

## Parental Communication & Engagement



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### Message from Head Teacher

I hope that you have had a great week and I trust that, once again, this update finds you and your family safe and well.

We have welcomed a large number of our Year 10 students back in to school this week for face to face meetings with our Heads of Departments and Heads of House. This has provided us with some valuable insights into how we might support and help them further. Many of our students said they liked the live lessons we are offering to some classes. Hopefully, over the coming weeks, you will see more lessons like this on offer.

Year 10 students who have elected to return on 29<sup>th</sup> June will receive a letter early next week in the post giving details of which day they have been invited to attend and also providing them with a very specific arrival time. This has been done to ensure social distancing measures are in place at all times. Students may also be interested to know that a video is now on our website which shows students how the school will look and feel when they return and gives precise details about what corridors and classrooms will look like.

We have just issued our core value stripes to the lucky students who were successful. More of these awards will be on offer in the new academic year so it is vital our students keep working hard and keep trying their very best. I hope to see all those stripes proudly attached to school jumpers when we do finally return.

We have been able to make some changes to our site whilst the children have been away. The front of the school by the student entrance has been resurfaced as has a large area between our teaching blocks with extra seating added. Our corridors in B and C block have had a make-over with new brighter lighting. Several classrooms are also being re-decorated. I am sure you are aware that I like corridors and classrooms to look visually appealing and last year we added large wall graphics to our Science department. The student council asked for more of these and so we are adding them to our Maths and English stairwells, to Geography, technology and further displays in Science as well as Safeguarding advice and a 'Dormston Diversity' display in the Atrium. Over the summer you will also see a brand new website appearing. We hope this will be more user friendly and reflect Dormston's core values. If you have any thoughts you'd like to share with us regarding our website we would love to hear them. I hope you have a good week.

**Head Teacher**

## Emails/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.

- HoH Keeping in Touch Email to Students (includes Weekly PowerPoint) - Monday 15 June 2020;
- Head Teacher's Weekly Blog - Monday 15 June & Friday 19 June 2020;
- Year 7 - 10 Home Learning Survey - 15 June 2020;
- Year 11 Update Letter - 16 June 2020;
- Year 7 - 10 Curriculum Briefing - 16 June 2020;
- June Monthly Update Sheet.

## General Updates

### Cashless System Update

From September 2020 we will be moving to a completely cashless system within school for the canteen. This will mean that any students who wish to pay for school dinners will need to already have the money allocated to their account either via parentpay or through paypoint barcodes. **Money will need to be added to the account 48 hours in advance for the funds to show on their school account. Students will not be able to "top up" their accounts at school.** This is our final step in making the school completely cashless. The way students purchase school dinners will not change. Students will continue to pay for their food either via biometric fingerprint scanning or via an issued dinner card. We will be shortly be sending out activation letters to those who have not activated their accounts. For anyone who is unable to register an account please email [churst@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:churst@dormston.dudley.sch.uk)

### Loughborough University's virtual STEM Event

Loughborough University's virtual STEM event is FREE for all Year 9, 10 & 11 girls! Details and sign up form here: <https://tinyurl.com/yabq2gq5>

### Black Lives Matter

The past few weeks have been very stressful for a number of reasons. The global protests for equality, sparked by the death of George Floyd in USA have raised the issue of racism with us all. Your children may have many questions about this, why is it happening? What is racism? How can I help? Please see this link with a downloadable booklet on how to approach this topic with your child. It explains key terms and issues that your child can use to build an understanding of the modern world that we live in. We hope you find this useful.

Thank you. <https://yoopies.co.uk/c/press-releases/blacklivesmatter>