

8 February 2024

The Dorcan Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs S Bareham MBA GRSM

Dear Parents/Carers,

Character Kitemark

I am really excited to announce that we have been successful as a school in achieving the Character Kitemark which recognises that we are a school that places character at the heart of everything we do. The assessors spent a day in school assessing us against rigorous standards; they complimented us on the strength of the resources we had created, the way we had embedded character throughout every area of the academy and the quality of leadership. Much recognition must go to Mr Tanner, our Character Lead who has put his life and soul into supporting me, as Headteacher, with the whole school character strategy and implementation. The quality of his work is exceptional and as a staff body we wish to thank him for all his incredible hard work. We will receive a written report which I will share with you once received and then we will be able to use the character kitemark on our website and all our advertising materials. Mr Tanner is soon to send out the 3rd edition of our Character newsletter which we hope will enable you as parents to join with us on this character journey.

Parental Code of Conduct

As well as expecting our staff and students to model the Dorcan values of Be Kind, Show Respect and Do your Best we also need parents to do the same. We have therefore produced a [parental code of conduct](#) (attached) which sets out our expectations for parents whilst interacting with staff and students on the school premises or at school events. You can find a copy on our website under the policies section.

French Trip

Mrs Burnett wishes to remind those that are going on the French trip that all payments are now due (£460 total) and that there is a parents information evening about the trip on Monday 19th February from 6-7pm in the dining hall. Parents should bring their child's passport/GHIC card with them.

Academic Prep

We wish to remind everyone that we expect Academic Prep to be completed every time for KS3 and KS4. Academic Prep is specifically designed by teachers to consolidate and close gaps in your child's learning. Failure to complete Academic Prep will result in a central detention being issued but more importantly, will put your child at a significant disadvantage in their learning and examinations. We rely on parental support in ensuring students attend detention and failure to do so results in a day in the Reflection room, where students are required to complete work from their subjects but without the expertise of their specialist teachers. This is not recommended if your child is to achieve their very best. If your child is experiencing any difficulties with Academic Prep please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

Staff leaving

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to our wonderful DT technician, Mr Walen Junior who is going to the UTC to train to be a teacher. We are really going to miss him and wish him every success and

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happiness in his exciting new venture. If you know anyone that might be suitable for this role please direct them to our school website.

Vacancies

As Dorcan is now oversubscribed with first choice places, we are attempting to recruit new additional staff for September. It concerns me how few quality applicants are coming through and the shortage of teachers nationally is now at crisis point and the worst I've known it in my 35 year teaching career. If you do know anyone that you think would align with our values and be a great teacher or member of support staff please direct them to the vacancies page on our school website. We want to continue to ensure that your children are taught by high quality members of staff.

Osprey House success

Congratulations to Osprey House who had the highest average house points per student at the end of last year and who are entitled to wear non-uniform on Friday 9th February.

House points totals are as follows:

| House | Falcon | Eagle | Kingfisher | Osprey |
|---------------------|--------|-------|------------|--------------|
| Overall total | 84550 | 70110 | 79514 | 81574 |
| Average per student | 353.8 | 365.2 | 369.8 | 383.0 |

Character counters

The winners of the most character counters *this term* are as follows:

1st place – Kingfisher (234)

2nd place – Falcon (218)

3rd place – Eagle (202)

4th place – Osprey (163)

Overall character counter totals:

1st place – Falcon (835)

2nd place – Kingfisher (615)

3rd place – Osprey (567)

4th place – Eagle (443)

We wish you a safe, relaxing and happy half term break and look forward to seeing everyone again on **Monday 19th February.**

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Bareham
Headteacher