



Monthly Parent/Carer Update Sheet October 2017/November 2017

Peru Trek Expedition 2019

As a school, we are very excited to announce we have chosen to partner with Camps International to offer students in Years 9, 10 and 11 the opportunity to go on a 4 week expedition to Peru in 2019. This life-enhancing expedition will include living alongside rural communities, working on projects which could include helping to build classrooms, community centres, combat deforestation or protect wildlife. Students will also undertake an adventure element, which is to trek the Salkantay Trail to Machu Picchu. Camps International have been delivering expeditions across Africa, Asia and South America since 2002, sending thousands of students abroad every year. They are an award-winning expedition provider, with an excellent reputation and safety record. An assembly will be held for year 9 - 11 pupils on the 31st October 2017, which will be followed by a parent presentation on the 8th November 2017 at 6.30pm in the Dormston theatre. Letters with the full information will be issued shortly.

Lost Property Reminder

Just a reminder to encourage all parents to ensure that their child's property is named wherever possible. This ensures that any lost property can be returned swiftly. It is ultimately the pupil's responsibility to look after their property. We advise pupils not to bring in expensive items. All identified lost property is handed in to Pupil Reception and any items not claimed are displayed every Thursday after school in the atrium.

Year 7 & 8 STEM Club....is back!

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are key skills that all pupils should develop. If your child enjoys explosions, dissecting organs and exploring the unknown why not chat to them about joining STEM Club which will take place every Wednesday, Week 1, 3.00pm - 4.00pm. Activities taking place this half term include; eye dissections, exploding bubbles, screaming jelly babies and much more. Everyone is welcome. Please ask your child to speak to Mr Cox if they are interested.

Year 11 Pupils Science Revision Reminder

All Year 11 pupils are expected to attend Science revision on Thursday Week 1 from 3.00pm - 4.15pm. This is to ensure all pupils are given access to revision resources that cover the new exam specification in preparation for the first exams in May 2018. It is clear from evidence that pupils who attend these sessions perform better in the final exam, and achieve better grades overall. If

for any reason your child cannot attend one of the sessions, please inform the teacher so pupils can be made aware of the content covered.

House Arts Competition

The House Arts competition has now been launched. This year the theme is 'Attitude'. Pupils should collect an entry form from Mrs Beer if they want to compete in any of the categories which include:

- solo vocal performance;
- solo instrument performance;
- ensemble performance;
- composition on the theme of 'Attitude';
- drama monologue (Year 10/11) - workshops Monday after school (*spaces allocated on a first-come, first-served basis*);
- drama duologue (Year 7/8/9) - workshops Friday after school (*spaces allocated on a first-come, first-served basis*);
- art piece expressing your own/another person's opinion, character or feeling (*deadline 3rd November 2017*);
- choreographed dance solo/ensemble on the theme of 'Attitude'.

The entries will be judged week beginning the 6th November 2017 after which selected students will be invited to perform in a final showcase on the 29th November 2017.

Data Collection Sheets & Consent Forms

Could we remind parents that if you haven't already done so you need to return your completed and signed Data Collection Sheets and Consent Forms.

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.

Medical Appointments *REMINDER

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. Pupils can only leave school for appointments if they are collected by a parent/carer. 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 otherwise the absence will not be authorised.

Pupil Illness

When you report your child's absence you may be asked to provide information and discuss the symptoms that are being displayed by your child. You may then be advised whether time off is recommended or not. We are relying upon **Public Health England Guidelines**.

Open Evening - Thursday 12th October 2017 *EARLY CLOSE

We will be holding our annual Open Evening on Thursday 12 October 2017. In order to allow for staff to prepare for this important event and due to the fact that many pupils will be coming back in on the evening to assist we will be closing at **12.30pm** on this day. Any pupils entitled to a Free School Meal will be able to collect a sandwich lunch before they leave.

Derwent House Charity Day - Friday 13th October 2017

Derwent House will be holding their annual charity day for The Teenage Cancer Trust on Friday 13 October 2017. There will be top prizes up for grabs along with a whole host of exciting activities taking place during the week and on the day itself. This will include a charity bag pack at ALDI, a teacher auction, sponsored events, stalls and talent shows. Pupils will be able to wear Mufti and we look forward to raising money for this very worthy charity. If your child wishes to take part please ensure they bring in cash to use at the stalls.

