

Parental Communication & Engagement



Introduction & Welcome

Welcome to our first 'Parent/Carer Weekly Bulletin'. We are currently undertaking a review of Parental Communication & Engagement and this NEW 'Weekly Bulletin' is one of the first initiatives that we will be implementing. The Bulletin will be coming out in hard copy every Friday and will also be uploaded to our website (Menu > Parents > Letters to Parents). As it stands at the moment this Weekly Parent/Carer Bulletin will not replace the more in-depth Monthly Parent/Carer Update sheet that we also produce. You will shortly be asked to complete a Parent/Carer Communication Questionnaire as part of this review which we really hope you will assist us with as your contributions and opinions really do count and will help shape any future improvements we make in this area.

Message from Head Teacher

I am very honoured to be the new Head Teacher of Dormston School. This is a great place to study and work and I look forward to working with all the pupils, parents, staff and governors to continue to make the school a success.

It was a hive of activity over the summer at Dormston and once again we have refurbished and vastly improved many of our classrooms and social spaces. I believe that all pupils deserve the very best and we will continue to invest in the site in future. We have upgraded more of the pupil toilets. A large social space at the back of the school has been landscaped and picnic benches will be added soon. We have created a new Textiles room and re-located and redecorated all of our Humanities Department. The Reception to the school has also been upgraded with the addition of a new security system. The Science Department is currently having new windows fitted.



(Our new social space at the back of the school)

Examination results were pleasing and we have taken another step forward in the progress made by our pupils. A number of students gained outstanding results with a set of grade 8 and 9s. We will continue to ensure that our GCSE pupils are carefully guided and supported throughout their GCSE courses.

I presented four assemblies on the first day back and as I looked out from the stage at each of our four Houses I was filled with pride seeing how bright, enthusiastic and happy our students appeared to be. Our Year 7 looked particularly excited and ready to settle into their new life at Dormston. During the assembly I talked to the pupils about how Roger Bannister was the first athlete to run a mile in under four minutes by visualising his success and visualising how he might reach his goal. I spoke to the students about how each and every one of them are unique and can achieve anything if they try hard enough. I also reiterated the message that if everyone in the school can say, hand on heart, that they have tried their best each day, no one will ask them for any more. It is this ethos of trying your best that I want to see in every classroom and corridor of Dormston School.

The first day back at school was a fantastic start for us. Pupils looked exceptionally smart and ready for the new term and they were a credit to parents/carers and themselves. Very soon you will see our new Student Leadership Team wearing their new grey blazers which will be a visual reminder of how important they are to the school.

As always, attendance is a high priority for us and we want all students to achieve an attendance of 97% or better. It is also very important that students are in school by 8.40am and your co-operation with this is greatly appreciated.

On Thursday 4th October at 6.00pm you are invited to a 'Meet the Head Teacher' evening. I realise after being here for fourteen years many of you have already met me and know me but it's a chance for you to hear a little more about my hopes for Dormston School.



Letters Sent Out All Available on our Website

- ALL Year 7 Parent/Carer - Welcome to Dormston Evening - 17 September 2018 at 6.30pm
- Year 11 History Krakow Trip Parent Meeting Letter - Wednesday 19 September 2018 at 6.00pm
- Year 11 Post 16 Evening Letter - Wednesday 26 September 2018 (Reply Slip Deadline of 17 September 2018)
- Expression of interest letters for the Orchestra and School Choir are available from Mr Richardson;
 - Orchestra Expression of Interest Letter - (Form return deadline was 7 September 2018!)
 - School Choir Expression of Interest Letter - (Form Return deadline of 12 September 2018)

Events/Trips for Next Week

There are no events or trips taking place next week.

New Staff Notification - September 2018

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff to Dormston School:

- Miss Merrick - English Teacher
- Mrs Jones - Maths Teacher & Year 9 Strategy Leader
- Mr Smith - Science Teacher (Temporary)
- Mr Bangard - Science Teacher/KS4 Co-ordinator
- Miss Spittle - Science Teacher/2nd in Science
- Mrs Baker - Science Teacher/Key Stage Manager
- Miss Devlia - Science Teacher (TeachFirst Placement)
- Miss Goldie - Geography Teacher
- Mr Hayward - History Teacher (TeachFirst Placement)
- Mrs Grundy - English & Maths Intervention Teacher

Other Staffing Changes

- Mr Dixon - Head Teacher;
- Mrs Elliott - Acting Deputy Head Teacher
- Mr Amos - Acting Assistant Head Teacher
- Mrs Downie - Acting Head of Derwent
- Miss Leigh - Acting Deputy Head of Derwent
- Miss Ball - Head of Geography
- Mrs Dawes - Careers Leader

The following staff have also been appointed as our new Strategy Leaders. Their role will be to monitor progress of year groups and character education and plan for careers:

- Year 7 Strategy Leader - Mrs Brayshaw
- Year 8 Strategy Leader - Miss Jacques
- Year 9 Strategy Leader - Mrs Jones
- Year 10 Strategy Leader - TBC
- Year 11 Strategy Leader - Mrs Bassan will oversee Year 11 as normal

We have also recently appointed the following new Support Staff:

- Mr Budd - Site Apprentice
- Mrs Giffard - Admin Apprentice
- Miss Downes - Administrative Support Officer
- Mrs Lisa Ingram - Learning Support Assistant
- Mrs Dunn - Catering Assistant
- Mrs Wood & Mrs Richards - Cleaners

Staff Leavers

The following staff left last term, many of them going on to promotions. We are sure you will join us in wishing them well in their new positions.

- Mr Stitchman - Head Teacher
- Miss Wadelin - Science
- Mr Uppal - Geography

- Mr Cox - Science
- Mrs Moran - Technology
- Mr Holden - Maths
- Miss Hodgetts - Science
- Mrs Bates - Science
- Mrs Fanthom - Learning Support
- Mrs Neale, Learning Support - *Mrs Neal has however returned to us on a Teacher Training Placement.*

General Reminders/Updates

▪ **Parents' Committee?**

Are you interested in joining our Parents' Committee? There are 3 meetings per school year. The date of the first meeting this term is **Monday 24 September 2018 at 6.00pm**. If you would like to join us please email kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk as we would be very pleased to welcome you. Other Parents Committee dates for the year are Wednesday 30 January 2019 & Thursday 2 May 2019. Your views and attendance at these meetings really help us shape the school's future so please consider joining this important group.

▪ **Call Return Times - Our Aim**

We aim to return your calls within 48 hours. Unfortunately, due to teaching commitments staff are not available to speak to parents/carers without a prior appointment.

▪ **Pupil Collection from School**

Please note that only Parents/Carers with 'Parental Responsibility' can collect a child from school for an appointment unless prior notification has been given and approved. Please also note that only Parents/Carers with 'Parental Responsibility' can collect a mobile phone when it has been confiscated;

▪ **New Library Books Non Return Charging Policy**

Due to the large amount of books borrowed from the PLC that are not returned we will be changing our policy on over-due books. Once a book is over-due you will be sent a GroupCall message prompting you to ask your child to return the book. If the book has not been returned within 7 days of this message then a blanket invoice of £5 will be issued (to cover replacement and administration costs). If you could support us in getting library books returned on time we would be most grateful as they are a really valuable resource which needs to be accessible for all pupils. This will start with effect from September 2018. This charge will also apply to books that are returned damaged.

Sporting Results & Forthcoming Matches

- There are no sporting fixtures this week.

Thank You & Well Done

- Thank you to all our parents/carers for following our Uniform Policy.
- Attendance Figure for the first day back was really good. Please remember our School Attendance Target is 97%.