

Parental Communication & Engagement



Message from Head Teacher

It's been a busy but productive week at Dormston. Firstly, I would like to thank all parents/carers for sending their children to school looking so immaculate. Uniform standards have been fantastic and it is a pleasure to see all of our pupils walking into school looking so smart. As I am sure you are aware, we are having a campaign to 'Keep Dormston Tidy' and this has been really successful so far. We have now appointed our Year 7 Litter Monitors who are keen to prove that Year 7 are the most environmentally aware year group. We are in the process of selecting our new Student Councils and we have already given them some really important areas of responsibility. This will include a small budget for them to spend on whatever they think is important for the good of the school.

I have seen some great lessons again this week including Year 7 learning how to pass a basketball. Co-ordinating 31 basket balls bouncing around a room is no mean feat but our PE Department were in their element. I visited many science lessons and Year 7 have also been raring to get going with the Bunsen burners and chemicals... hopefully no explosions from the Science Department!

Year 10 and 11 have also got straight back into it and are already starting revision classes for those all-important examinations.

Letters Sent Out Recently All Available on our Website

- ALL Parents/Carers Parental Communication & Engagement Survey (*one per household - return deadline of Friday 5 October 2018);
- Parents/Carers of 7TX & 9TX Tutor Swap Letter;
- Year 8 Author Visit Letter - **Selected pupils only*;
- Year 8 -11 Derwent House Parents/Carers - Alton Towers Trip Expression of Interest Letter - Sunday 21 October 2018;
- Year 9 Parents/Carers - An Introduction to Year 9 - Monday 1 October 2018 at 7.30pm
- Year 11 GCSE Drama Parents/Carers - War Horse Performance Letter - Wednesday 24 October 2018.

Events/Trips for Next Week

- Year 7 Freshers' Fair - Tuesday 25 September 2018 *during school day;
- Year 8 Author Visit by Steve Cole - Tuesday 25 September 2018 *selected Year 8 Pupils only during school day. Please note that ALL pupils are able to come to the PLC after school 3.00pm - 3.45pm if they wish to meet Steve Cole and buy a signed copy of the book (£5 - £6.) Cash only;
- Year 11 Post 16 Evening Wednesday 26 September 2018 - (Avon & Derwent at 6.00pm - Severn & Trent at 7.00pm) – Theatre
- European Day of Languages Celebrated in School - Wednesday 26 September 2018

General Reminders/Updates

Safeguarding Update

Safeguarding Notice: Whatsapp guide for parents/carers. NOS have just released a free guide that covers what parents/carers need to know to help safeguard their children from potential online risks including; *the new age limit (16+), scam messages, connecting with strangers*; <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1039846184360312833>

Head Teacher Introduction Evening - Thursday 4 October 2018 at 7.00pm. Don't forget to return your reply slip if you are planning to attend.

Dropping off Equipment

Since coming back in September we have seen a dramatic increase in the amount of forgotten equipment and lunches being brought into school. If for any reason your child has forgotten to bring in something it is **their responsibility** to go to Main Reception to check if anything has been brought in for them. Please have a conversation with your child to make sure they know about this procedure. If a child does not have any lunch they need to report it to Pupil Reception **at the start of lunch** who will issue them with a lunchtime pass which parents will need to re-imburse the school for.

Parental Communication & Engagement

As mentioned in our first Weekly Bulletin we are currently undertaking a Parental Communication & Engagement Review. As part of this review it is really important that we hear what you think about how we currently communicate with you as a parental body and what we could do to improve in this area. You will shortly be receiving a Parent/Carer Communication & Engagement Survey (one per household). We would really appreciate your support in completing this survey by Friday 5 October 2018. All returned surveys received by this time will be entered into our Prize Drawer for a £50 shopping voucher of your choice.

Pupils who are Late to School or Form

As a school we take attendance and punctuality of pupils very seriously. Missed lessons have detrimental effects on a pupil's progress and attainment. As such, can we please remind you of the school system and procedures that are in place with regards to lates.

- If your child is late into school or form, then they will receive a 30 minute late detention the following school day. The detention date and time will be written into their school planner in the detention section at the back. Your child will be expected to attend this detention in A10 the following day at 3pm.
- Should your child **fail** to attend this detention they will be collected the following day by Mrs Elliott or Mr Amos and serve their detention at Lunchtime instead. As a Parent/Carer you will be notified via a text message that a detention has been missed, please be assured your child will have time to eat their lunch either in the dining hall, if they normally have a hot dinner, or their own packed lunch.

Should you have any queries then please contact Mrs Elliott or Mr Amos on 01384 816395.

Sporting Results & Forthcoming Matches

The Netball season gets underway this month, our first fixtures are against Hagley RC School and take place as follows:

- Year 8 & 9 Netball Team - Tuesday 25 September 2018 (Home)
- Year 10 Netball Team - Thursday 27 September 2018 (Away)

Our football fixtures will follow shortly.

Please can you tell your child that there is a PE Information Board for Fixtures, Results and the Extra-Curricular activities available at lunchtimes and after-school. (Located by PE Office in A Block).

Thank You & Well Done

- Thank you to our Student Leadership Teams for supporting our Year 7 Evening. They are excellent role models and a credit to themselves.