

Parental Communication & Engagement



Message from Head Teacher

Our Year 7 have been going 'Over the Rainbow' this week when they went to see Birmingham Repertory Theatre's Christmas Production of The Wizard of Oz on Wednesday. As always, our students were a credit to themselves and the school. Seeing a live theatre production is always a magical event and one which our Year 7 pupils really look forward to.

Thursday night was our Tie Awards Evening with over 430 pupils invited to collect their new tie. There were 6 platinum tie award winners. The platinum award is achieved by gaining 1,200 points. When you break this down into effort, attendance and extra-curricular, achieving this prodigious award is no mean feat!

I am also pleased to announce that the school now has a Twitter account. For the latest school updates, information and news please follow us on Twitter @DormstonSch. I am looking forward to seeing all our Year 7 Parents/Carers at our Consultation Evening on Thursday 13 December 2018.

Head Teacher

Letters Sent Out Recently All Available on our Website

- No letters this week!

Events/Trips

EVENTS

- Launch of 500 Words Writing Competition - WC 10 December 2018;
- Year 7 Parents Consultation Evening - Thursday 13 December 2018.

TRIPS

- No trips this week.

General Reminders/Updates

Parent Communication & Engagement

Following last week's update, please find below some more information with regards to our efforts to improve parental communication and engagement.

Follow us on Twitter.....

You can now follow us on Twitter @DormstonSch.

Increasing our Parents' Committee Membership

One of the questions in our recent Parent/Carer Survey asked parents/carers if they would be interested in joining our Parents' Committee. All parents/carers who expressed an interest have now been contacted via letter and invited to become an official member of our Parents' Committee. As a result, our Parents' Committee membership has so far increased from 10 to 21 which is a great! Hearing your views is really important to us and by increasing our membership of this Committee it should help ensure that good lines of communication stay open and that your views are taken on board. Thank you so much to all parent/carers who are part of this Committee. The date of our next meeting is Wednesday 30 January 2019. Minutes of these Committee meetings will also now be published on our website!

Pupil/Parent Engagement - Year 7 Pupil/Parent Cake Decorating Workshop

Parental Engagement is really crucial to us as a school and also has huge benefits to our parents/carers. Our Pupil/Parent Reading Group continues to be very successful so we decided to look for some other ways of getting our parents/carers involved in their child's school activities. A small group of Year 7 parent and pupils have therefore been selected to take part in a 5 week Christmas Cake Decorating Workshop. It has been very successful so far and both pupils and parents are enjoying it. If you have any ideas for future engagement opportunities please don't hesitate to contact us.

Telephone System Improvements

We are aware that our phone lines are often very busy and this can be frustrating for parents/carers when they are trying to get in touch. In an attempt to improve this there is now a second member of staff on Main Reception during 'peak periods' (8.00am - 9.00am & 3.00pm - 4.00pm). Our phone system has also been upgraded so that if the main school number is engaged during this time the call will divert to a 2nd line. This means that we are in-fact able to answer two calls simultaneously which we hope will result in a better telephone communication service with us. We do try to handle your calls as quickly as possible and want to do everything we can to make getting in touch with us as easy as possible. Please also be aware that:

- if your call relates to speaking to a HoH you also have the option of emailing them your question or concerns if this would be easier for you;
 - avon@dormston.dudley.sch.uk
 - derwent@dormston.dudley.sch.uk
 - severn@dormston.dudley.sch.uk
 - trent@dormston.dudley.sch.uk
- If your call relates to an Absence we have a dedicated Absence Line which is Option 1 when you first dial. You can leave a message on this option to report your child's absence rather than waiting to speak to somebody on Main Reception.

Thank You & Well Done

Well done to the following pupils who have recently received Head Teacher Commendations:

Rohan Patel	Bella Church	Jamey Bailey	George Hutton
Jamal Taylor	Keeley-Mai Price	Priya-Brooklyn Jagdev	