

23 September 2022

## Headlines

Dear Parents/Carers

### **The Dorcan Academy**

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As always, it has been an incredibly busy start to the term. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Meet the Teacher evening last week, which we are going to run a little later next year based on feedback from parents. I am writing today to remind you of a few things and provide some updates on changes we have made.

### **Early Closure and Open evening**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September is our Open evening for prospective parents and Year 6 students, therefore we will be closing early to enable us to prepare fully. The timings for the day will be as follows:

- Tutor time: 8:30 – 8:40
- Lesson 1: 8:40 – 9:30
- Lesson 2: 9:30 – 10:20
- Toilet break and drink only: 10:20 – 10:30
- Lesson 3: 10:30 – 11:20
- LUNCH Y7 and 8: 11:20 – 11:50, followed by Lesson 4 – 11:50 – 12:40
- Lesson 4 (Y9-11) 11:20 – 12:10 followed by lunch 12:10 – 12:40
- Tutor registration – 12:40
- Finish – 12:45

Some of your children may have been invited to help on the evening; if so, please could you ensure that they look immaculate in their uniforms.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September is one of our designated training days so school will be closed to students.

### **Home Learning**

For our new Year 7 students we always break them in gradually in terms of setting Home Learning as we know it is not something they are used to from primary. The first two weeks therefore, no Home Learning was set. Between now and October half term, we will begin to set Home Learning starting with the Core subjects with the other subjects joining after half term. Attached is a copy of the temporary Home Learning timetable for Year 7 and the timetable for other year groups which includes the Year 7 timetable for after half term.

We have changed our Home Learning policy this year to focus upon revision and retrieval skills. I have attached a copy for you and would welcome your feedback, particularly after we have operated it for a full term.

### **Extra-curricular clubs**

We are very pleased to be offering a wide range of extra-curricular clubs for students and are aiming for every student to be committed to at least one club, whether this be in school or out. Attached is a copy of the clubs that are running up until Christmas. A copy is also on the [After School Clubs](#) page on our website.

### **Lunchtimes**

As our student numbers have significantly grown this academic year, to ensure that all our students can sit down and eat a proper dinner we have introduced staggered lunchtimes. This has worked well and has allowed plenty of room

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to sit and socialise as well as time to eat a hot dinner if desired. However, from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September we are reducing the sittings to two instead of three, so Years 7 and 8 will have their dinner at 12:10, with Year 7 in the main dining area and Year 8 in the Conservatory and Years 9, 10 and 11 will have their dinner at 1:10 with Year 9 making use of the conservatory and Years 10 and 11 using the main dining area. This will also free up capacity on some days to have the basketball courts open for football.

### Up and coming events

We held a really successful evening for parents of KS4 students around our new revision and retrieval strategy last week and on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October we are holding an evening for KS3 parents on how students can use their Knowledge organiser and the Look, Cover, Write method of revision. The event will take place in the Main Hall from 5:45 – 6:45 and we would love to see you there.

We are also holding a Science Transition family event on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 10am – 11:30am. This is an opportunity for parents of Year 5 and 6 students to come along to join in some fun Science activities, followed by coffee and cake in the library and an opportunity to meet the Senior Team. If you are interested in coming please book your place by emailing [mlee@dorcan.co.uk](mailto:mlee@dorcan.co.uk). We regret that we cannot accommodate any families that do not book ahead of time.

### Term Dates for 2023-24

Please find below our term dates for the academic year 2023-24. Please note that these dates differ slightly from the Swindon Borough dates as we have decided to work on later in December and return later in January; to compensate our dates are also slightly different in October. Information is also detailed on the [Term Dates](#) page of our website.

