

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Head Teacher

We are now into our second full week of Term and after so long off I am very proud of how our students have adapted back into school life.

I am requesting that **ALL** students wear a face mask in the school corridors at **ALL** times (except those exempt for other medical reasons – please write a note in your child’s planner if this is the case to inform us). The masks can be removed during class if students feel comfortable to do so. We are making this request to ensure we work together as a community so that all students are kept safe and secure. We are very aware that COVID-19 has affected many of our families and community in different ways and I want to ensure that all students are calm and focused in school so that they can concentrate on their learning. I am also aware that some of our students have family at home who are vulnerable and still protecting themselves and the face masks will help us to stop any possible spread of infection. Students will now be stopped and challenged if they are not wearing a face mask whilst moving through corridors.

We have recently sent out an Attendance Expectations Letter which provides guidance on attendance and explains the symptoms of COVID-19 and the action parents/carers need to take if they have any concerns.

Our House Arts competition is launching next week and this is a great opportunity for students to enter either a dance, music, drama or art piece for judging. Students will win prizes and also points for their Houses. It will all be done ‘virtually’ this year and details will be given out next week.

Finally, our Year 8 & 9 Moving Forwards Talks are now available on our website under the Year Strategies section. Please do take the time to look at these videos if you have a child in one of these year groups as it will tell you lots about what you and your child can expect in the coming year.

Head Teacher

Letters Sent Out Recently

ALL letters are now emailed home, hard copies are ONLY provided for 'Reply Slip' Letters. *Selected student only letters are given out to your child by hand or are posted directly home. The criterion for 'selected student only' opportunities are based on various factors depending on the trip and its focus. Unfortunately, we are unable to allow every student the opportunity to be involved with every activity which we understand sometimes causes disappointment. If you require more details about the selection process for any opportunity please contact the event organiser.

- Year 9 - 11 Science Revision Guide & Workbook Letter;
- Year 7 - 8 KS3 Science Revision Guide & Workbook Letter;
- GCSE Geography Students - GCSE AQA Geography Revision Guides Letter;

- COVID-19 H&S Procedures Letter - September 2020.

General Reminders/Update

Cancelled Trips/Events - Refund Arrangements

We are pleased to confirm that we have now completed the refund process for the recently cancelled New York 2020 Trip and next Year's Ski Trip. If you paid for any of these trips via ParentPay can you please log on to check and withdraw your refund. If you paid via PayPoint then a cheque refund should be with you very shortly. We are also continuing to process refunds for the cancelled Year 11 Prom. May we remind you that due to Year 11 students having been off rolled from our ParentPay system refunds will be issued in the form of cheques. If you haven't already confirmed your payee details you have until Friday 18th September 2020 to email churst@dormston.dudley.sch.uk. If we do not receive confirmation by then we will issue cheques to the main contact on your child's records.

Thanks again for your patience whilst we have been processing these refunds.

PLC Library Service

We are delighted to announce that the School Library is now operational for students to return, renew and borrow books, albeit in an alternative format for the time being. Students will be given the new procedure via the Weekly PowerPoint and it will also be emailed to them individually. The new procedure will also be available to view on the school website under Curriculum > Personal Learning Centre & Library.

Attendance – COVID-19 Symptoms v Cold

As a school we will be following the guidelines set out by the government when deciding if a child is fit to stay in school or if we need to advise you to book a test. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

If a young person or a child in your care develops any of the above symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should book them a test as soon as possible at www.nhs.uk or via 119. Please let us know if this is the case. **Upper respiratory symptoms, like stuffed up/runny nose and sinus congestion, are very uncommon in COVID-19.**

If a child displays symptoms in school that **do not** fit into the criteria above (cold like symptoms) then we will contact the parent/carers to inform them that their child is displaying symptoms **that do not match the government guidelines and it is the parents decision whether they want to book their child a test.**

Cold-like symptoms

Cold symptoms come on gradually and can include:

- a blocked or runny nose usually with a sore throat;
- headaches and muscle aches;
- spasmodic coughs and sneezing;
- pressure in the ears and face.

If a child displays symptoms like these, which present as a common cold, they do not need to be tested and they and you do not need to self-isolate. Your child can still come to school if you are happy for them to do so. Obviously, we would support you in being sensible in making this decision to ensure that we also limit the spread of common colds as much as possible.

Congratulations & Well Done

Congratulations to the following students who recently received Head Teacher Commendations.

Eleanor Forbes-Ritte - 10AX	Lauren Handsaker - 7SX	Luke Payton - 8SX	Alfie Jones - 9AY
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