



Monthly Parent Update Sheet

January 2016/February 2016

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.

Quiz Update

After a very exciting and mentally taxing few days, the winners of this year's inter-house quiz can now be revealed. It was a fantastic few days in which pupils representing both their Form and their house took part in a gruelling succession of questions. All of the pupils who took part will be rewarded with House Points to add to their individual totals in recognition of their participation and commitment to their House. Many thanks to all those involved.

WINNERS OF THE QUIZ FINAL:

- Year 7 - 7SX;
- Year 8 - 8DX;
- Year 9 - 9AX;
- Year 10 - 10SY;
- Year 11 - 11AY.

Year 11 College Application

If your child has not made their application for further education we ask for your support in encouraging them to do so via the Ucas Progress system. This is a very quick and simple process which they have been advised on. If your child has not yet taken advantage of any of the further education establishment open days then we would strongly recommend that they do so, please refer to individual websites for dates paying special attention to any relevant closing dates for applications. Mrs Evans is available in the Careers Office to assist your child should they need support.

Year 10 Work Experience Placement

A huge thank you to the students who have already managed to secure their work experience placement for 2016. As you are probably aware, this has been quite challenging due to the dates coinciding with several other local schools. Your support in assisting your child has been invaluable and very much appreciated. If your child has not yet organised their work experience placement could we please ask for your support in encouraging them to do so as the health and safety protocol is lengthy and can take up to 12 weeks to complete. Mrs Evans is available in the Careers Office should they need support.

Science Update - Years 10 & 11

Please note that Year 10 (Core) and Year 11 (Additional) pupils will be completing their Spring Progress Check Exam at the end of February. Year 10 Triple Science pupils will be completing their first Unit 1 Mock exam. Pupils must ensure they are prepared for this by attending revision sessions and using revision guides/workbooks. These are sold in the Science Department for a total cost of £5.50.

SEN News

Key Stage 3: **Successmaker Reading and Spelling** has now restarted. Pupils have been notified if they are part of this intervention and have a sticker in the back of their planner to remind them when to attend. We value parent/carer support: please remind your child how important it is to improve their reading or spelling ability by attending.

Year 10 and 11: There will be an opportunity for parents/carers to meet with the SENCO to discuss the Special Education Needs of their child during the Parents' Consultation evening in January. No need to make an appointment. All parents of pupils with Special Education Needs are still welcome to make an appointment to see the SENCO at any time or to ring with any concerns or queries.

Cross Curricular Day - Wednesday 13 January 2016

On Wednesday 13 January 2016 we will be holding our annual Cross Curriculum Day for all pupils in Years 7 - 11. The aim of the day is to allow pupils to learn about a topic, subject or area in greater depth and length than would usually be possible in the school day. We also hope it will broaden pupils' horizons and very importantly be good fun. Year 7 will be spending the day at RAF Cosford combining their knowledge from Maths, History and PE. Year 8 will be taking part in a wide variety of alternative lessons all based upon a theme of Carnivals. Year 9 are visiting Halesowen College to take part in a taster day of A Level and Vocational courses. Year 10 are spending the day completing Science Controlled Assessments and Year 11 will be doing the same with the English Department.

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.

PSHE Update - Wednesday 3 February 2016

On Wednesday 3 February 2016 all pupils will be involved in the 3rd of our PSHE mornings. Year 7 will be taking part in a sponsored keep fit programme as they have been studying healthy lifestyles; Year 8 will be visited by Dudley Youth Offending Team to discuss local issues of youth crime and its consequences; Year 9 will be looking at GCSE options; and Year 10 will need to bring in materials as they are putting on stalls to raise awareness about a Global Citizenship issue - such as poverty, natural disasters, global warming etc. This always proves to be good fun and an excellent learning experience for your child. PSHE is a highly important part of your child's learning experience at Dormston and we eagerly anticipate the day's events!

Year 7 Parents' Evening - Thursday 4 February 2016

We will be holding a Year 7 Parents' Consultation Meeting on Thursday 4 February 2016. Please ensure your child makes appointments with all of their subject teachers so that we can update you on their progress.

Trent House Charity Day - Friday 5 February 2016

On Friday 5 February 2016 Trent House will be putting on a whole school Charity Day. The theme for the day is promoting active life-styles. All pupils are invited to pay £1.00 and come to school wearing mufti. All pupils will also be taking part in an 'active mile run' at some point during the day, come rain or shine! Please ensure your child brings appropriate footwear and clothing to take part in this event. On the afternoon, 100 pupils will be taking part in the first Dormston 5k Race. Pupils will get sponsored to do this. During lunchtime there will also be various sporting activities available for pupils to take part in. If you know of any local sports club who might be interested in getting involved please contact Mr Plant. All monies raised will go to the Georgina Unit at Russell's Hall Hospital.

National Internet Safety Day - Tuesday 9 February 2016

National Internet Safety Day is on Tuesday 9 February 2016. More information about the day will follow shortly.

School Production - Tuesday 9 February 2016 to Friday 12 February 2016

Tickets are now available at £6.00 each (including 0.50p booking fee) for our school production of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'. The show runs from Tuesday 9 February to Friday 12 February 2016 at 7.30pm. Pupils have worked extremely hard and it promises to be a fantastic show. Tickets will be available from 1.00pm - 1.30pm & 3.00pm - 3.30pm from the Dormston Centre Reception. If parents wish to phone and make their payments via card they will need to do this between 5.30pm - 8.30pm when the Dormston Centre Reception is open and the pupils can collect the tickets the next day.

February Half Term - Monday 15 February 2016 to Friday 19 February 2016

School will be closed for Half Term from Monday 15 February 2016 to Friday 19 February 2016. Pupils should return to school on Monday 22 February 2016. They will be returning to a Week 2 timetable.