



## Monthly Parent/Carer Update Sheet March 2018/April 2018

### Term Dates 2018/2019

Please see attached Term Dates for 2018/2019 for your information. This information is also available on the website. **Please note that we are still awaiting confirmation of Public Holidays and Primary Liaison Week from the Local Authority.** A final copy of the Term Dates for 2018/2019 will be re-issued as soon as it is available.

### Careers Updates

#### Year 11

College Applications - All Year 11 students should have now applied for at least one college/sixth form place. By the end of the Easter break a total of two college applications should have been submitted to ensure that students have options and a 'back up plan' on results day!

#### Year 10

Work Experience - All students should have now secured a placement and returned paperwork to school so that the necessary health & safety checks can be put in place.

#### Year 9 - GCSE Option Process

There will be an Options Evening for parents on Thursday 15 March 2018. The evening starts at 7.00pm in the Mill Theatre with an overview from Mr Grundy. There will then be the opportunity to speak with subject staff about courses being offered. Our independent Careers Advisor will also be in attendance.

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening is on Thursday 22 March 2018, 3.30pm - 6.30pm. The deadline for pupils to return final option choices is Monday 26 March 2018.

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

### 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. Some staff have also put on additional extra sessions to support with revision of key topics, and pupils will know if they have been asked to attend. 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. Your support with these matters is greatly appreciated.

### 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.

### **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.

### **Easter Holidays - Friday 30 March 2018 to Friday 13 April 2018**

We break up for the Easter holidays on Thursday 29 March 2018. We hope that you will have a lovely Easter break. We return to school on Monday 16 April 2018 to a Week 2 timetable.

### **Year 7 & 8 Junior Maths Challenge - Thursday 26 April 2018**

On Thursday 26 April 2018 our most gifted year 7 and 8 mathematicians will be taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge. In this competition over 300,000 gifted mathematicians from schools across the country attempt to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold award. Last year, we had our best results ever achieving several gold certificates and individual pupils qualifying for the regional challenge. Further information, practice papers and problem solving sessions will be presented in class prior in preparation for the challenge. Good Luck to all the participants.

### **Year 8 Girls HPV Injection (Dose 2) - Friday 27 April 2018**

Year 8 Girls HPV Injections (Dose 2) is taking place on Friday 27 April 2018. Consent forms are NOT needed, they have already been completed.