



# Monthly Parent Update Sheet

## September 2015/October 2015

### GCSE Results 2015

This year saw our school achieve its best ever results. We saw the percentage of pupils achieving 5 A\* - C with English and Maths increase by 10% to 58%. This was the biggest increase in Dudley, and one of the highest in the Midlands. It places us (provisionally) as the 7<sup>th</sup> highest performing school in our Local Authority (the best we have ever achieved). Other notable successes include; doubling the number of A\*/A grades and record results in English, Maths, Science, ICT, PE, French, Music, Art, RE, Biology, Chemistry, Food Technology, Graphics and Physics.

### Key Stage 3 Science Revision Guides

To enhance and assist the progress of your child, the Science Department are currently selling Key Stage 3 revisions guides to students. This Science revision guide explains everything students need to know for Key Stage 3 Science and is fully up-to-date for the new curriculum and onwards.

Every topic is explained with clear, friendly notes, diagrams and examples, and there are practice questions on most pages to test the crucial skills. This is a valuable resource and ties in with what your child is currently studying in Science. We will be selling these at the discounted price of just £2.50 (*current retail price is £4.95*). We would encourage you to take advantage of this excellent offer. The revision guides can be purchased from the Science Technicians in the mornings from 8.25am - 8.40am. If you would require further details or have any questions to ask please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sond.

### Careers Updates

**Year 10 Work Experience** - As you are probably aware, we launched the new 2016 Work Experience with Year 10 at the end of last term. The pupils were issued with WEX packs containing a letter and forms for your attention. **Could you please complete these and return with your child to school as soon as possible.**

Students were advised that next years' dates coincide with several other local schools. As you will probably appreciate this will make finding a place a little more challenging. Taking this into consideration, we would appreciate your help in encouraging pupils to arrange their placements as soon as possible. Mrs Evans is available in the Careers Office at break and lunchtime to offer assistance.

**The Post 16 Evening** will be held at school on the **17 September 2015**; Years 11 pupils and parents will be invited. The evening will include a short presentation from a member of Leadership Team explaining the

opportunities and support available from the school regarding Post 16 choices. We have invited a large number of colleges, Sixth Form providers, universities, employers and training providers to discuss with you the provisions they offer to enable our students to make informed choices for their future. This year, we are delighted that some local employers (including JAG Landrover) have agreed to participate in the event. Letters will follow shortly with further details and expression of interest reply slips.

At the end of last term, Year 11 were asked to start writing their personal statements for their Post 16 applications. We actively encourage our students to start considering applications now and we offer support in writing statements from Form Tutors. All statements are checked by a member of our Leadership Team. We would ask for your support in encouraging your child to start their application process now by completing their UCAS Progress profile which includes their personal statement.

### **eine Gute Fahrt nach München! Calling all Year 10 and 11 language students**

Following on from 2 hugely successful trips to Cologne, we are planning to travel further into Germany and visit the Bavarian capital, Munich. We intend to have a four day tour with visits to The Allianz Arena-Bayern Munich's football stadium, BMW World, a theme park and we plan to fully embrace the true German culture with a meal in the prestigious Hofbräuhaus. The proposed dates will be in the middle of the Easter holidays - Thursday 31st March - Sunday 3rd April 2016, exact timings and costing to be confirmed. This should be an amazing experience, please see Frau Palmer in D104 for further details.

### **INSET Early Finish - Friday 11 September 2015 at 12.45pm**

As in previous years, we will be closing early to enable some extremely important staff training to take place in readiness for the forthcoming academic year. On Friday 11 September 2015 we will therefore be closing at the earlier time of 12.45pm. Pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals will still be able to collect their lunch before leaving school.

### **Year 7 Photographs - Wednesday 16 September 2015**

Year 7 Photographs will be taken on Wednesday 16 September 2015. Please ensure your child is in full and correct uniform.

### **Year 11 Pupil Personal Statements Deadline - Friday 18 September 2015**

Personal Statements are created to assist Year 11 pupils in applying to colleges and work placements and form an extremely important part of your child's next steps. The deadline for pupils to complete their Personal Statements is **Friday 18 September 2015**. On this date, all pupils **MUST** hand their Personal Statements into their Form Tutor. Could we please ask that you encourage your child to complete this important statement within the deadline and ensure that your child has put appropriate thought and effort into creating a strong and effective Personal Statement. Pupils will be given time and guidance on how to do this in school but your support and interest with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

### **Year 11 Science Controlled Assessments - WC Monday 21 September 2015**

Year 11 will be starting their second Science controlled assessment over the next few weeks which is worth 25% of their final GCSE grade. Students must ensure they are prepared and achieve their target grade or above in this assessment.

## **Year 7 Parents Consultation with Tutors - Monday 12 October 2015**

We will be holding a special Year 7 Parents Consultation with Tutors on Monday 12 October 2015. You will receive notification by letter if you and your child is invited to attend this evening.

## **Open Evening - Thursday 15 October 2015 \*EARLY CLOSE**

We will be holding our annual Open Evening for prospective Year 6 parents on Thursday 15 October 2015. To enable staff to prepare for this evening, and as many pupils will be returning to school to assist with this very important event, we will be closing at the earlier time of 1.00pm. Pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals will be able to collect a lunch before leaving school.

## **Derwent House Charity Day - 16 October 2015**

On 16 October 2015 all students will be invited to take part in the Derwent House Charity Day 2015, the first of our charity days. All students are asked to wear mufti clothes and pay a £1 charge to be donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust, Derwent's new charity. There will also be a range of stalls and events happening, such as cake sales, penalty shoot outs and guess the teddy's name, so please send your child with lots of change so they can enjoy a fun day while doing something good for a very important cause. Last year saw a pie throwing event with Mr Amos (HoH) and Mrs Downie (Deputy HoH) getting covered... let's hope they can survive whatever they do this year!

## **October Half Term - Monday 25 October 2015 to Friday 30 October 2015**

We will be closed for October Half Term on Monday 25 October 2015 to Friday 30 October 2015. Pupils should return to school on Monday 2 November 2015.