

18 October 2022

The Dorcan Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs S Bareham MBA GRSM

Dear Parents/Carers

We are almost at the end of what has been an action packed half term starting with our WOW transition days for our new Year 6 students, then our Open evening which received excellent feedback and a range of exciting in-school events from an Army Careers Day to a visit from the BBC as part of their 100 years celebration. I haven't included details of all our events in these Headlines as we are in the process of producing a Dorcan Newsletter which will contain all our Good News with photos to match. So that is an exciting development to look forward to.

We are delighted that the PTFA (Parent, Teachers and Friends Association) is going from strength to strength as the committee reaches out into the school community. At our recent 'Meet the Teachers' event several parents joined forces to sell raffle tickets and talk to new parents about the committee and what it does. As well as raising over £100 for MacMillan Cancer Support (in lieu of a coffee morning!) they spread the word that The Dorcan Academy values the support of parents and friends. Thank you to those who gave their time and please get in touch via the school office if you are interested in joining the committee.

The next event is a family quiz night which will be held on 10th November starting at 7pm. Tickets must be pre-booked and are available for £3 per person from Main Reception. Numbers are limited but everyone is welcome so please bring along family and friends for an evening of friendly competition. Refreshments will be available to buy on the evening as well as raffle tickets. We hope to see you there! Book early to avoid disappointment!

Performing Arts event

Year 10 and Year 11 Dance and Drama students are working incredibly hard on preparing their prelim exam performances ahead of the BTEC Performing Arts Evening on Monday 28th November at 7pm. There will be 4 dances and 4 drama pieces being showcased to family, friends and staff. Tickets are free and we currently have an audience of over 70, which is incredible to have so much support for our students. Tickets are available by emailing Mrs Hodges lhodges@dorcan.co.uk.

Attendance

We are working hard to improve our attendance to at least the National Average in all year groups which is a whole school focus. It was particularly notable that on the half day prior to our Open evening attendance was much lower than usual. We altered the curriculum that day so that students got four of their five lessons which means that if your child didn't attend, they missed vital learning time and will now have gaps in their knowledge. Please could you ensure that your child attends every session, whether it be a half day or the last day of term.

Studybugs

If you haven't already signed up for Studybugs to report your child's attendance, we would recommend that you do so, as this system is proving very efficient for us. The website can be found via the following link: [Studybugs – Sign In](https://studybugs.com/signin) which is <https://studybugs.com/signin>

Flu vaccines update

Further to our previous correspondence regarding flu vaccines, we have been asked to inform you that the date for the vaccinations has changed and will now take place on the 25th of January following guidance from the Government.

If your child has the flu vaccine in the meantime, we would be grateful if you could advise either ourselves (using the email address ngillett@dorcan.co.uk) or by completing the consent / refusal form on the original email. Please accept our apologies for any confusion on this matter.

Term dates

There has been some confusion about our term dates as we recently sent out to you our term dates for the **next academic year** to give you plenty of notice, which differ slightly from the Swindon borough council dates. The term dates for both this year and next year can be found on [our school website](#).

Term Dates: 2022-23

| 2022-23 Academic Calendar | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|---------------|----|------------|---|-----------|--------|----------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Student Days | | School holidays | | Bank holidays | | Inset days | | Induction | | Year 7 only in | | | | | | |
| Sep-22 | | | Oct-22 | | | Nov-22 | | | Dec-22 | | | | | | | |
| Week | B | A | B | A | B | Week | A | B | A | B | Week | A | B | A | B | |
| Mon | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Mon | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | Mon | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| Tue | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Tue | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | Tue | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| Wed | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | Wed | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Wed | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | |
| Thu | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Thu | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Thu | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Fri | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | Fri | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | Fri | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Sat | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | Sat | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Sat | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Sun | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 2 | Sun | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | Sun | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| Jan-23 | | | Feb-23 | | | Mar-23 | | | Apr-23 | | | | | | | |
| Week | A | B | A | B | | Week | A | B | A | B | Week | A | B | A | B | |
| Mon | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | Mon | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Mon | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | |
| Tue | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | Tue | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | Tue | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| Wed | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | Wed | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | Wed | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| Thu | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | Thu | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | Thu | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| Fri | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | Fri | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | Fri | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | |
| Sat | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | Sat | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | Sat | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Sun | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Sun | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Sun | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| May-23 | | | Jun-23 | | | Jul-23 | | | Aug-23 | | | | | | | |
| Week | A | B | A | B | | Week | A | B | A | B | Week | A | B | A | B | |
| Mon | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Mon | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Mon | 31 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Tue | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | Tue | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Tue | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Wed | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | Wed | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | Wed | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Thu | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | Thu | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | Thu | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Fri | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | Fri | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | Fri | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| Sat | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | Sat | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | Sat | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| Sun | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | Sun | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | Sun | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |

Term Dates 2023-24

| Term Dates 2023-24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|---------------|----------------|----|---------------|------|------|-----|-----|----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| | | Student Days | School holidays | Bank holidays | Inset days | Induction | Year 7 only in | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sep-23 | | | Oct-23 | | | Nov-23 | | | Dec-23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Week | B | A | B | A | B | Week | A | B | A | B | Week | B | A | B | A | B | | | | | | | |
| Mon | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | Mon | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | Mon | 30 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | | | | | | |
| Tue | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Tue | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | Tue | 31 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | | | | | |
| Wed | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Wed | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | Wed | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | | | | | | | |
| Thu | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | Thu | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Thu | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | | | | | | | |
| Fri | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Fri | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Fri | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | | | | | | | | |
| Sat | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | Sat | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | Sat | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | | | | | | | |
| Sun | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | Sun | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Sun | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | | | | | | |
| Jan-24 | | | Feb-24 | | | Mar-24 | | | Apr-24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Week | B | A | B | A | B | Week | B | A | B | Week | A | B | A | B | Week | A | B | | | | | | |
| Mon | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Mon | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Mon | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | Mon | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | | |
| Tue | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | Tue | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Tue | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Tue | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | | |
| Wed | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | Wed | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | Wed | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Wed | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | | |
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| Sat | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | Sat | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | | Sat | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | Sat | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Sun | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | Sun | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | Sun | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | Sun | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| May-24 | | | Jun-24 | | | Jul-24 | | | Aug-24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Week | A | B | A | B | Week | A | B | A | B | Week | A | B | A | B | Week | A | B | | | | | | |
| Mon | 29 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Mon | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | Mon | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | Mon | 29 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | |
| Tue | 30 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | Tue | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | Tue | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | Tue | 30 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | |
| Wed | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Wed | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Wed | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | Wed | 31 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | | |
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| Sat | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 1 | Sat | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Sat | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | Sat | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | |
| Sun | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | 2 | Sun | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | Sun | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | Sun | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | | |

Reminder

Please ensure that over the half term break your child does not do anything that will contravene our uniform policy and prevent them from attending lessons on their return. We want students in lessons learning but we are not prepared to lower our high standards.

Students return on **Monday 31 October 2022** which is a normal school day.

House points total

As at 14 October house points totals were as follows:

| Eagle | Falcon | Kingfisher | Osprey |
|-------|--------|------------|--------|
| 14430 | 11534 | 14797 | 17040 |

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sherryl Bareham
Headteacher