



# Monthly Parent Update Sheet

March 2014/April 2014

## Successful OFSTED HMI Monitoring Visit

On 26 and 27 February 2014 we had our second OFSTED HMI Monitoring Visit. We are pleased to inform you that the visit was very successful and we have been judged as making progress. As soon as we receive the letter from OFSTED which outlines the findings of their visit we will publish it in order to share our progress fully with parents. We will also hold another Parents' Evening to fully update you on all the progress we are making and our plans for further improvements.

## UKMT Regional Final Results

We are pleased to inform you that Dormston came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of a total of 28 Schools in the UKMT Regional Finals. This is a remarkable achievement and is our best ever result in the event. Please keep your eyes peeled for a full account in our next Newsletter. I am sure you will join us in congratulating the team; Lauren Higginson, Taylor Hodges, Kieren Williams and Joe Lort in this fantastic achievement!

## Year 11 Geography Enrichment Sessions \*REMINDER

The following Year 11 Geography Enrichment Sessions will be taking place from 3.00pm - 4.00pm. The Compulsory Group will take place in A108 and pupils should return their consent form to Mrs Roden. The Voluntary Group sessions will be in M1.

- ✓ 18 March 2014 - Producers and Consumers;
- ✓ 25 March 2014 - Population;
- ✓ 1 April 2014 - Energy;
- ✓ 8 April 2014 - Mountains;
- ✓ 29 April 2014 - Exam Techniques.

## Payment for Trips

Parents should be aware that we do not accept cash or cheques for trips now unless a letter has been sent specifically requesting that payments are made in this way. Any parents who still need to activate their ParentPay account for on-line payments can request an activation letter from school. If you are unable to make payments on-line for a trip please request a barcode letter for that trip to enable payments to be made at a PayPoint store. The nearest PayPoint store is the Co-Op in Sedgley.

## Big Bang Trip - Friday 14 March 2014

We took a group of pupils to the NEC Birmingham for the Big Bang Fair. The Fair was all about showing young people the exciting careers they can have in Science and Technology. There were activities and workshops aimed at showing the real connection and fun between the work pupils do in the classroom and the exciting careers they can lead to.

Pupils selected to go were those that have demonstrated excellent work and contribution in Science, and have been working at or above their target level, and deserve this opportunity to explore Science and Technology outside of the classroom. They had a 'hands on' opportunity to take part in interactive experiments and workshops using Science and Technology skills that they wouldn't usually be able to apply in the classroom.

### **National Science & Engineering Week - W/C Monday 17 March 2014**

This year the British Science Association has not set a specific theme for Science Week. The Dormston Science Department will be marking Science week by looking at "Why is Science Important to You?" There will be a competition asking pupils to summarise the importance of Science in their everyday lives and also lesson activities which link Science learning to real life applications.

### **The Beacon Community Choir - Thursday 20 March 2014 at 7.00pm**

Do you like singing? Would you like to sing more...but would rather sing within a group?

Following in the footsteps of the successful TV series "The Choir" Dormston school has opened it's doors to a new Community Project "The Beacon Community Choir". Aimed at all ages; Pupils, Parents and others, enjoying all the many benefits that singing in a choir can offer such as friendship , confidence, self achievement and Community spirit. Come along Thursday 20 March 2014 at 7.00pm – 8.00pm and see for yourself. For more details please contact Mrs Mansell at school.

### **Dudley Teen Book Award - Friday 21 March 2014**

The award ceremony for the Dudley Teen Book Award is fast approaching. In preparation for this, we are encouraging all children, to read and vote for the book that they would like to see win.

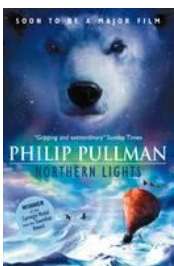
The nominated titles are:

- ✓ Celia Bryce: Anthem for Jackson Dawes;
- ✓ Brian Falkner: Northwood;
- ✓ Marie-Louise Jensen: Smuggler's Kiss;
- Ally Kennen: Midnight Pirates;
- ✓ Fletcher Moss: Poison Boy;
- ✓ Eleanor Updale: The Last Minute.

To vote for your favourite please follow the link <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/libraries-archives/libraries/children-and-young-people/teen-book-award/>

### Recommended Easter Reads

Throughout the Easter holiday, we are asking for your support to encourage your child to continue to read for Accelerated Reader. The holidays are a perfect opportunity to share reading with your child. By reading stories together that are on their interest level, but beyond their reading level, you can stretch young readers' understanding and motivate them to improve their skills.



#### **Northern Lights by Philip Pullman**

This is a truly magical story of Lyra and her daemon. They embark on a perilous journey to the ice kingdoms of the North in search of Lyra's missing friend. It's a journey into an Arctic wilderness of ice and snow, where witch-queens ride the skies, armoured bears roam the snow, and scientists conduct experiments of unspeakable terror. This is a journey that will take one brave girl to the very edge of her world.

AR book level: **Pink**



### **The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman**

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. A terrifying tale, filled with breathtaking adventures, The Graveyard Book is sure to engage readers of all ages.

AR book level: **Red**

### Spelling/AR Log Books

All pupils in Key Stage 3 now have a folder to store their spellings and Accelerated Reader activity. The folders contain spellings which pupils need to learn, followed by a dedicated space for pupils to record their daily reading activity. As a parent, we are asking for your support in signing pupils' reading logs whenever they read their Accelerated Reader at home, and encourage them to learn the words in their folders ready for spelling tests. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Year 10 Work Experience - W/C Monday 24 March 2014**

All parents of pupils who have returned their work placement form will receive confirmation of their child's work experience placement once the Health and Safety check has been completed. Please ensure that you sign the form once received and return it to school as soon as possible as without this your child will not be able to attend their placement. Your child should also make a courtesy call or visit to their placement before 24 March 2014 to find out what is expected of them. Pupils will be expected to complete a Student Log Book of their experiences which should, once completed, help provide evidence for college references next year.

Those pupils who have not secured a work placement will be expected to attend school as normal during the week. In addition those pupils who fail to behave appropriately whilst on placement will be required to return to school immediately and will be expected to be in school for the remainder of the week.

Finally, in the unfortunate event your child is unwell and unable to attend please ensure that both the placement and school are contacted to make both aware of the problem. Thank you for your support with this, should you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Waldron.

### **Possible Strike Action \*Advance Warning - Wednesday 26 March 2014**

Just to give you advance warning that there may be Strike Action on Wednesday 26 March 2014. We shall let you have confirmation about necessary school arrangements as soon as we know more information.

### **Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening - Thursday 27 March 2014 \*Date Amended**

Further to the last Parent Update Sheet our Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening will actually be held on Thursday 27 March not Monday 24 March 2014 as previously stated. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all of their teachers so that we are able to update you on their progress and attainment.

### **Easter Holidays - Monday 14 April to Friday 25 April \*SCHOOL CLOSED**

We will be closed for the Easter Holidays from Monday 14 April 2014 until Friday 25 April 2014. Pupils should return to school for the start of the Summer Term on Monday 28 April 2014. We hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing Easter break.