



Monthly Parent Update Sheet September 2016/October 2016

Welcome to New Pupils & Parents

We would like to welcome all our new pupils and parents to Dormston School. We hope you will find our Monthly Parent Update Sheet a useful way of keeping up-to-date with what's going on at Dormston. Please look out for it at the bottom of school bags at the start of each month. These Monthly Parent Update Sheets are also published on our School Website under 'Letters to Parents'.

Welcome to New Staff

We would like to welcome the following new staff to Dormston School who have joined us in September 2016.

- Mrs Abbott - Head of Food Technology
- Miss Ball - Geography Teacher
- Miss Barrett - History Teacher
- Mrs Burns - Science Teacher
- Mr King - Head of History
- Miss Leigh - Maths Teacher
- Miss Lockie - Head of Art
- Mrs Parkin - MFL Teacher
- Miss Roffey - Science Teacher
- Miss Sadler - English Teacher
- Mrs Watkins - Learning Support Assistant

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 Email System

In order to improve parental communication, we now also have the option of House email accounts so that you can send emails regarding any queries you may have. We aim to respond to all emails within 48 hours. Email addresses are as follows:

avon@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

derwent@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

severn@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

trent@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

SEN Information

All parents/carers of pupils with SEN: The SENCO (Mrs Francis) will be sending out a list of dates for the coming year to meet to discuss your child's progress and Special Educational Needs along with your child's Strategy Sheet (sheet of information shared with teachers). You are, however, welcome to make an appointment to see the SENCO at any time or to ring with any concerns or queries. **Y8 and Y9:** Reading and Spelling Booster (formerly 'Successmaker') interventions will begin again as soon as possible. We will contact your child to let them know when it starts and would very much appreciate your continued support with improving your child's reading or spelling.

Changes to ParentPay - 'My Account'

In order to pay for school meals (and other items), after you have topped up 'My Account', remember to allocate funds as follows - click 'Pay for items', select 'Dinner money top up', or whatever item it is you wish to pay for, and then choose the 'view details and pay' button. You now also have the option of paying directly for Dinner Money on ParentPay without topping up your account first if you wish. If you would like a full copy of the ParentPay User Guide please contact Mrs Forbes-Ritte on 01384 816395.

Left Handed Children: A Guide for Teachers and Parents - DVD

A short DVD entitled 'Left Handed Children: A Guide for Teachers and Parents' is available for loan from the Learning Support Department. There are some useful tips on correcting pen grip, seating position and orientation of paper, as well as some information about handwriting aids. Please contact Mrs Burns if you would like to borrow this.

Year 11 - Macbeth

Year 11 will be studying "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare. This forms part of their English Literature GCSE and is worth 20% of their overall Literature grade. It is essential that your child has a copy of the play to annotate and study. Whilst there are many editions of the play available, the English department recommend the Oxford School Shakespeare published by the Oxford University Press (ISBN number: 978-0-19-832400-3). This is available to purchase at Waterstones, WHSmith and via the BookPeople website.

Singing Group

Singing Group begins again on Thursday 15 September 2016 at 3.00pm - 4.00pm and runs every Thursday. This year the singing group will be taking part in some workshops with Ula Weber, the conductor of CBSO Young Voices, amongst various other roles as a teacher and conductor. Pupils need to speak to Mrs Beer if they are interested in joining.

House Arts Competition

The House Arts Competition will be taking place on Tuesday 15 November 2016. There will be several categories across the subjects of Music, Dance, Drama and Art for all years to enter, supported by after school clubs where appropriate. More details to follow in assemblies week beginning 19 September 2016.

Instrument/Vocal lessons with Dudley Performing Arts

There are still places available for tuition for several of the instrument disciplines. Please contact Mrs Beer at the school if you would like more details.

Year 7 Parents' 'Welcome to Dormston' Evening - Monday 19 September 2016

We will be holding a Year 7 Parents' Welcome Meeting on Monday 19 September 2016. Further information will follow in due course.

Year 7 Photographs - Wednesday 21 September 2016

Please note that Year 7 Photographs will be taken on Wednesday 21 September 2016. As should always be the case, please ensure your child is wearing full and correct uniform.

Year 11 Post 16 Evening - Thursday 22 September 2016 at 6.00pm

We will be holding our Year 11 Post 16 Evening on Thursday 22 September 2016 at 6.00pm – 8.00pm. All Year 11 students are expected to attend. Further information will follow in due course.

Open Evening - Thursday 13 October 2016 *EARLY FINISH FOR PUPILS

We will be holding our annual Open Evening on Thursday 13 October 2016 at 7.00pm. In order to allow staff to get ready for this very important event, and due to the fact that many pupils will be coming back in to help out on the evening, we will be finishing at 12.30pm on this day. Pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals will be able to take a lunch away with them.

Year 6 Parental School Tours W/C Monday 17 October 2016

If you have another 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 Thursday 18 October 2016. Further information will follow in due course.

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 not all Year 7 pupils will be invited to this event.

Derwent House Charity Day - Friday 21 October 2016

Derwent House will be holding their annual Charity Day on Friday 21 October 2016. As always, there will be lots of fun ways for pupils to get involved and help raise money for the Derwent House Charity which is the Teenage Cancer Trust. More details about this exciting event will follow in due course.

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.