



## Monthly Parent/Carer Update Sheet November/December 2018

### **Year 10 Parents' Consultation - Thursday 22 November 2018**

We will be holding a Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 22 November 2018.

Please encourage your child to make appointments with all their teachers so that we are able to provide you with important feedback on their progress.

### **House Arts Evening - Tuesday 27 November 2018**

The House Arts Competition acts who have got through to the final will now be performing at our House Arts evening of the Tuesday 27 November 2018 in the Theatre.

### **INSET Days - Friday 30 November 2018 & Monday 3 December 2018 \*SCHOOL CLOSED**

Please note that we will be closed for INSET on Friday 30 November 2018 and Monday 3 December 2018.

### **Year 7 Theatre Trip - Wednesday 5 December 2018**

On Wednesday 5 December 2018, Year 7 students will watch a performance of The Wizard of Oz at The Birmingham Repertory Theatre. All payments need to be received by Friday 16 November 2018. The trip departs at 1.00pm (pupils will be having lunch early this day) and will return at approx. 6.00pm traffic dependant. Pupils will have phones to update parents.

### **Year 10 & 11 High Achievers Evening - Wednesday 5 December 2018**

As part of our programme of advice and guidance we will be inviting a number of students and parents to our High Achievers' Information Evening. We will have a visiting speaker from one of the top universities. In addition to this English and Maths staff will advise you on how you can support your child to achieve high grade GCSE passes.

### **Tie Award Evening - Thursday 6 December 2018**

Our Tie Award Evening will be held on Thursday 6 December 2018. This is an evening of celebration for pupils who have earned house points through effort, attendance and extra-curricular activities, which has resulted in them being awarded their next tie. We very much look forward to seeing our successful pupils on the evening and they will shortly be receiving their invitation.

### **Year 10 Staff Debate Competition - Friday 7 December 2018**

This year's house debate competition will be launched on Friday 7 December to Year 10. The competition kicks off with a modelled debate, performed by staff and students from the debate club. Miss Chaplin will be leading the proposition and defending the motion, 'This house believes that animal testing is morally wrong', whilst Mr Fox and his team opposes. The debate will be opened up to the floor, so Year 10s are encouraged to come with questions to pose to either side if they wish.

### **Year 7 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening - Thursday 13 December 2018**

We will be holding our Year 7 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening on Thursday 13 December 2018. Please can you encourage your child to make appointments with all their teachers so we can update you on their progress since joining us in September 2018.

### **Christmas Holidays - Friday 21 December 2018 \*EARLY CLOSE OF 12.00PM**

We will be breaking up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 21 December 2018 at 12.00pm. We will return to school on Monday 7 January 2019 to a Week 2 Timetable.

## *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.