



Monthly Parent Update Sheet January 2017/February 2017

Writing Competition

Once again we are promoting the BBC Radio 2's '500 Words' short story competition. Open for children aged 11 to 14 who can write a story on any topic of their choice using only 500 words. For further information on how to enter the BBC competition log on to the website at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>. However, we are also holding our own competition in school for any pupil, of any year, to enter if they wish. Last year we had some fantastic entries which will be collected together in a book and kept in our PLC to read any time. To enter Dormston 500 Words Competition pupils must write an original story on any subject or theme in 500 Words or fewer and email to Mr Fox. dfox@dormston.dudley.sch.uk. Winning entries will be published in a 'Dormston 500 Words 2017' book. Closing date for entries is 24 February 2017.

Year 7 Pupil Progress Data

Year 7 pupils' first progress data will be sent out to parents at the end of January 2017. Please look out for this important information.

Contact Numbers & Emergency Closure Procedures

If you have made any changes to your contact numbers, in particular your mobile number, please inform the school so that we can contact you in the event of severe weather. Please make sure that your child knows what arrangements you have put in place in the event of early school closure due to severe weather.

TCS Oxford Computing Challenge

Following on from the inter-house logic competition (which was also an online competition called UK BEBRAS), 3 Dormston pupils were among the top 10% performing pupils in the country. As a result of this, they are now eligible to enter a second competition named TCS Oxford Computing Challenge. This aims to help talented computational thinkers develop by challenging them to solve tasks with programmed solutions. Congratulations to; Sophie Bradshaw - 9TX, Callum Hodges - 9AX, George Humphreys - 10TY. Good luck in March for the next competition!!!

MFL Languages Trip Update

Wow! Time is flying. It won't be long now until we embark upon our joint trip to France and Germany. So exciting. Thank you for all of the payments so far. There are a few people who are behind with payments. Unfortunately, we will not be able to take any student with us who has not paid up in full. Don't forget your passport! Without that, there will be no need for your toothbrush! If you haven't done so already, you need to get in an application for your passport straightaway. Mrs Palmer is more than happy to sign forms for you. Any questions please get in touch with Mrs Palmer rpalmer@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

Welcome - School Nurse

We are pleased to welcome Rebecca Wickett our new School Nurse to Dormston. Rebecca is a qualified Nurse and has spent the last 11 years working in A&E. Rebecca will be assisting with First Aid and medical arrangements as well as having involvement with attendance related issues.

Safeguarding

Dormston School takes the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils very seriously. If you have any concerns regarding the safety of pupils at this school please report them to either Mr Dixon, Mrs Elliott or Miss Smith. Further information and guidance for parents/carers on safeguarding issues can also be found on the school website.

Medical Appointments *REMINDER

The school will not authorise medical or dental appointments unless they are supported by a doctor's/dentist's letter (a copy is acceptable) or an appointment slip or card clearly stating the appointment date and time. When a pupil needs to leave school for a medical or dental appointment, the parent/carer or child must show a letter/appointment slip/card to the Office when they sign out or when they sign in after attending the appointment or the absence will not be authorised. GP/Dental surgeries can issue appointment slips. When a pupil arrives late to school after a medical or dental appointment, a parent/carer or child must show their letter/appointment slip/card to the Office when they sign in otherwise the absence will not be authorised.

Pupil Illness

When you report your child's absence you may be asked to provide information and discuss the symptoms that are being displayed by your child. You may then be advised whether time off is recommended or not. We are relying upon **Public Health England Guidelines**.

Parent Science Update - Year 11 Pupils:

The second round of mock exams is scheduled to take place week beginning Monday 27 February 2017. All pupils will be issued with a revision topic list to ensure they prepare effectively for these assessments. Revision guides and workbooks are still on sale from the Science prep room if your child has not already purchased these. The cost is £3.00 for a revision guide and £3.00 for a workbook. Controlled Assessments are also in the process of being completed, and the deadline

for these to be finished is February half term. These are worth 25% of the overall grade, so all pupils MUST achieve 1 grade or more above their target. Compulsory revision sessions for Science are also taking place from 3.00pm - 4.30pm on Thursdays in Week 1. Please ensure your child is attending these to help them secure their target grade. Detentions will be set for all pupils who have been targeted to attend but fail to do so. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Year 10 Boys & Girls DTP Injections - Friday 20 January 2017

You will soon be receiving consent forms for the above injections. Please ensure you return your child's form as a matter of urgency. Without this form being returned this very important injection cannot take place.

Year 11 A* - A Parents' Evening - Tuesday 24 January 2017

This evening will target any pupils who are capable of achieving A/A*s in their GCSEs and looks at what the future could potentially hold for them. Further information on this will come out in January 2017.

Year 10 Parents' Consultation - Thursday 26 January 2017

There will be a Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 26 January 2017. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all of their teachers so that we can inform you of their progress.

Year 7 Parents' Consultation - Thursday 9 February 2017

There will be a Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 9 February 2017. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all of their teachers so that we can inform you of their progress.

School Production - Disco Inferno: 13th to 16th February 7.30pm

Tickets are on sale now from the Centre Reception priced at £8.00 (including booking fee). Featuring the classic hits of I Will Survive, Crocodile Rock, Celebration and Blame It On The Boogie to name just a few. All performed by a live professional band. This year sees the first time we are using a Revolving Stage! Don't miss out. *'Disco Inferno meets The Apprentice': A competition for all pupils. The task is for teams of up to 5 pupils to purchase or create products to be sold on the evenings of the show. The team which makes the most profit on their £10 budget wins and will receive a prize. The rest will get FIRED! More information to be given in assemblies.*

Severn House Charity Day - Friday 17 February 2017

Severn House will be holding their Charity Day on Friday 17 February 2017. Further information will follow in due course.

February Half Term - Monday 20 February to Friday 24 February 2017

School will close on Friday 17 February 2017 for Half Term. We will be returning on Monday 27 February 2017 to a Week 2 timetable.