupils to start reading. The nominated authors and pupils who have taken part will be invited to attend a ceremony, hosted by our school in the Mill Theatre on Tuesday 24 April 2018. Pupils can sign up for this at the PLC.

### **Activity Week 2018**

Activity Week will be taking place in July 2018 for all pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9. Pupils will be given the opportunity to decide which activity they would like to take part in over the course of the four days. Activity week will be launched in assemblies at the beginning of the Spring Term where pupils will be given full information and provided with booklets to bring home with them detailing any cost implications and giving a more detailed description of each activity package.

### **Careers Updates**

**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 is 31st January 2018.**

**Year 11 College Applications** - Year 11 students should be preparing to apply for their sixth form/college places and are encouraged to check the individual college website for closing dates. Students should ideally make two college applications to ensure that they have options and a 'back up plan' on results day! We will be holding an Apprenticeship Workshop in March 2018 for any students interested in applying for Apprenticeships – further details will be sent nearer the date. Students considering apprenticeships should still apply for college places, again as a 'back up' plan. Mrs Bradnick or Mrs Dawes available in the Careers Office or Data Office to offer assistance, and also every Wednesday lunchtime in A10 (for both Year 10 and Year 11 students).

### **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 which 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 Strategy; Careers, College and University Day - Monday 15 January 2018**

On 15 January 2018, Year 7 will be involved in our Careers, College and University Day. This is another great opportunity for the Year group to consider their choices post Dormston education.

We will be welcoming in local Colleges such as King Edward VI, Halesowen College and Stourbridge College as well as Apprenticeship providers from various vocations such as the army, the navy, mechanics and engineering. There will also be an opportunity to speak to several Universities both local and further afield, such as Oxford and Cambridge, about Degrees; which Universities offer which Degrees and life as a University Student.

As well as the College and Universities Fair, Year 7 will also be involved in a theatre presentation from various professionals in a: "Guess my Career" presentation, this will enable the year group to gather knowledge and information on what it takes to become certain professionals. The Year group are currently working with their tutors thinking about what their skills are and what path they may want to take when the time comes to make important decisions in Year 9.

### **Year 11 Photographs - Thursday 25 January 2018**

Year 11 Photographs are taking place on Thursday 25 January 2018. Pupils will have individual and whole year group photos 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.

### **Year 11 Parent Consultation - Thursday 25 January 2018**

We will be holding a Year 11 Parent Consultation on Thursday 25 January 2018. Please ensure your child makes appointments with all their teachers so we can update you on their progress.

### **Year 11 Parents 'High Achievers' Evening' - Wednesday 31 January 2018**

The High Achievers' Evening which had to be cancelled due to the weather has now been rescheduled for Wednesday 31 January 2018 at 6.00pm in the Theatre. All parents who are invited will receive a group call shortly.

### **Year 9 - 11 Intermediate Maths Challenge - Thursday 1 February 2018**

On February 1<sup>st</sup> sets V1 and V2 in years 9 and 10 will be participating in a nationwide maths event. The Intermediate Maths Challenge is a voluntary secondary school contest sat by some of the best mathematicians of this age group in the country. It tests mathematical knowledge and logical thinking in the form of 25 multiple choice questions. Only the top 40% of pupils who sit this test will be awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate for their scores. Last year we managed to get 8 bronze awards and two Silver as well as one pupil making it through to the next round of the competition. This year we are hoping to build upon that success and increase this number. We wish all participants good luck and look forward to seeing their results.

### **Avon House Charity Day - Friday 2 February 2018**

Our Avon House Charity Day will take place on Friday 2 February 2018. Pupils will be allowed to wear mufti if they bring in £1.00. As always, there will be lots of fund raising opportunities going on during the course of the day. If parents have any raffle gifts (especially from local businesses) then they would be gratefully received.

### **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. Forms will be coming out in the New Year. Please return these to school as soon as possible.

### **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**

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.