



# Monthly Parent Update Sheet

November 2014/December 2014

## Term Dates 2015 - 2016

Please see attached Term Dates for 2015 - 2016, these term dates can also be found on the school website.

## Fines for Unauthorised Absence in Term Time

As you know, it is extremely important that your child attends school and does not miss out on their education unless it is absolutely unavoidable. A leave of absence can therefore only be granted if the circumstances are deemed as exceptional. Please note that from now on, any leave of absence requests declined by the school will automatically be referred to the Education Investigation Agency who will in turn issue you with a warning notice. If you still decide to take your child out of school after this warning notice has been issued you will receive a penalty fine. This fine is £60.00 per parent, per child.

## School Lunch Menus

Just to let you know that our School Lunch Menus are now available for you to view on both our school website, under the Lunchtimes section, and also on ParentPay.

## Year 10 Work Experience - Form Return Request

Thank you to all parents who have supported their child in ensuring all the relevant paperwork has been returned to school. Unfortunately, there are still a number of pupils who have not returned their Work Experience Placement forms. These must now be returned as soon as possible as the deadline has passed. Those pupils not securing a place will spend the week in school. If you or your child require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Waldron or Mrs Evans.

## Careers Advice and Guidance

As part of our commitment to Careers Advice and Guidance we now have a Careers Office which is open to all pupils first thing in the morning, break time, lunchtime and after school. We also provide pupils with impartial advice via Connexions and will be providing all Year 9 students with a 1:1 interview as they start to look at their options choices for GCSE. Should you or your child require any further information regarding Careers Advice and Guidance in school please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Waldron or Mrs Evans. In addition further advice and guidance can be found free of charge for all pupils from Year 8 upwards by visiting the National Careers Service (<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>).

## Football Matches

Just to let you know that parents are welcome to attend home football matches at Dormston School. Parents need to sign in at front Reception just so we know that you are on site. With regards to away matches most other schools also allow parents to watch. I am sure our teams will appreciate your support.

## **Information from the SENCO for Year 9 & Year 11 Pupils**

Parents/carers of pupils on the SEN list, who have not already received a date for a meeting about your child this term. Please ensure that your child passes on the letter from the SENCO week beginning Monday 3 November. This will contain an appointment for either Monday 17 or Wednesday 19 November to provide an opportunity to talk to the SENCO about your child's needs before the end of term, if you wish to do so. You may also continue to phone or meet with the SENCO when you feel you need to do so.

## **Parents' Committee**

If you are interested in joining our Parents' Committee please contact Mrs Otton on 01384 816400 or [kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:kotton@dormston.dudley.sch.uk). All parents/carers are welcome to join. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 21 January 2015.

## **Homework Club**

Homework Club is running in A14 on **all** weekdays after school from 3pm until 4pm.

## **Annual Christmas Talent Show**

To celebrate Christmas we will be holding our annual Christmas Talent show again this year. All pupils will get the chance to see the show. The event will be headed up by Avon House and promises to be a fun packed event showcasing the very best talent of students and staff alike. We will be holding auditions shortly for pupils who would like to be part of the show.

## **Science Controlled Assessments - WC Monday 3 November 2014**

Please note that Year 10 students will no longer be sitting their 2nd CAT Assessments week beginning 3rd November 2014 as originally indicated. Year 11 will however be doing this instead. This is worth 25% of their GCSE Core Science so they will need to ensure they meet or exceed their target grade. In order to be prepared students will need to work on the feedback given from their 1st CAT Assessment, completed at the end of summer 2014. Year 10 will now be undertaking their 2<sup>nd</sup> Assessment on 14 January 2014 as part of a planned cross curricular day.

## **Year 11 Skills Fair - Friday 14 November 2014**

On Friday 14 November 2014 we are taking the Year 11 cohort to visit The Skills Show at the NEC in Birmingham. The show attracts over 75,000 visitors each year and provides them with hands-on experience that inspires young people to explore further education, skills and apprenticeships. It will also give your child a chance to speak to a wide range of professionals from many sectors. Please ensure permission slips are returned to school as soon as possible. Pupils who fail to return this will have to remain in school and attend lessons as normal. If you require any further information regarding the event please contact Mrs Waldron or Mrs Evans

## **Year 11 Presentation Evening - Wednesday 26 November 2014**

We will be holding our annual Year 11 Presentation Evening on Wednesday 26 November 2014 in order to present last year's Year 11 with their GCSE certificates and to wish them well for one final time. A letter has been sent to ex pupils and parents inviting them to this event.

## **INSET Day - Friday 28 November & Monday 1 December 2014 \*SCHOOL CLOSED**

Just a reminder that on Friday 28 November and Monday 1 December 2014 the school will be closed for INSET.

## **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 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 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.