



## Monthly Parent Update Sheet



December 2014/January 2015

### OFSTED Visit

As you will have seen from a recent letter and our latest OFSTED Report, we had an extremely successful OFSTED visit which has seen us deemed as no longer being in the category of 'Special Measures'. The amount of improvement made in such a short amount of time is no mean feat. This is not only down to the hard work, dedication and commitment of all the staff at Dormston but also down to our pupils and parents and how positively they have responded to the new standards and targets that have been set. Although there is still much work to be done we are without doubt heading in the right direction and we will continue to build further on the remarkable progress we have already made.

### Christmas Wishes

With Christmas fast approaching the staff at Dormston would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Thank you for your on-going support during 2014.

### FAME Tickets

Tickets for this year's school production of FAME will go on sale after Christmas. The dates of the shows are Tuesday 10 February to Friday 13 February 2015. We hope to see lots of you there!

### Data Collection/Student Update Sheets \*IMPORTANT

If you haven't already done so please could you return your child's Data Collection/Student Update Sheet. We have sent out 2<sup>nd</sup> copies but some pupils have still not returned them. **The information contained on these sheets is very important.** Many thanks for your co-operation with this matter.

### Year 11 Science Controlled Assessment Update

Year 11 students are completing their 2nd Controlled Assessment this term and need to ensure they achieve their target grade as it is worth 25% of their overall grade. Year 11 Triple Science students will be sitting their GCSE Mock Exams W/C 8th December 2014.

### SENCO Message

If your child is involved with any reading, spelling or maths interventions please continue to ask your child about how they are doing and support them with any reading or spellings they bring home. Please be aware that the SENCO will be available for consultation at Parents' Consultation Evenings but parents/carers are also welcome to ring or ask for a meeting at any time.

### **Year 11 Mock Exams - WC 8 December 2014**

Year 11 mock exams begin on Monday 8 December 2014. Please ensure your child comes fully prepared with all their equipment for these very important exams.

### **Year 10 Parents' Consultation - Wednesday 10 December 2014**

Just a reminder that there will be a Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening on Wednesday 10 December 2014. It is crucial that your child makes appointments with all their teachers so that we can give you an update on the progress they are making.

### **Year 8 Netball Match - Thursday 11 December 2014**

The Year 8 Netball Team will be having their first 'friendly' game as a team against Crestwood School on Thursday 11 December 2014 at 4pm at Dormston School, in the Sports Hall. This is their first match as a team and we wish them well. Any parents who would like to attend to spectate are more than welcome. Please just come to main Reception where we will sign you in.

### **Year 7 Theatre Trip - Wednesday 17 December 2014**

On 17 December 2014 there is a Year 7 theatre trip for the whole year group to the REP theatre in Birmingham to see the BFG. This theatre trip forms part of a cross-curricular unit of work across the Arts. Pupils should have received a letter and signed up but for those who have not they need to do so ASAP. If a new letter is needed pupils must see Mrs Beer or Miss Jones. Pupils will leave school at 1.00pm and return at 6.00pm. Pupils should bring a packed lunch that day. Pupils entitled to FSM will have the opportunity to collect food before we leave.

### **Christmas Jumper & Variety Show - Thursday 18 December 2014**

We are asking all pupils to come to school wearing a Christmas Jumper on Thursday 18 December 2014. As last year, we will be turning the heating down by 1 degree and all pupils will be requested to make a £1.00 donation which we will give to a local homeless charity. All pupils will also get to see the Dormston Variety Show at some point during the school day which contains acts from both pupils and staff. This promises to be a lovely day where we can celebrate Christmas as a whole school whilst also remembering those that are less fortunate.

### **Christmas Holiday Break-up - Friday 19 December 2014 \*LUNCHTIME BREAKUP**

We break up for the Christmas holidays on Friday 19 December 2014 at 1.00pm and return back on Monday 5 January 2015.

### **Year 10 Science Controlled Assessment - Wednesday 14 January 2015**

Year 10 students will be completing their 2nd Controlled Assessment for Core Science on Wednesday 14th January 2015. They must ensure they achieve or exceed their target grade as it is worth 25% of their total grade.

### **Year 10 Gifted & Talented Taster Day - Wednesday 7 January 2015**

On Wednesday 7 January 2015 we have 50 places available on a Year 10 Gifted and Talented taster day. Your child can opt into one of the 3 sessions that are available but the places are first come first served!

- ✓ Humanities - Psychology, Philosophy and RE;
- ✓ Business - Marketing, Business Technology and Law;
- ✓ English and Languages - Creative writing, French and German.

Students need to see Ms Evans in the Careers Office to book their place!

### **Year 9 Halesowen College Taster Day - Wednesday 14 January 2015**

On Wednesday 14 January 2015 all of Year 9 are visiting Halesowen College on a taster day to allow them to experience some of the college courses on offer and to have a taste of college life. You will receive a letter about this from Miss Powers before Christmas.

### **Cross Curricular Day - Wednesday 14 January 2015**

Pupils will not be following the normal timetable on Wednesday 14 January 2014 as they will be experiencing a variety of activities:

- ✓ **Year 7** will be looking at problem solving activities through the theme of 'Conflict' to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I;
- ✓ **Year 8** will be following a 'Carnivals' Themed Day - working through a variety of exciting events aimed at widening their knowledge and understanding of the wider world;
- ✓ **Year 9** will be at Halesowen College all day seeing what life is like at the college - post 16;
- ✓ **Year 10** will be completing a Science Controlled Assessment, whilst pupils from the Single Science groups will spend the day at Dudley Sixth following A-Level Science taster sessions;
- ✓ **Year 11** will be finalising their English Controlled Assessments.

More details will follow as the events are finalised before the end of term.

### **Year 11 Mock Results Day - Wednesday 14 January 2015**

On Wednesday 14 January at 2.30pm we will be holding a Year 11 Mock Results event. This event is designed to mimic the real GCSE results day. On 14 January 2014 your child will be handed an envelope showing their overall GCSE results (based on their mock exams and any coursework that they have completed). The Year 11 coffee bar will be open to allow pupils to chat about their results and they will also be provided with a guide on where their results can lead in terms of post 16 studies. If you have any queries about this event please contact Miss Powers.

### **Year 7 Parents' Consultation - Tuesday 20 January 2015**

We will be holding a Year 7 Parents' Consultation on Tuesday 20 January 2014. Please ensure you make appointment with all your child's teachers so that we can update you on their progress.

### **Year 11 Photos - Tuesday 27 January 2015**

Year 11 Photographs will be taken on Tuesday 27 January 2014. Please ensure all pupils are looking smart and are in correct uniform on this day.