

Parental Communication & Engagement



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Message from Head Teacher

I hope you have had a great week and this newsletter finds you safe, well and happy.

We are finally welcoming back our Year 10 students. These are small steps and it has taken a huge amount of planning to ensure the school is operating safely but it is so up-lifting to see all of our great students returning to us looking happy and focused. Students will have one English, Maths and Science lesson each week before the summer to help us consolidate their learning and ensure we are preparing them for the next steps in their education. The staff are now offering students some live on-line lessons and your child will be emailed if this is relevant to them to provide them with log-on details. So far our live lessons have been very well received and students are enjoying the interaction, albeit from afar, with their teachers. I would like to thank all parents and carers for how well you have responded with home education for your children. I know it is not an easy task but I think you have all handled it with determination and resilience. If you are interested we recently recorded a podcast with a parent who has been tackling the challenging task of educating her son at home and this will be available on our website very soon. During the podcast she discusses some of the issues and challenges she has faced over the last few months and as a school we attempt to answer some of the questions that she, and I'm sure many other parents, have about the future. I am sure you have also heard the Government's pledge to provide schools with extra income to support catch-up lessons for students. Again, we planning how best we might do this and we will release details of this shortly after the summer break.

The staff really do miss teaching your children and I hope you have all had the chance to take a look at the picture message we sent out to all students last week. It took Mrs Otton some organising to co-ordinate over 60 staff sending in photos but I think she did a great job and the message from the staff was definitely heart-felt. We can't wait for a time when we can all return to normal and relive you of your home-teaching duties.

Have a great 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 22 June 2020;
- Year 10 Return to School Video Link Email - 24 June 2020;

- Student 'Word Message' Video Link Email - 25 June 2020;
- Head Teacher's Weekly Blog - Friday 26 June 2020;
- Curriculum Briefing Sheet - 29 June 2020.

General Updates

Science 'Live Lessons'

Please be aware that there will be Science 'live lessons' taking place as follows:

- Year 8 (Whole Year) - 10.00am to 11.00am on Tuesday 30th June 2020;
- Year 9 (Whole Year) - 9.30am to 10.30am on Thursday 2nd of July 2020.

Keeping Children Safe On-line

Please see attached useful link with regards to ensuring your child stays safe on-line.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online>

Parent Voice Survey Reminder

If you have not already done so, please could you complete our Parent Voice Survey by Tuesday 30th June 2020. As a school, we care about your thoughts and views and look forward to reading the feedback from our parents. This survey is to help us gather a parent voice to reflect on the impact of COVID-19 and the academic and emotional support needed by students.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SdytGq2PpkG2xjy5y4_0X2DVj1aZIJtGltbXuj_jrXNUNIFVR1VSRExVVINTOEhaM0NJMIRUOUdOMy4u

Year 8 (Boys & Girls) 2nd dose of HPV Vaccinations - Thursday 2 July 2020

The above injections were due to take place in June, but due to the Coronavirus this has not been possible. Year 8 had their 1st dose of HPV vaccine back in October 2019, there needs to be at least a 6 month gap between doses.

Vaccinations will be run on an appointment basis to ensure that we strictly limit numbers at any one time. You should have been contacted either via e-mail or phone, to inform you of your child's appointment time. Vaccinations will take place in the Sports Hall and students will need to be escorted by a parent/carer to ensure they are safe and well after receiving the vaccination. Temperatures will be taken on arrival and if the student has a fever, they will be sent home. Staff will be wearing PPE, we will be adhering to social distancing and hand sanitiser must be used upon arrival.

These vaccinations are extremely important and we strongly recommend that your child has them.

If you have any queries regarding vaccinations, please email jjones@dormston.dudley.sch.uk or you can call Vaccination UK direct on 01902 682674 or email vaccinationdudley@evguk.co.uk.

Message from the English Department

During lockdown, J K Rowling has released her tale of "The Ickabog". The link to the website and also to an exciting competition to illustrate it can be found below.

<https://www.theickabog.com/home/>

We are aware as a Department of the importance of reading to continue to develop student vocabulary and word recognition as well as firing students' imaginations. Therefore Team English have recorded themselves reading the tale on a series of videos. The text appears on screen so you and your child may like to listen - we will release enough videos to keep your son/daughter engaged in reading over the summer break.

First instalment read by Mr Corns

<https://www.loom.com/share/438bd47e8bf94438ae126708954b2bf1>

We have also added the most recent advice for parents from the Education Endowment Foundation who are working closely with the government to minimise the impact of loss of schooling. Their info graphics are a useful tool for parents to maintain their child's interest and engagement with reading. Some of the statements are geared more to Primary children but they will give an idea of what conversations around reading could sound like.

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resources for schools/7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19%20Resources/Resources%20for%20schools/7%20Top%20Tips%20to%20Support%20Reading%20at%20Home.pdf)

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Read with TRUST infographic \(1\).pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19%20Resources/Read%20with%20TRUST%20infographic%20(1).pdf)

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resources for schools/Talk with TRUST infographic.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19%20Resources/Resources%20for%20schools/Talk%20with%20TRUST%20infographic.pdf)

We hope you find this an entertaining and enjoyable time to read with your children.

The English Department