

## Parental Communication & Engagement



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### Message from Head Teacher

I hope this update finds you and your family safe, healthy and happy.

We have now opened our doors to Year 10 and we are taking small steps in returning to 'normal'. Obviously we are planning for September and as I am sure you are aware the Government today (at the time of writing this) are releasing specific guidance for schools on what the new term should look like. Following the announcement we will adapt our plans and provide all parents with details of the September start as soon as possible. Please note that the school will not be open over the six week summer break. We have now emailed Edenred food vouchers to all parents eligible for support to cover the summer period so please check your emails carefully and contact us if you have any queries. Would you also please note that from September we will be expecting all our students to wear the correct uniform. For ease during lockdown we have allowed trainers and some sportswear but this will revert back to normal expectations when we return. Shoes should be black and formal rather than trainers or trainer-style shoes. Coats must be plain black, dark blue or dark grey. Trousers should be tailored rather than the stretchy/closely-fitted style. There should be no nail polish and make-up should be natural and very discrete. We only allow one ear piercing per ear lobe and no other piercings are permitted. There should be no extreme hairstyles. If you are unsure please refer to our uniform poster on the website or speak to your child's Head of House. I would like to thank you in advance for your on-going support with these expectations.

Mrs Bassan has sent a letter to all Year 11 students and parents to inform them of how GCSE results will be issued in August. I am also very pleased to announce that the school prom can go ahead on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October and details of this have been included in the letter. All Year 11 students who want a 'leaver's hoodie' can also order this through the school, again, please check the letter for further details. We look forward to seeing our Year 11 together for one final time in October.

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July all our Year 10 students are invited to join Mrs Bassan for an on-line live lesson to ensure they are able to create a good curriculum vitae in preparation for next steps. All students will receive an invite shortly.

Finally, you may be interested to know that our very own English department are encouraging all of our students to read by offering a recording of each of them reading chapters of 'Ickabod' by JK Rowling. Four chapters will be available on our website each week and the recording of the first four chapters read by Mr Corns are now available to access along with the text itself. This is a great way to encourage your child to read. I hope lots of our students will listen to the readings to help keep their minds active and fired over the summer break. National research shows that students who read for 15 minutes per day make far more progress than those students who do not so let's all get reading!

As always, I would like to thank all parents for the on-going support and resilience during the school lockdown.



**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 29 June 2020;
- Year 11 Update Letter - 1 July 2020.

## **General Updates**

### **Virtual Lessons**

Your child's teachers will include information on virtual lessons on Go4Schools in the homework section. You can access this to check on timings as well as looking at the Curriculum Briefing Sheet.

### **Science 'Live Lessons'**

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

- Year 7 (Whole Year) - 9.00am to 10.00am on Tuesday 7 July 2020;
- Year 8 (Whole Year) - 10.10am to 11.10am on Tuesday 7 July 2020.

### **DPA YouTube Link**

Please see attached link to DPA's YouTube page. It has lots of videos including instrumental lessons, how to clean instruments, songs to perform and dance routines.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFkjp8WmCZpNQoipUzKoclg/playlists>

### **Un-activated ParentPay Accounts/Cashless Payment System**

As you will be aware from September 2020 we will be moving to a completely cashless system within school for the canteen. This will mean that any students who wish to pay for school dinners will need to already have the money allocated to their account either via ParentPay or through Paypoint barcodes. Students will not be able to "top up" their accounts at school. If you have not activated your ParentPay account you should have recently received in the post a letter consisting of your ParentPay account activation details. To help ensure that payment arrangements are in place before the new academic year can we please ask that these accounts are activated as soon as possible. Your support by using ParentPay will help the school enormously. For anyone who is unable to register an account please email [churst@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:churst@dormston.dudley.sch.uk)

## **Refund Update**

Regretfully, but as expected, we have now had confirmation that the Year 10 History Trip to Berlin has been officially cancelled. We are pleased however to confirm that we are in the process of arranging refunds for this trip. We would like to thank all parents/carers for their patience whilst we have been waiting on information concerning this trip.

We can also confirm that the deposit previously held for the Disneyland Paris trip will also now be refundable.

We would like to ask that you bear with us during this time as we organise the refunds, we will process these as quickly as possible. If you paid for either of these trips via PayPoint then a member of staff should have contacted you in recent days to arrange a cheque refund.

## **RE Department Message**

The RE department would like to thank the Year 7 - 9 students who have engaged with and contributed maturely to the Live Lessons on Conflict, Afterlife and Buddhism. We have been very impressed with the vast majority of students in Key Stage 3 that have really put in a great amount of effort into these lessons and have high hopes for these students when they move to their final GCSE years.