

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Head Teacher

Our House Arts Competition was launched this week which is very exciting. This year it is on the theme of 'Respect'. Although the competition won't run in quite the same way as it usually does it still promises to be a great event and I encourage all of our budding artists in Dance, Drama, Music and Art to consider entering.

As you will be aware, the Government have announced new guidelines as we continue to battle against COVID-19. At Dormston we sadly had to send Year 11 home on Monday. A deep clean of the Year 11 teaching zone has taken place. Please can we remind parents/carers that any students asked to self-isolate should not be mixing in the local community and should be isolating at home. All Year 11 students should return to school on **Wednesday 30 September 2020** providing they are symptom free. We are working hard to develop arrangements to make sure that when students do have to isolate they have access to high quality learning in the form of both GO4Schools and on-line live lessons.

An important letter will be coming out Monday 28 September 2020 regarding the dismissal arrangements for your child in the event of another COVID-19 case. **You are requested to return this Reply Slip by Tuesday 29 September 2020.** Please return this form as it will help us greatly with executing any dismissal arrangements safely and quickly.

Since our return to school, staff have been busy assessing gaps in learning and implementing strategies to help students catch up and we are pleased with how students have responded.

Thank you for your support over the last few weeks as we all start getting use to the 'new normal'.

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 11 Parents/Carers - Self-isolation Request Letter;
- Year 7 - 10 Parents/Carers - Notification of single case of COVID-19;
- ALL Parents/Carers - COVID-19 Update Letter - 21 September 2020.

General Reminders/Update

PLC Library Books to be returned by Students in Years 8 - 11

We will be most appreciative if parents/carers will assist their child to locate and return any PLC Library books that were issued to them before September (i.e. the books they borrowed before school was closed for lockdown and the summer holidays) as a matter of urgency. We fully appreciate that many students have multiple books to return which they may of course do over the course of a few days. We have nearly 900 books to retrieve so that we can make them available for other students to borrow. Please therefore can we ask that your child returns all their overdue books by Friday 9 October 2020. We thank you for your assistance in helping to provide an invaluable library service to all our students.

Virtual Work Experience Opportunities for Year 10 and Year 11 Students

Please encourage your child to sign up for one of the Virtual Work Experience programmes on offer during the half term holiday. Information including all links and how to sign up have been emailed to all Year 10 and Year 11 students. Applications close on 2 October 2020. Please contact Mrs Dawes or Mrs Bradnick if you or your child need any help or support.

Online College Open Days for Year 11 Students

Due to the current situation most college open days will now be online. Colleges are asking for students and parents to book slots to take part. Please encourage your child to visit the school website to sign up for the online college open days. It is important to book on as many as possible, so your child gets as much information about each college and the courses they offer. This will enable them to make an informed choice for their post 16 pathway. Information including all links and how to sign up have been emailed to all Year 11 students and parents/carers. Please contact Mrs Dawes or Mrs Bradnick if you or your child need any help or support.

Open Evening 2020 Arrangements

Due to the current situation our Open Evening 2020 will still be happening but in a very different format. Although this will be different, we do still hope that what we are planning will give you a good flavour of the school so that you can make the right choice for your child's future.

Below is the range of options that will be available this year to parents/carers and prospective new students who want to find out more about life at Dormston.

Promotional Video

Very soon you will find a promotional video on our website which will give you a good idea of how we work at Dormston on a day to day basis. The video will provide an insight into our vision, mission and values and demonstrate how the 5 year journey through Dormston School might look for each student. This video will be available on our website under **Parents > Open Evening 2020** on/or before Thursday 15 October 2020.

Virtual 'Live' Open Evening - Thursday 15 October 2020 at 7.00pm

On Thursday 15 October 2020 at 7.00pm prospective parents/carers will be able to join our online 'live streamed' Open Evening where Mr Dixon, Head Teacher will talk about the school and provide information on all the topics and issues you might want to find out about including; attendance, behaviour, progress and attainment, rewards, extra-curricular, parental communication and safeguarding. This will be followed by visits to some of our departments. The evening will conclude with a question and answer session where parents will be able to type their questions for us to answer live on air.

We strongly recommend that you sit down together as a family to watch this very special evening from the comfort of your own home.

In order to see this evening live you simply need to visit our website <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk/> and click on **Parents > Open Evening 2020** and you will see the video link. The live stream commences at 7.00pm. Please note that there may however be a slight delay with the start time so please be patient.

We will also be writing to all of our feeder primary schools shortly to provide information about how parents can gain access to this evening and what we are offering. If you are unable to join us for the Virtual 'Live' Open Evening then please don't worry as the evening will be recorded and will appear under the Open Evening 2020 section of our website shortly after the event.

A member of Senior Teaching staff will also hopefully be visiting our main feeder primary schools that are allowing visitors in order to have a talk to your child about life at Dormston.

All our main feeder Primary Schools will also be receiving copies of our prospectus for each Year 6 student. This prospectus will have been quarantined for 72 hours before being passed on to the following Primary Schools:

- Alder Coppice Primary;
- Cotwall End Primary;
- Hill Avenue Primary;
- Hurst Hill Primary;
- Manor Primary;
- Queen Victoria Primary;
- Roberts Primary.

If you require a prospectus and your child's school is not listed above please contact the school so that we can arrange for one to be sent out in the post or alternatively you can look on our website where an on-line version of the prospectus can be found.

Virtual School Tours

Unfortunately, as it stands at the moment Dudley LA are not allowing any School Tours to take place in ANY schools so we are not able to offer this opportunity. We will however be filming a virtual tour to enable both parents/carers and students to take a look around the school. This video will be available on our website under **Parents > Open Evening 2020** on/or before 15 October 2020.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us on 01384 816395.

Please note that all our admissions are handled by Dudley Admissions Team. If any parents/carers want any advice on distances or the application process then please call Dudley Admissions on 0300 555 2345; Option 5; then Option 6 or alternatively email admissions.cs@dudley.gov.uk

Congratulations & Well Done

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

Eve Ringham - 9SX			
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