



Monthly Parent Update Sheet November 2016/December 2016

English Assessments

Every half term students in Year 7 - 10 are given an assessment. It is an examination question that tests the topic they have been studying and their skills in that area. When we analyse student results we make set changes immediately based on that assessment. It is an ongoing process throughout the Year. Prior to these assessments students are given vocabulary lists, sentence stems and if appropriate key quotations to learn. Parents can support us by ensuring their child knows the date of their assessment (we will also endeavour to send groupcall alerts out) and by encouraging students to learn key vocabulary and sentence starters. Students have revision booklets to study and it is their responsibility to ensure this is done.

Student Information Forms

If you have not yet returned the student data collection sheet and consent forms, or have any changes to make to contact details or medical information for your child please send this in to school as soon as possible.

School Term Dates 2017/2018

Please find attached School Terms dates for the Academic Year 2017/2018 for your information.

Languages Trip 2017

We have a number of pupils who have still only paid the deposit for the languages trip to Germany and France. Could we please kindly ask that if your son/daughter is no longer planning on coming that you let Mrs Palmer know as soon as possible. If they are still planning on coming with us then we really do need payments to be made as soon as possible. We have already had to make payments to secure ferry, coach and accommodation bookings - just like regular holidays we have to pay in advance and cannot do so if we don't have payments made on time. A health form will be sent out to you in the New Year and these will need to be promptly returned to school as they are vital in ensuring the safety and welfare of all pupils. Thank you for your understanding,

Forgotten Equipment & Interruptions to Lessons

Due to the high level of interruptions to lessons we will no longer be making phone calls home to parents asking them to bring in any books, homework or kit that has been forgotten by a pupil. It is therefore vitally important that your child comes to school fully prepared each day. Appropriate sanctions will subsequently be enforced for any forgotten equipment/homework/kit by your child's subject teacher. No pupil should have their mobile phones on them so should not be ringing home either to ask parents to bring equipment to school for them. We cannot guarantee that any forgotten equipment now brought to school by parents will be passed on.

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.

House Arts Competition

Rehearsals and preparation for the House Arts Competition are now well underway. The Art entries are currently being judged by our Head of Art Miss Lockie and Art Teacher Miss Taylor. Dance and Music entries will be judged on 21st November. Pupils will then be informed as to whether they have been selected to perform in The House Arts Showcase which takes place on 29th November at 7pm (letters to follow for selected pupils). At this event they will be joined by KS3 and KS4 Drama students (whose monologues and duologues will be judged live on the night), Dormston Choir (conducted by renowned vocal artist Ula Weber) and the School Orchestra.

Medical Appointments

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 after attending the appointment otherwise the absence will not be authorised.

Medication

The following Medication rules apply:

- ✓ no student should be carrying their own medication at any time (this excludes Asthma/Epi-Pen where appropriate self-administer paperwork has already been completed);
- ✓ only medication that is required 4 or more times a day or at a stated time within the school day will be accepted and then administered;

- ✓ forms available from reception MUST be filled in and signed before medication can be administered;
- ✓ the medication MUST be prescribed by a Doctor.

Year 11 Mock Exams Week - W/C 14 November 2016 & W/C 21 November 2016

We will be holding the first of our Year 11 Mock Examinations from week commencing 14 November 2016. Week commencing 14 November 2016 will be written exams and W/C Monday 21 November 2016 will be practical exams. Timetables have been provided to all Year 11 Pupils. Please look at our GCSE Strategy Section under the Parents' Section of our Website for more information.

Year 7 Aspire Day with Cambridge and Oxford University - Wednesday 16 November 2016

On Wednesday 16 November 2016 we will be welcoming Schools Liaison Officers and Undergraduates from both Cambridge and Oxford University. They will be joining our Year 7's to deliver an Aspire Day, this will include; How we think critically – thinking activities, what it is like to be a University Student, an interactive plan of a student's week, what is research and how to do it effectively and what are Oxford and Cambridge actually like. We will also have a guest who studied there. This day will raise the aspirations of Year 7 students early in their school life and get them considering University and how it is different from school and college.

Year 11 Class of 2016 GCSE Presentation Evening - Wednesday 23 November 2016

We will be holding our GCSE Presentation Evening for our Class of 2016 on Wednesday 23 November 2016 in the Theatre. A letter to all ex-pupils will be coming out shortly inviting them to this very special event.

Tie Reward Evening - Wednesday 30 November 2016

The Autumn Term, Tie Reward evening will be held on Wednesday 30 November 2016. This is an evening of celebration for pupils who have earned house points through effort, attendance and extra-curricular activities, which has resulted in them being awarded their next tie. We very much look forward to seeing our successful pupils on the evening.

INSET Days - Friday 2 December 2016 & Monday 5 December 2016

School will be closed for INSET on Friday 2 December 2016 and Monday 5 December 2016. Pupils should return to school on Tuesday 6 December 2016.

Year 8 Parents' Consultation - Thursday 8 December 2016

There will a Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 8 December 2016. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all of their teachers so that we can inform you of their progress.

Year 7 Theatre Trip - Tuesday 13 December 2016 at 1.00pm

On Tuesday 13 December 2016, all year 7 students will be given the opportunity to watch the live adaptation of 'Treasure Island'. This trip is to take place at The Birmingham Repertory Theatre, where the students will experience the magic of a live professional performance. In terms of travel arrangements we will be leaving Dormston at 1.00pm to arrive for the matinee performance. All pupils will be back at school by approximately 6.00pm. You are responsible for collecting them at this time. Please provide your son/daughter with a packed lunch. Tickets are still available and payments need to be made via parentpay. If you require a barcode letter to pay at a paypoint station please see Mrs Gamble.

Christmas Holidays Last Day of Term - Friday 16 December 2016 at 12.30pm *EARLY FINISH

We break up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 16 December 2016 at 12.30pm. Pupils should return to school on Tuesday 3 January 2017. They will be returning to a Week 1 timetable.