



# Monthly Parent Update Sheet

## September 2014/October 2014

### Exam Results

We are pleased to announce that we have achieved record exam results for 2014 in Maths, English and Science. Despite there being considerable turbulence with exam results nationally Dormston has achieved well. We recognise there is still some way to go, but these results are however showing real improvements in terms of the teaching and learning that is taking place in school. This is down to the hard work and dedication of all our staff and pupils. Well done to everybody!

### Welcome to New Staff

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of staff to Dormston School:

- ✓ Mr Lee, Head of Mathematics;
- ✓ Miss Smith, Mathematics Teacher
- ✓ Miss Bird, English Teacher;
- ✓ Miss Masih, Head of Science;
- ✓ Mrs Westwood, PLC Manager.

We are also pleased to inform you that Miss Powers, previous Head of Science has been appointed as Assistant Head Teacher.

### New Catering Company \*One FREE Meal for every Pupil

To celebrate the arrival of the Ocean Café and our new catering company we are offering every pupil one free lunch. This will be provided on a rolling programme during October 2014. Further details to follow shortly. Please encourage your child to take the free opportunity to sample the new school menu and enhanced dining facilities.

### FSM Entitlement

As we all know eating a healthy nutritious lunch is extremely important. For pupils particularly it gives them the energy to work hard and concentrate well in lessons. All pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals will now be expected to have a substantial lunch and will not be allowed to just have an unhealthy snack as a lunch alternative. We are confident that the new catering firm, and the menu options they will now offer our pupils, will make this extremely easy. We hope as parents you will encourage your child to take advantage of their lunch entitlement and chose a lunch that will sustain them to perform well during the course of the day.

### Pupil Premium

From April 2010 the Government introduced additional funding 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. 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. Your child has been given a letter at the start of term to explain the eligibility criteria for 'Pupil Premium' please contact Mrs Dawes if you think you qualify to register.

## **Pupil Update Forms**

Parents of pupils in Years 8 to 11 will shortly receive Pupil Update and Consent Forms. These need to be checked, amended, signed and returned as soon as possible.

## **Homework Club**

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

## **Successmaker**

Successmaker reading and spelling sessions will start around half term. Pupils should wait to be contacted about when and where their session will be.

## **Year Ten Work Experience Forms - Return Deadline!**

Please can parents ensure all work placement forms are returned to Mrs Evans or Mrs Waldron in the Careers Office by Friday 26 September 2014. To support your child with any concerns they may have the Careers Office will be open every break time and lunchtime. Any queries please contact Mrs Waldron or Mrs Evans.

## **Year 11 Post 16 Options Events**

The following activities are taking place for Year 11 students during the first half term to support them as they start to consider their post 16 options:

- ✓ Tuesday 9 September 2014 - All Year 11 students will be attending a workshop in the morning run by Careers Crowd regarding post 16 options;
- ✓ Thursday 18 September 6pm - 8pm Post 16 Options Evening for parents and pupils. This is an opportunity for you to meet local colleges, sixth forms and training providers. A letter with further details about this event will be sent home shortly;
- ✓ Thursday 23 October 2014 - Business and Enterprise Day. This day provides an insight into various career pathways open to students. They will have the opportunity to choose 4 workshops to attend from a variety of providers including public services, midwifery, neurophysics, construction, media and mobile technology.

If you require any further information about these events please contact Mrs Waldron

## **New Facilities Official Opening - Friday 12 September 2014**

We have been busy over the summer holidays improving many school facilities. We have created a Year 11 coffee shop area in the atrium, updated the Year 7 gallery area, transformed the quad and updated an art classroom as well as creating a new netball court. The new facilities will be officially opened by Ian Austin MP on Friday 12 September 2014. The Mayor of Dudley will also be joining us to celebrate this very special event. We hope that these new fantastic facilities will be enjoyed by all our pupils and make Dormston School a school that our pupils will be proud of!

### **Year 7 Photographs - Wednesday 17 September 2014**

Just a reminder that Year 7 Photographs will be taken on Wednesday 17 September 2014. Please ensure pupils are all in correct uniform.

### **Beacon Hill Tenants & Residents Association - Thursday 18 September 2014**

We have been asked to inform you that Beacon Hill Tenants & Residents Association have a public meeting on Thursday 18 September 2014, the meetings give the wider Beacon area community a chance to raise issues which are affecting them or their neighbourhood. The meeting takes place at The Ex-Servicemen's Club, The Walk, Sedgley at 7.30pm.

### **Open Evening - Tuesday 7 October 2014 \*EARLY CLOSE**

We will be holding our annual Open Evening on Tuesday 7 October 2014 from 7pm - 9pm which all prospective primary school pupils and parents are welcome to attend. As usual we will be closing early to allow staff to get ready and to reflect the fact that many pupils come back in on the evening to assist. We will therefore be closing at 1pm on Tuesday 7 October 2014.

### **Year 11 Halesowen College Taster Day - Wednesday 8 & 15 October 2014**

On Wednesday 8 October 2014 we will be taking groups of our high target pupils to raising aspirations workshops at Halesowen College. The workshops will include themes for Humanities, Languages, Sciences and Business. Also on Wednesday 15 October 2014 we will be taking 50 pupils to a vocational raising aspirations workshop at Halesowen College. These workshops will include lessons in sport and public services, travel with hospitality, ICT with computing and engineering, childcare, health/social care and media studies. Your child will be selected for these visits based on their target grades and current progress and an invitation letter will give further details nearer to the time.

### **Year 7 Parents Consultation with Tutors - Monday 13 October 2014**

Please note that 'selected' pupils will be invited to attend a Year 7 Parents Consultation with Tutors on Monday 13 October 2014. This gives us an opportunity to discuss how your child is settling into life at Dormston and discuss any concerns. Parents will be notified if their child is invited to attend this event in due course. Please make every effort to attend if your child is selected.

### **October Half Term - Monday 27 October 2014 to Friday 31 October 2014**

School will be closed for October Half Term from Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October 2014. Pupils should return to school on Monday 3 November 2014.