|               |  | Student Days | School holidays | Bank holidays | Inset days | Induction | Year 7 only in |
|---------------|--|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>Sep-23</b> |  | Week         | B               | A             | B          | A         | B              |
| Mon           |  | 4            | 11              | 18            | 25         |           |                |
| Tue           |  | 5            | 12              | 19            | 26         |           |                |
| Wed           |  | 6            | 13              | 20            | 27         |           |                |
| Thu           |  | 7            | 14              | 21            | 28         |           |                |
| Fri           |  | 8            | 15              | 22            | 29         |           |                |
| Sat           |  | 2            | 9               | 16            | 23         | 30        |                |
| Sun           |  | 3            | 10              | 17            | 24         | 1         |                |
| <b>Oct-23</b> |  | Week         | A               | B             | A          |           |                |
| Mon           |  | 2            | 9               | 16            | 23         |           |                |
| Tue           |  | 3            | 10              | 17            | 24         |           |                |
| Wed           |  | 4            | 11              | 18            | 25         |           |                |
| Thu           |  | 5            | 12              | 19            | 26         |           |                |
| Fri           |  | 6            | 13              | 20            | 27         |           |                |
| Sat           |  | 7            | 14              | 21            | 28         |           |                |
| Sun           |  | 8            | 15              | 22            | 29         |           |                |
| <b>Nov-23</b> |  | Week         | B               | A             | B          | A         | B              |
| Mon           |  | 30           | 6               | 13            | 20         | 27        |                |
| Tue           |  | 31           | 7               | 14            | 21         | 28        |                |
| Wed           |  | 1            | 8               | 15            | 22         | 29        |                |
| Thu           |  | 2            | 9               | 16            | 23         | 30        |                |
| Fri           |  | 3            | 10              | 17            | 24         |           |                |
| Sat           |  | 4            | 11              | 18            | 25         |           |                |
| Sun           |  | 5            | 12              | 19            | 26         |           |                |
| <b>Dec-23</b> |  | Week         | A               | B             | A          |           |                |
| Mon           |  | 4            | 11              | 18            | 25         |           |                |
| Tue           |  | 5            | 12              | 19            | 26         |           |                |
| Wed           |  | 6            | 13              | 20            | 27         |           |                |
| Thu           |  | 7            | 14              | 21            | 28         |           |                |
| Fri           |  | 1            | 8               | 15            | 22         | 29        |                |
| Sat           |  | 2            | 9               | 16            | 23         | 30        |                |
| Sun           |  | 3            | 10              | 17            | 24         | 31        |                |
| <b>Jan-24</b> |  | Week         |                 | B             | A          | B         | A              |
| Mon           |  |              | 1               | 8             | 15         | 22        | 29             |
| Tue           |  |              | 2               | 9             | 16         | 23        | 30             |
| Wed           |  |              | 3               | 10            | 17         | 24        | 31             |
| Thu           |  |              | 4               | 11            | 18         | 25        |                |
| Fri           |  |              | 5               | 12            | 19         | 26        |                |
| Sat           |  |              | 6               | 13            | 20         | 27        |                |
| Sun           |  |              | 7               | 14            | 21         | 28        |                |
| <b>Feb-24</b> |  | Week         |                 | B             |            | A         | B              |
| Mon           |  |              | 5               | 12            | 19         | 26        |                |
| Tue           |  |              | 6               | 13            | 20         | 27        |                |
| Wed           |  |              | 7               | 14            | 21         | 28        |                |
| Thu           |  |              | 1               | 8             | 15         | 22        | 29             |
| Fri           |  |              | 2               | 9             | 16         | 23        |                |
| Sat           |  |              | 3               | 10            | 17         | 24        |                |
| Sun           |  |              | 4               | 11            | 18         | 25        |                |
| <b>Mar-24</b> |  | Week         |                 | A             | B          | A         | B              |
| Mon           |  |              | 4               | 11            | 18         | 25        |                |
| Tue           |  |              | 5               | 12            | 19         | 26        |                |
| Wed           |  |              | 6               | 13            | 20         | 27        |                |
| Thu           |  |              | 7               | 14            | 21         | 28        |                |
| Fri           |  |              | 1               | 9             | 15         | 22        | 29             |
| Sat           |  |              | 2               | 9             | 16         | 23        | 30             |
| Sun           |  |              | 3               | 10            | 17         | 24        | 31             |
| <b>Apr-24</b> |  | Week         |                 |               |            | A         | B              |
| Mon           |  |              |                 | 1             | 8          | 15        | 22             |
| Tue           |  |              |                 | 2             | 9          | 16        | 23             |
| Wed           |  |              |                 | 3             | 10         | 17        | 24             |
| Thu           |  |              |                 | 4             | 11         | 18        | 25             |
| Fri           |  |              |                 | 5             | 12         | 19        | 26             |
| Sat           |  |              |                 | 6             | 13         | 20        | 27             |
| Sun           |  |              |                 | 7             | 14         | 21        | 28             |
| <b>May-24</b> |  | Week         |                 | A             | B          | A         | B              |
| Mon           |  |              |                 | 29            | 6          | 13        | 20             |
| Tue           |  |              |                 | 30            | 7          | 14        | 21             |
| Wed           |  |              |                 | 1             | 8          | 15        | 22             |
| Thu           |  |              |                 | 2             | 9          | 16        | 23             |
| Fri           |  |              |                 | 3             | 10         | 17        | 24             |
| Sat           |  |              |                 | 4             | 11         | 18        | 25             |
| Sun           |  |              |                 | 5             | 12         | 19        | 26             |
| <b>Jun-24</b> |  | Week         |                 | A             | B          | A         | B              |
| Mon           |  |              |                 | 3             | 10         | 17        | 24             |
| Tue           |  |              |                 | 4             | 11         | 18        | 25             |
| Wed           |  |              |                 | 5             | 12         | 19        | 26             |
| Thu           |  |              |                 | 6             | 13         | 20        | 27             |
| Fri           |  |              |                 | 7             | 14         | 21        | 28             |
| Sat           |  |              |                 | 1             | 8          | 15        | 22             |
| Sun           |  |              |                 | 2             | 9          | 16        | 23             |
| <b>Jul-24</b> |  | Week         |                 | A             | B          | A         | B              |
| Mon           |  |              |                 | 1             | 8          | 15        | 22             |
| Tue           |  |              |                 | 2             | 9          | 16        | 23             |
| Wed           |  |              |                 | 3             | 10         | 17        | 24             |
| Thu           |  |              |                 | 4             | 11         | 18        | 25             |
| Fri           |  |              |                 | 5             | 12         | 19        | 26             |
| Sat           |  |              |                 | 6             | 13         | 20        | 27             |
| Sun           |  |              |                 | 7             | 14         | 21        | 28             |
| <b>Aug-24</b> |  | Week         |                 |               |            |           |                |
| Mon           |  |              |                 | 29            | 5          | 12        | 19             |
| Tue           |  |              |                 | 30            | 6          | 13        | 20             |
| Wed           |  |              |                 | 31            | 7          | 14        | 21             |
| Thu           |  |              |                 | 1             | 8          | 15        | 22             |
| Fri           |  |              |                 | 2             | 9          | 16        | 23             |
| Sat           |  |              |                 | 3             | 10         | 17        | 24             |
| Sun           |  |              |                 | 4             | 11         | 18        | 25             |

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sherryl Bareham  
Headteacher