

## Parental Communication & Engagement



### Message from Head Teacher

Tuesday night was a glittering showcase for some of our most talented musicians, dancers, actors and artists. The winning House was Avon with 265 points but there were sterling performances right across the board. Pupils receive 3 points for entering, 5 points for being in the showcase and 10 for winning their category. Some pupils entered several times. Alaina Lewis was the star of the show with 2 wins for solo and ensemble dance and runner up for solo music, earning 25 points for Avon!

The overall standard was extremely high and there would have been some very proud parents/carers in the audience no doubt. The email I received from one of our parents the next day really summed it up; *"Entertaining, Inspirational, Fantastic. What a great night to celebrate the arts"*.

Planning has also started for our annual Christmas Variety Show which all pupils will get to see on Thursday 20 December 2018. This will also involve a non-uniform day where pupils will be expected to wear Christmas/warm jumpers and make a £1.00 donation. All money collected will go to homeless charities. We are also looking forward to seeing some of the hidden talents of some of our staff who will be also performing in the show.

Head Teacher

### Letters Sent Out Recently All Available on our Website

- Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening Letter - Thursday 13 December 2018;
- SEN Parent/Carer Support Books - 'Shelf Help' Letter *\*SEN parents/carers only*;
- Year 11 Boys Mentoring Letter *\*Selected pupils only*.

### Events/Trips

#### EVENTS

- Tie Award Evening - Thursday 6 December 2018 (**Avon/Derwent at 6.30pm & Severn/Trent at 7.00pm**). **Please don't arrive before your allocated time.**

#### TRIPS

- Year 7 Theatre Trip - Wednesday 5 December 2018 *\*Estimated return time 6.00pm.*

## General Reminders

- School Closed for INSET on Friday 30 November 2018 and Monday 3 December 2018;
- Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening Reply Slip Deadline - Tuesday 4 December 2018;
- School Production Cast T-Shirt Reply Slip Deadline - Friday 7 December 2018.

## Updates

### Attendance Week Winners

As you may know, we recently held our Attendance Week. The following pupils and parents were entered into and won our Attendance Week Draw. They each won £40 Intu Vouchers.

### Pupil Winners

- Joel Goode - 9XA;
- Rosie Sutton - 7DX;
- Michael Warden - 7TX.

### Parent Winners

- Zak Dickens - 8AY;
- Jessica Seedhouse - 9DX;
- Mia Selimoglu - 7SX;
- Anita Bart - 10TY.

### Parent Communication & Engagement - Our Next Steps

As you may know, we recently shared with you the results of our Parent/Carer Communication & Engagement Survey. We would now like to start sharing some of the next steps in terms of improving our parent/carers communication and engagement. We don't want to overload you with information so we will share a few topics/ideas with you in our Weekly Update Sheets over the coming months which we hope you will find helpful.

- **Planning for the Year Ahead**

In order to help you plan for the year ahead we have been told that you might find it helpful to have a complete list of Consultation Evening dates in advance. Please therefore see the below remaining dates for this academic year.

- Year 7 Parents/Carers Consultation Evening - Thursday 13 December 2018;
- Year 9 Parents/Carers Consultation Evening - Thursday 17 January 2019;
- Year 11 Parents/Carers Consultation Evening - Thursday 31 January 2019;
- Year 8 Parents/Carers Consultation Evening - Thursday 7 March 2019.

All dates are also on our 'School Calendar', which is on our school website - **MENU > News & Dates > School Calendar**. We will now issue the complete list of dates at the start of every academic year in case it will be of help.

- **Improving Correspondence**

All our group/whole school letters should now be following a more consistent and informative format. All these group/whole school letters are also now automatically being uploaded to the school website. There is a section in the Weekly Bulletin that lets you know what letters have recently been sent out recently in case you have missed anything!

Any dates of events, trips, deadlines for reply slips to be returned or deposits to be made are also now added to our 'School Calendar' on the website. These dates are also recorded in the Weekly Bulletin under the Events/Trips and Reminders section.

Sometimes, letters may be live on the website before they are sent out due to the slight delay that may occur with the copying and distribution of our letters. As we move towards more email communication this should however improve and become instantaneous. Please however do keep checking our website for our most up-to-date correspondence in the meantime. Please feel free to call the School Office if you are unsure of anything.

- **Reviewing our Electronic Communication Systems**

We are aware that although GroupCall can be a useful mechanism for communicating with our parents/carers it does however have its limitations. Our Parent/Carer Survey also told us that you would like more information to be distributed electronically, moving away from so much paper being sent out.

In the New Year we will therefore be requesting confirmation of parental email addresses for all our parents/carers. If you haven't already got an email address it would be really beneficial if you would consider setting one up.

We will also shortly be investigating various ParentApps which may be a quicker and more efficient way of communicating with you. This process may take a while to investigate as whatever improvements we make, we want them to be right!

## **Sporting Results**

### **RESULTS**

Thursday 22 November 2018 saw the Year 9's host Solihull Academy in the West Midlands Cup. With Kian Hyde and another Dormston pupil on the score sheet, it secured a 2-1 victory for Dormston to progress in the next round of the cup.

### **FORTHCOMING MATCHES/EVENTS**

#### **Basketball Fixtures**

The Basketball fixtures are up and running:

- Wednesday 5 December 2018 - **Year 9 - Away** - Beacon Hill

### **Dry Slope Skiing - GROUP 2**

**Tuesday 11 December 2018**

For all those pupils in group 2, please meet in the Atrium Area at 3.15pm, you **MUST bring Gloves, Warm Jacket and Long Socks. No JEANS.** Pupils return to school at approx 7.45pm (please check for your names on the Display Board outside the PE Office).

There will be regular meetings during school time for pupils attending the Ski Trip from now until they leave for their adventures on the slopes. Times and dates will be put up on the PE Notice Board (outside the PE Office) please ensure you child checks these meetings as it vital that they attend.

### **Brierley Hill & Dudley Schools - Year 7 Boys & Girls - 5 a side Football Tournament**

Dormston have the pleasure of hosting this Annual Football Tournament again this year....there has always been a fantastic turn out and support for teams competing.

Dormston Boys are current Champions of this event and the Girls team were runners pp last year.

All of the action will be taking place outside on the Astro, after school, so wrap up warm if you are coming along to support the teams. This year the dates are all in December, so get the dates in your diary ....all taking place after school:-

- Wednesday 5 December 2018 - Qualifying Days;
- **Wednesday 12 December 2018 - Qualifying Days - Dormston Year 7 Boys & Girls compete TODAY;**
- Wednesday 19 December 2018 - Finals Day.

## **Thank You & Well Done**

- A massive congratulations to Lilli Holmes - 8DY, who has had an extremely busy back to back weekend of race meets at Club Championship Level. She competed in 13 races and came away with 7 Golds, 4 Silvers and 2 Bronzes. She broke three club records in the 50m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke & 100m Individually Medley, while also keeping three records from previous years in the 50m, 100m & 200m Backstroke.
- Well done to the following pupils who have recently received Head Teacher Commendations:

Lilli Holmes	Megan Drew	Elle Turner-Gilbert	Brandon Lewis
Luke Davies			