



## Monthly Parent Update Sheet

### December 2015/January 2016



#### Christmas Wishes

All the staff at Dormston School would like to wish all our parents/carers a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year! Thank you for your continued support during 2015.

#### Appointment Only System for Heads of House

We will now be operating an 'appointment only' system for parents/carers who arrive at school wishing to speak directly with their child's Head of House. If you come into school for this reason, Reception will take your contact details and a brief outline of what your concern relates to. Unless the reason for your visit is felt to be an 'emergency' your child's Head of House will respond to you within 48 hours.

#### House Competition Launch

December sees the launch of our latest House competition! Each Form Group will nominate a team of four to represent their form in Heat 1 of this exciting quiz. Winning teams will then compete against one another in Heat 2! The grand finale will see the most successful two Houses compete against each other! There will be House points for those who participate and prizes for the overall winners! So, get your brains in gear and face the fear (well, the question masters any way!). Good Luck to everyone!

#### R U Different? - National success for our year 10 pupils!

Our team achieved 3rd place in a national competition to design a poster to promote the positive attitudes of teenagers towards social issues. The 'R U Different?' competition by Social Sense involved thousands of schools across the country producing ways of promoting their opinions on matters such as alcohol, bullying and smoking. The girls' poster has been professionally produced and is on display around school. We are very proud of their message, that 99% of our pupils would help a fellow pupil who was being bullied and we are very proud of their success. Well done girls!

## Dudley Teen Book Awards

The Dudley Teen Book Awards takes place every year to encourage young people locally to broaden their reading horizons and try books that they would perhaps not normally choose. For this year's award, Dudley Borough staff and Secondary school Librarians have now compiled a shortlist of 6 titles for pupils to read between 1 December 2015 and 8 March 2016, they will then be able to vote online for their favourite book. Staff and pupils from the participating schools will be invited to join the authors who will give a talk, presentations and answer audience questions at the Teen Book Award ceremony. There will also be an interschool quiz competition on the featured books. The day will conclude with the announcement of the winning book and author, refreshments, book signing and photographs. The event is once again hosted by our school and will take place in the theatre on 15 March 2016 at 2.00pm.

This really is our very own local book shadowing opportunity and is open to pupils from all year groups. There's a great selection of books, as listed below, so let's get reading and talking about our favourite reads! Come along and get your books from the PLC. You can also reserve copies by emailing [sellsmore@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:sellsmore@dormston.dudley.sch.uk).

- ✓ Evie Ainsworth: Seven Days
- ✓ Phil Earle: Demolition Dad
- ✓ Jane Elson: How to Fly with Broken Wings
- ✓ Philip Reeve: Railhead
- ✓ Kevin Sands: The Blackthorn Key
- ✓ Rebecca Westcott: Five Things they Never Told Me

## Student Update Forms \*IMPORTANT

If you have not already done so, please could you ensure you return your child's Student Update Form. These forms contain really important information about your child and it is imperative that they are returned promptly.

## Science GCSE Update \*IMPORTANT

Science GCSE pupils will be completing their second Controlled Assessment on the following days:

- ✓ **Monday 14 December 2015 - Year 11 Controlled Assessment Day**
- ✓ **Wednesday 13 January 2016 - Year 10 Controlled Assessment Day**

Pupils will be given the whole day to work through their Science Controlled Assessment, which is worth 25% of their final GCSE grade. Students must ensure they are prepared and achieve their target grade or above in this assessment.

## Tie Award Evening - Wednesday 9 December 2015

The autumn term Tie Reward Evening will be held on Wednesday 9 December 2015. This is an evening of celebration for pupils who have earned house points through effort and attendance at extra-curricular activities, which has resulted in them being awarded their next tie. We look forward to seeing our successful pupils on the evening.

### **Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening - Thursday 10 December 2015**

We will be holding a Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 10 December 2015. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all their subject teachers so we can update you on their progress.

### **Year 10 GCSE Citizenship Group - Tuesday 15 December 2015**

On Tuesday 15 December 2015, Year 10 GCSE Citizenship students have the opportunity to visit the National Galleries of Justice Museum. Here, they will act out a case in a real court and debate the outcome and travel around the museum to see exhibits of punishments throughout history. It will be fun and educational. Please look out for a letter on this if your child is in this group and contact Mrs Downie with any queries.

### **Christmas Jumper & Variety Show Day - Thursday 17 December 2015**

As in recent years, we will be turning the heating down by 1 degree on Thursday 17 December 2015 and asking pupils to come to school wearing their Christmas Jumpers. Pupils will be asked to pay £1.00 and all money raised will be donated to a local homeless charity for those less fortunate. Pupils will also be treated to our annual Christmas Variety Show on this day where we have both staff and pupils showcasing their talents.

### **Christmas Holidays - Friday 18 December 2015 \*EARLY FINISH**

We break up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 18 December 2015 at 12.30pm. Pupils should return to school on Monday 4 January 2016.

### **Year 10 Parents' Consultation Meeting - Thursday 14 January 2016**

We will be holding a Year 10 Parents' Consultation Meeting on Thursday 14 January 2016. Please ensure your child makes appointments with all of their subject teachers so that we can update you on their progress.

### **Year 11 Parents' Consultation Meeting - Thursday 21 January 2016**

We will be holding a Year 11 Parents' Consultation Meeting on Thursday 21 January 2016. Please ensure your child makes appointments with all of their subject teachers so that we can update you on their progress.