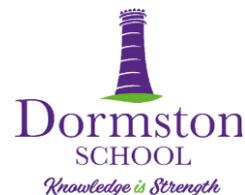


## Parental Communication & Engagement



☎ 01384 816395 ✉ [info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk) 🐦 @DormstonSch 🌐 <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk>

### Message from Head Teacher

I hope you have had a good week and you and your family are safe and well.

Once again, I would like to clarify the situation with students working from home. Firstly, I would like to say to all of our students, that all we want is for you to do your best, there are no reasons for you to panic about the completion of work, indeed looking after yourself and avoiding stress is more important at this time. We are here to support and guide you through the work if needed. Parents and carers, I would like to thank you for all your hard work in offering support for your child, home schooling certainly has its challenges. Please call the school or email [info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk) if you have any queries. When some kind of normality returns to school we will do our best to ensure that every student has the chance to catch up on any work missed.

We have been working hard on the school buildings in the time the students have been away. We have now completed a refit of our CCTV system throughout the school to ensure our students and buildings are safe and secure. We now have 46 cameras recording throughout the school site and you will hear more about this very soon in a separate correspondence. We are also upgrading our C block corridors with new lighting and decoration. Of course all the work we are undertaking is very dependent upon the availability of contractors but as always we will endeavour to further improve the school site and provisions over the summer. We have a full programme of upgrades planned and you will hear more about this in the coming weeks.

We are well in to preparations for the new academic year, when hopefully all the problems and issues we are currently facing will have settled. We have recently launched a competition for all our students to design the cover for the new student planner. In the past we have used photographs taken within the school but we thought it might be nice to feature the art work of our fantastic students this year. Please encourage your child to enter their work. Mrs Otton will also be launching our 'Core Stripes' remotely so that students have a chance to continue earning rewards.

Mr Grundy is being kept very busy at the moment ensuring our Option process for Year 9 is complete and writing the new academic timetable. Mrs Bassan and Mrs Dawes are also very busy collecting information from Primary Schools about our new Year 6 students so that we can make their transition as happy and effective as possible. It can be a worrying time moving to a new school, made even more challenging by the current situation but we will do our utmost to make our new students feel as welcome as possible and get them settled in to life at Dormston.

As I am sure many of you are aware, Mrs Gwinnett will be leaving us in September to take up her promotion to Deputy Head Teacher at a new school. She has been a wonderful teacher and a fantastic member of the Senior Leadership Team. She will be missed, but I know she is very excited about her new role and we all wish her well.

I am pleased to announce that from September Mrs Mescam will join the Leadership Team and take over the reins from Mrs Gwinnett. I am certain she will do a great job.

I hope you all 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 27 April 2020;
- Year 10 Careers Update Letter & Assembly PowerPoint - Thursday 30 April 2020;
- Year 10 Berlin History Trip Update Letter - Thursday 30 April 2020;
- Activity Week Disney Land Paris Trip Update Letter - Thursday 30 April 2020;
- Head Teacher's Weekly Blog - Friday 1 May 2020 (on website only under Parents > Head Teacher's Weekly Blog).

## **General Reminders/Updates**

### **ParentPay Refunds Update**

We are pleased to confirm that we have now processed refunds for the following cancelled trips - Geography Italy Trip, Geography Carding Mill Valley, MFL and Year 10 Drama Women in Black Performance. If you had paid for any of these trips via ParentPay can you please log on to check your account. Thank you for your patience whilst we have been working through the refund process.

### **Activities Week Update - Day Trips Cancelled**

To ensure the safety of our students and staff we have taken the decision to cancel Activity Week 2020. We believe that if students are back in school by then we will need to be ensuring that we spend as much time as possible supporting students with their learning. We will now begin to process refunds for any payments received so far. We would like to ask that you bear with us during this time as ParentPay are experiencing a high volume of refunds to process for schools across the country but would like to assure you that we will do everything we can to ensure the process is as seamless as possible. For those that paid via ParentPay we will notify you as soon as refunds have been processed. If you paid via PayPoint then we will be in touch to confirm a cheque refund. **For any students signed up to the Berlin/Disneyland Paris visits please see separate communication that has been sent to you.**

### **Year 11 Prom Payment Update**

As you may know the Year 11 Prom has been rescheduled for Friday 9 October 2020. In the event that it is unable to go ahead due to social distancing still being in place we will look for a timely postponement. If this is not a viable option and the Prom is unable to proceed we will reimburse monies paid for tickets.

## **Message for Year 10 Citizenship Students**

Please see YouTube for Mrs Downie's Citizenship videos. The channel is called 'Mrs Downie Citizenship' and students can access videos to assist learning and revision during this time. The channel is being regularly updated with new videos that replace lessons missed during this time and can assist with the work set for learning from home.

## **Year 10 Careers Update**

Please make sure that you have read the Careers Update letter that has been sent and that you contact Mrs Dawes ASAP if you would like a careers interview. [Please click here for Year 10 Careers Update Letter.](#) [Please click here for Careers Assembly PowerPoint.](#)

## **Keepy Up Challenge**

We have recently launched our 'Keepy Up Challenge' with students. Students have to film themselves (landscape) doing 5 Keepy Ups and send it in to their Head of House. The object must come in from the left off camera and leave to their right. Best clips will be collated and shared shortly. Please encourage your child to take part in this fun challenge and send the clips into us ASAP.

## **Mrs Mescam Photo-Frenzie Challenge - What are you most proud of?**

With all this extra time at home, we are asking students if they have done something they have never done before? For Mrs Mescam, she planted seeds, did circuits in the garden and is currently training a 10 week old puppy! We are asking students to record their new experiences so that we help one another to focus on the positives. Once back at school, we shall collate our photos to create something beautiful for all to see. So, if your child is currently writing poetry, writing a book review, learning to cook, home-schooling younger brothers and sisters or decorating the house, take a photo and send it too Mrs Mescam.

## **Young Writers - Write to Unite**

Write to Unite has been created to combat the current uncertain climate. Young Writers want children and adults of all ages to share stories and poems with the world. There is even the opportunity to get your writing published. Let's send messages of hope and positivity, to cut through the doom and gloom!

Maybe someone in your family is a key worker and you want to send your thanks in verse. Or perhaps there's a budding author in the family that wants to write a wonderful story to distract us from the real world for a little while. Why not make writing a story or poem a part of home schooling or a family activity?

Creativity can help lower stress and anxiety, and imagination is an amazing thing that we can all use anytime and anywhere - let's put it to good use and help raise a smile, be positive and stop others from feeling lonely by creating an online community bursting with good vibes only.

Resources and further information on how to send in your stories to Young Writers are available on their website: <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/writetounite>

## **CCTV Update**

As part of our ongoing works to improve the site and its security we are going to be making some improvements to our existing CCTV facilities. This includes replacing some of our outdated cameras as well as some additional cameras in our public spaces. All CCTV footage is stored on servers on site and only accessible by approved users within the school.