Year 6 Parents' School Tour Week - Friday 13 October & W/C Monday 16th October 2017

If you have a child hoping to join us in Year 7 next academic year, we will be holding School Tours on Friday 13 October 2017 and W/C Monday 16 October 2017 through to Thursday 19 October 2017 at 9.15am and 11.15am. Tours are by appointment only. Please contact the School Office if you would like to reserve a place on a tour. Prospective pupils are welcome to come along providing they have sought permission from their primary school.

Year 7 Strategy Olympic Gymnast Visit - Monday 16th October 2017

We look forward to welcoming Olympic Gymnast Kristian Thomas to visit us on Monday 16th October 2017. Kristian will do a motivation and inspiration assembly to share his story on his success and dedication to British Gymnastics.

Year 11 Preparing for the Year Ahead Evening - Tuesday 17th October 2017 at 6.30pm

We will be holding a Year 11 Preparing for the Year Ahead Evening on Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 6.30pm in the Theatre. This event is primarily aimed at parents but pupils are also very welcome to attend. The focus will be on how parents can encourage good study habits and will be run by Elevate who are an outside provider. The evening will cover the Study Environment, Technology, Best Practices and a Question & Answer Session. Further information will follow shortly. We strongly advise all parents to attend this important event.

Year 7 Parent & Tutor Meeting - Thursday 19th October 2017

We will be holding a Year 7 Parents and Tutor Meeting on Thursday 19 October 2017 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 parents will be invited to this event.

INSET - Friday 20th October 2017 *SCHOOL CLOSED

School will be closed for INSET on Friday 20 October 2017. Pupils should return to school after the Half Term Holidays on Monday 30 October 2017.

October Half Term - Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2017 *SCHOOL CLOSED

School will be closed for October Half Term from Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2017. Pupils will be returning to a Week 2 Timetable.

Year 11 Geography trip to the Holderness Coast - Thursday 2nd November 2017

Pupils in Year 11 will be taking part in a compulsory fieldwork trip to the Holderness Coast on Thursday 2nd November 2017. This exciting day out will give pupils an opportunity to investigate coastal erosion and coastal management techniques, which have been used along the east coast of Yorkshire. Payment is due by the 6th October 2017 via ParentPay.

Year 7 & 8 Literacy & Numeracy Evening - Monday 6th November 2017

We believe that good literacy and numeracy is key to a child's success in school and are keen to develop our pupils' numeracy and literacy (reading, writing and oracy) skills. Following last year's successful parental support evening for Year 7, we are again holding sessions with a numeracy and literacy focus in order for parents to understand how they can help their child in these key areas at home. The session for Year 8 will build upon the previous year and offer additional strategies.

Year 11 Mock Exams - WC Monday 13th November 2017

Week 1 will cover the majority of the written exams for all subjects. In Week 2 the main focus will be the practical components. It is vital that all pupils attend every day of the exam period. The results of these exams form the basis of our predictions and will be used as part of the college application process.

Year 7 University Visit - Tuesday 21st November 2017

We are delighted to confirm that as part of the Year 7 Strategy we will be visited by Oxford and Cambridge University for our Year 7 Aspiration Day on 21st November 2017. Year 7 will be involved in workshops and talks from Cambridge and Oxford Undergraduates and Graduates to dispel myths about life at our two finest Universities. This is a wonderful opportunity for Year 7 to aim high in their aspirations and believe they have no ceiling to their capabilities.

Year 11 Class of 2017 GCSE Presentation Evening - Wednesday 22nd November 2017

We will be holding our GCSE Presentation Evening for our Class of 2017 on Wednesday 22 November 2017 in the Theatre. A letter to all ex-pupils will be coming out shortly inviting both them and parents to this very special event.

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Meeting - Thursday 23rd November 2017

We will be holding a Year 10 Parents' Consultation Meeting on Thursday 23 November 2017.

Please encourage your child to make appointments with all of their class teachers so that we can update you on their progress.