



Monthly Parent Update Sheet

April 2015/May 2015



Road Safety

Road Safety

As a school we are currently looking into the issue of Road Safety after a number of concerns have been raised by members of the public regarding our pupils' road safety awareness. We have recently developed a Road Safety Action Plan which we will use as a basis for helping to raise awareness of this important issue with pupils right across the school. Over the coming months, we hope to work with various external agencies, develop travel plans and start our very own Road Safety Campaign. We will be looking for pupils to get involved in the campaign and plan to participate in National Road Safety Week 2015 and have special assemblies dedicated to Road Safety. As parents, we would like to ask that you speak to your child regularly about this important issue. If you have any concerns or suggestions with regards to Road Safety please contact Mrs Otton on 01381 816395 or kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk.

Welcome to New Member of Staff - Miss Jacques

We are pleased to welcome Miss Jacques to Dormston School, she joined the Maths Department on Monday 13 April 2015 as our Second in Maths. Miss Jacques has come to us from St Michael's C of E High School in Rowley Regis.

Forgotten Bus Fair & Lunch Money

On occasions, we get asked for money as a pupil does not have their bus fare home or they may have forgotten their lunch money. Although we are more than happy to assist on these occasions, we do have to request that the money borrowed is returned the next day to our very small float so that it is available to help somebody else in need. All pupils will now be issued with a note to inform you that they have borrowed money. Although these may seem like nominal amounts of money please assist us by ensuring your child returns any money borrowed so that it is available should somebody else need it.

R U Different

'R U Different' will be coming in to work with Year 9 pupils shortly about teenage attitudes towards issues such as smoking and drinking etc. After a recent survey, we are pleased to report that Dormston pupils have come out as having the lowest levels of participation in these areas and have therefore been asked to work on an enterprise campaign promoting healthy and sensible lifestyle choices.

'FairAware' Award

As a school we have just achieved the 'FairAware' Award and been certified as a Fairtrade School. During May we will be working on gaining our next award. Any pupils interested in taking part should speak to Mrs Downie.

NEW Book & Film Club - Starts Wednesday 15 April 2015

An exciting new Book & Film Club is being set up. The first meeting of the group will take place on Wednesday 15 April at 3.00pm - 4.00pm in the PLC. After the first initial meeting the group will then be split into Years 7 & 8 and Years 9 & 10 and will then run alternate Wednesdays from 3.00pm - 4.00pm. Refreshments will be provided.

SEN News

Year 7: There will be an opportunity for parents/carers to meet with the SENCO to discuss their child's needs on 27 or 29 April 2015. Pupils will be given an appointment letter to take home and should return the reply slip to the school office as soon as possible.

All parents of pupils with SEN are always welcome to make an appointment to see the SENCO at any time or to ring with any concerns or queries.

Creative Writing Group

A Creative Writing Group has recently been set up which runs every Monday from 3.00pm - 4.00pm in the PLC. Pupils from all year groups are welcome to join. The project the group are currently working on is an Alex Rider 500 word story competition run by the National Literacy Trust where pupils can win an iPad.

Year 9 Options Evening - Wednesday 15 April 2015

This is an opportunity for Year 9 students and their parents to find out more about the courses on offer at Key Stage 4. The evening will begin with a talk in the theatre, starting at 7.00pm, outlining the options process and the next steps to be taken by the students. Parents and students will then use the atrium and gallery as a base for a fact finding mission. All option subjects as well as compulsory subjects; English, Maths, Science, RE and PE will have a 'stand' to visit with a member of staff on hand to answer any questions. A Connexions advisor will also be available to discuss any future career plans and the implications for option choices. This is a very important evening as students will be making big choices about their future curriculum and is the last opportunity to discuss things before the 22 April 2015 deadline for the completed Option Form to be submitted.

INSET Day - Friday 24 April 2015

Please note that the school will be closed for INSET Day on Friday 24 April 2015. Pupils should return to school on Monday 27 April 2015.

May Bank Holiday & INSET Day - School Closed

Please note that school will be closed for May Day Bank Holiday on Monday 4 May 2015 and also on Thursday 7 May 2015 for INSET Day.

Year 7 Reports to Parent - WC 11 May 2015

Year 7 Reports will be issued to parents week commencing 11 May 2015. A GroupCall will also be sent to alert you to this important information.

Art Exhibition - Tuesday 19 May 2015 at 6.00pm - 8.00pm

On Tuesday 19 May 2015 the Art department will be holding an exhibition of work that has been produced over the last two years by our current Year 11 pupils. It will be a great opportunity for pupils to showcase their efforts and give parents a chance to see what they have been working so hard to produce. Invitations to Year 11 parents whose children are displaying at the exhibition will follow shortly.

Year 11 Dinner money

If you have a child in Year 11 please remind them that they should endeavour to reduce their dinner money balance to zero before the date of their final exam. Unfortunately, unused balances below £5 cannot be refunded. Year 11 pupils with siblings already in years 7 to 10 can request that their unused money be transferred to the sibling's account. There is no minimum restriction on the amount that can be transferred.