

“From the moment  
I walked through  
the door I felt  
welcome.”

*Year 7 student*

# Welcome

## Dorothy Stringer School



**Dorothy Stringer is a vibrant, thoughtful and happy community where it is safe to learn and where everyone can play their full part both inside and outside the classroom. We have high expectations and are ambitious for our students in an environment that promotes enjoyment in learning.**

At Dorothy Stringer we have an uncompromising commitment to what is best for our students. Today's students face a world that is changing at an ever-increasing pace. Students will need the learning skills, character and attributes that will prepare them for their adult lives. These include willingness to learn, self-discipline, creativity, independence, self-confidence and the ability to work well with others.

We work to ensure that all students achieve their full academic potential and challenge them to maximise their achievement. However, we believe that school is not just about academic success; we want our students to develop a broad set of skills. We are proud of the wide range of opportunities we offer outside the classroom in sport, performance, creativity and service.

We excel at nurturing our students in a safe and happy environment and believe that schools need to care for the emotional wellbeing of their students and understand their personal needs. We have created an atmosphere where students can be themselves and they are known and supported as individuals. Students have pride in the school and in their own achievement as well as in the achievement of others.



We are a community which is based on clear moral values and where there is a sense of belonging and identity. We work hard to develop partnerships with parents and to secure their interest, support and commitment. We aim to be a community in which we all can share and all are valued. We strive to make a difference in society and to influence the lives of others.



“I love Dorothy Stringer because it is a great environment - people want to learn and they respect one another.”

*Year 9 student*





# Creativity

## Enjoying learning

“The school’s rich curriculum offers impressive breadth, catering for diverse student interests.”

*External Challenge Partners review*

**We encourage curiosity in our students. We want the school to be a place of learning and enjoyment. We believe learning should be fun and exciting. We want our students to grow in confidence and to be enthusiastic about developing their talents.**

We encourage independence and creativity and aim to inspire our students. We want our students to try new things and to learn from their mistakes.

We value resilience, enquiry and encourage our students to direct their own learning and to learn with others. During their time with us, students learn to take realistic and responsible decisions based on their ability to approach and solve problems effectively.

Our aim at Dorothy Stringer is to provide all our students with an experience of education that gives them the optimism to face their exciting futures with confidence.



“Dorothy Stringer is a great place to make friends and achieve more than you thought you could.”

*Year 10 student*

# Excellence and aspiration

**Our focus on developing the whole young person is rooted in the context of our ambition for each individual to achieve their full academic potential. Our primary goal is to challenge all of our students to maximise their achievement.**

We believe that every student, irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, disability, specific ability or social background, is entitled to a relevant curriculum which promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, academic and physical development. Our curriculum prepares students for the opportunities,

responsibilities and experiences of adult life and encourages them to be considerate global citizens.

The curriculum conforms to the National Curriculum as laid down by the Government. However, we do not believe that a comprehensive school should offer the same curriculum to all students, but it should be appropriate to all.

We expect excellence and progress from each and every student, whilst recognising their particular talents and challenges.





“The extra-curricular activities are fantastic and provide an opportunity for anyone who wants to take part.”

*Year 9 student*

# Developing the whole young person

**Developing academic excellence is important, but so are the opportunities we offer outside the classroom in sport, performance, creativity and service.**

We aim to develop young people who are responsible and independent. We want them to be involved, to enjoy and to contribute to the many opportunities that the school offers them.

Every student participates in two hours of PE a week within the curriculum, which exposes them to a wide range of accessible and challenging activities. We also offer over 50 different extra-curricular clubs and opportunities that satisfy the widest range of student interest. The school aims to enable all students to experience positive and motivating individual and team opportunities to help ensure lifelong participation in sport and a healthy, active lifestyle. We encourage sporting excellence and competition.

The strong tradition of excellence in the performing arts promotes students' creativity, critical thought and collaborative working skills. In addition to a diverse and innovative curriculum, regular performance opportunities give students an authentic experience

of the world of performing arts and nurture those who may have aspirations to undertake a career in this field.

Dorothy Stringer runs an extensive and exciting selection of school trips and has developed close links with schools in Europe and Africa; these links enhance our students' sense of being part of a global community. We also organise a variety of international trips including ones to Iceland, Ghana and Berlin, which complement the school's curriculum.

Dorothy Stringer owns a unique outdoor activity centre, Dolawen, in north Wales, offering outdoor education trips for all year groups. This gives our students wonderful opportunities to try new activities, challenge themselves and develop inter-personal skills, by engaging with others in a fun and exciting way.

As a Green Flag Eco-School we encourage students to develop an appreciation of the natural world and an understanding of our place in it. Our approach to environmental education is focused on biodiversity using our educational pond, our nationally important butterfly haven and our managed urban woodland to give meaning to why we should live sustainably.



The Environment Centre and School site are used to illustrate how to do this and all students are encouraged to participate in the environmental debate.

Responding to the needs of others, in whatever way we can, is an important part of being a human being, and we are deeply proud of the way the Stringer community responds so willingly to helping others. We give generously to a wide range of local and national organisations and support our link school and community in Ghana. We also have a growing number of tutor and friendship groups who volunteer to support a charity in which they have a special interest.



# Caring for the individual

**We value and celebrate the diversity of our community, recognise each student as an individual learner and seek to meet their needs to achieve their potential. Our learning approaches are inclusive, recognising the different needs of students.**

We have developed a supportive and challenging environment for our students, including our pastoral structures so everyone is known as an individual and every student is supported. Each student has a tutor who is best placed to understand their needs. We understand the importance of emotional and physical wellbeing. Tutors get to know, listen to, nurture and inspire their tutees. They assist in monitoring

academic achievement as well as the personal and social development of their students.

We are proud of the supportive relationships that exist amongst our students. Senior students mentor and support younger students, they care about one another and take pride in their own and each other's achievements.

As a school we are respectful of the rights of others. We take personal responsibility for our actions. We want to develop understanding and compassion so our students take responsibility for their part in creating a better world.

“Pupils say they love coming to school. They behave well and feel very safe.”

OFSTED 2013



“Stringer has helped me academically but also encouraged me to speak out, be myself and have my own views.”

Year 9 student



“My son has thrived because the school has believed in him and have been there all the way.”

*Parent year 11*



BRIGHTON & HOVE AND LEWES DOWNS BIOSPHERE PARTNERSHIP



Loder Road, Brighton  
East Sussex, BN1 6PZ  
T: 01273 852222  
F: 01273 852310  
office@dorothy-stringer.co.uk  
www.dorothy-stringer.co.uk

If you wish to read our OFSTED 2013 report, it is available online at:  
[www.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/information/ofsted.html](http://www.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/information/ofsted.html)

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