



Monthly Parent Update Sheet October 2016/November 2016

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.

Parental Relations

Although we appreciate that there may be occasions when parents are feeling anxious or frustrated with regards to an issue in school we do not accept parents being rude or using offensive language to members of staff, either face to face, or over the phone. We will always try our very best to resolve any situations that arise but there are procedures that must be followed in order for us to do this effectively. Due to teaching and other work commitments, members of staff can only be seen by appointment only. The appropriate member of staff will however be directed to deal with your issue according to school policy.

House Arts Competition

The House Arts Competition will be taking place 14th - 15th November 2016, followed by a performance of the selected highlights on the evening of 29th November 2016. Invited parents will receive information about the evening performance nearer the time. There are a range

of categories across the subjects of Music, Dance, Drama and Art for all years to enter. Pupils should see Mrs Beer for an entry form and any more details they require.

There are a number of after school clubs running to support pupils with their entries, several of which are led by specialist practitioners from across the region (see below). If pupils are interested in attending any of the clubs below they should see Mrs Beer for a letter. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

- ✓ KS4 Drama Monologue Workshops Monday 3.15pm - 4.15pm (led by a Drama practitioner from Wolverhampton Grand Theatre);
- ✓ KS3 Drama Duologue workshops Friday 3.15pm - 4.15pm (led by a Drama practitioner from Wolverhampton Grand Theatre);
- ✓ Dance Club Tuesday 3.00pm – 4.00pm;
- ✓ Singing Group Thursday 3.00pm - 4.15pm (with renowned vocal artist Ula Weber, conductor of CBSO Young Voices).

PSHE Update

Monday 17 October 2016 sees the first of our special PSHE sessions. Year 7 will have a dramatic performance on anti-bullying, followed by related material. Year 8 will be planning their economic futures through 'The Real Game' programme, being introduced to the harsh world of tax, bills and budgeting! Year 9 are studying alcohol and drug abuse and looking at the dangerous effects. Finally, Year 10 are welcomed to GCSEs by a humorous, yet educational play entitled 'Alphabet of a Teenager' and will then complete activities to assist them with revision techniques.

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 6 Parental School Tours W/C Monday 17 October 2016

If you have a child hoping to join us in Year 7 next academic year, we will be holding School Tours every morning Week commencing 17 October 2016. Please contact the School Office if you would like to reserve a place on a tour.

Year 11 Parents' Mock Preparation Evening - Tuesday 18 October 2016

We will be holding a Year 11 Parents' Mock Preparation Evening on Tuesday 18 October 2016. This is a really important evening for all Year 11 parents to attend. Letters will be out very shortly.

Year 7 Parents' and Tutor Meeting - Wednesday 19 October 2016

We will be holding a Year 7 Parents' and Tutor Meeting on Wednesday 19 October 2016 for some of our Year 7 pupils in order to discuss how they are settling in to life at Dormston. We will contact you shortly if you are invited to attend this event. Please note that not all Year 7 pupils will be invited to this event.

Derwent House Charity Day - Friday 21 October 2016

Monday 17th to Friday 21st October 2016 sees Derwent Charity Week for all pupils. Monday - Thursday lunchtimes will be a pay-to-play X-Box Tournament in A3. A 'teacher auction' will be held on Tuesday lunchtime, where students can buy the services of staff to complete homework, collect lunch etc. Tuesday and Wednesday after school will be a bag pack at Co-op, please come along and support our pupils! Thursday lunchtime will be a talent show in the Theatre where our talented pupils from any house can pay to enter. Finally, Friday 21st is the big day! All students will pay £1 to wear mufti, stalls will be held at lunch, including raffles, name the teddy, tombola, cake stall, popcorn, and chubby bunny! A 'Nerf War' will be held in the Sports Hall and the final feature will be the gunging of Mr Amos and Mrs Downie, if enough sponsor money has been raised! This is all topped off by a film evening after school in the theatre - a screening of 'Fault in Our Stars' to coincide with our wonderful charity, Teenage Cancer Trust. Please send pupils with lots of change so they can enjoy the fun!

October Half Term - Monday 24 October 2016 to Friday 28 October 2016

We will be closed for October Half Term from Monday 24 October 2016 to Friday 28 October 2016. Pupils should return to school on Monday 31 October 2016. Pupils will be returning to a Week 2 timetable.

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

We will be holding a Year 11 Mock Examination Week W/C 14 November 2016. Timetables will be with Year 11 pupils shortly.

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 is 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.