



# Monthly Parent Update Sheet

## November 2015/December 2015

### 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.

### School Nurse \*NEW

We now have a nurse in school. If you have any concerns or worries about your child's health or wellbeing she will be available to answer any questions by telephoning the school on 01384 816395 or by email [Tracey.Smith42@nhs.net](mailto:Tracey.Smith42@nhs.net). She **may** also contact you if your child has had a lot of odd days off due to illness.

### Twitter

Dormston is now on Twitter. Please follow our only official Twitter page @DormstonSch for all the latest news, success stories and events at the school!

### SEN News

There will be an opportunity for Year 9 parents/carers to meet with the SENCO to discuss their child's Special Educational Needs during week beginning 16 November 2015. Pupils will be given an appointment letter to take home and should return the reply slip to the school office as soon as possible. All parents of pupils with SEN are still welcome to make an appointment to see the SENCO (Mrs Angie Francis) at any time or to ring with any concerns or queries.

### 100% Attendance - Mini ipad Prize Raffle

If your child gets 100% Attendance their name will be entered into a raffle at the end of the Autumn Term to win a Mini ipad. This will also be repeated in the Spring Term!

### Pupil Premium

From April 2010 the Government introduced additional funding for schools to help children from lower income families achieve their personal best. This funding is called 'Pupil Premium' and it is allocated to those pupils that are registered for free school meals or have been on the free school meals register at some stage in the last 6 years. **For every child that is registered, Dormston School will receive £935 next financial year.**

Also, if your child is adopted or you have a special guardianship order then 'top up funding' of up to £1,900 is available and although you are under no obligation to provide the school with this information the additional funding can be used to support your child in school. To check the eligibility criteria for free school meals funding please go to [freeschoolmeals.benifits@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals.benifits@dudley.gov.uk) or call 01384 814988.

### **Derwent Charity Day**

A huge thank you to everyone who got involved with the Derwent Charity Day 2015. We raised an amazing £1,600 which will go to the Teenage Cancer Trust.

### **Drop Everything and Read - Tuesday 10 November 2015**

On 10 November 2015 we will be holding a Drop Everything and Read Session. Please ensure that your child has a book to read for this session. The PLC has a wide selection of books available.

### **Refugee Awareness Week - W/C 16 November 2015**

Week commencing 16 November 2015 marks Dormston's 'refugee awareness week'. We will be holding special assemblies and activities and prizes will be on offer for pupils who wish to take part in a competition to write a report on the current issues. We hope this will encourage understanding among our pupils and develop positive British values.

### **Year 11 Mock Examination Preparation Evening - Tuesday 17 November 2015**

Year 11 Mock Exams will commence in December 2015. In order to help parents encourage their child to fully prepare for these important exams we are holding a Year 11 Parents' Mock Examination Preparation Evening on Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 6.30pm. Letters will be sent out shortly to all Year 11 parents.

### **Year 10 National Skills Show Trip to the NEC - Thursday 19 November 2015**

We will be taking a group of Year 10 students to this year's Skills Show. The event offers students a range of interactive skills activities to 'try out' careers; the opportunity to speak to some of our largest employers about employment routes and apprenticeships and careers advice from a number of recognised organisations.

### **Year 11 GCSE Presentation Evening - Wednesday 25 November 2015**

We will be holding our Year 11 GCSE Presentation Evening on Wednesday 25 November 2015. This is a very special evening where we hand out pupils' GCSE certificates and wish our Year 11 of 2015 one final goodbye. Letters to ex-pupils will be sent out shortly inviting them to this event.

### **Year 7 Theatre Trip - Thursday 26 November 2015**

On Thursday 26 November 2015, all Year 7 students will be given the opportunity to watch the live adaptation of C.S Lewis' 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. This trip is to take place at The Birmingham Repertory Theatre, where the students will experience the magic of a live professional performance. In the autumn and spring terms pupils will study a musical theatre-based project within the Arts for which this will form the basis. Letters have been issued and should you have any questions please contact Mrs Gamble.

### **INSET Day - Friday 27 November & Monday 30 November 2015 \*SCHOOL CLOSED**

We will be closed for INSET on Friday 27 November 2015 and Monday 30 November 2015. Pupils should return to school on Tuesday 1 December 2015.

### **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.