

#STRINGER LEARNING @HOME

#StringerLearning@Home newsletter 2

Dear parents and carers,

We are now in our second week of remote learning and we hope, with our staff's expertise and guidance, you are finding ways to support your children's learning at home and are establishing rhythms and routines that work for you. We acknowledge that each and every one of our families is unique and what works in one home cannot be replicated in another. We have adopted a "mixed mode" approach to learning at home to ensure our expectations provide challenge for all of our students, whilst poverty proofing our provision so every child in our school community can continue to learn and progress. If remote learning is causing your child high levels of anxiety, use your judgement to alter the pace and the amount of work they do – no child will be sanctioned for missing deadlines.

Last week was a challenging learning curve for us all; we appreciate your positive responses and we continue to refine our resources, assignments and ways of working:

- **Each week, every teacher** (who remains well) **will email their class** to catch up, give whole class feedback to work that has been submitted and to set new assignments and reasonable deadlines. Please ensure you children access their school email account regularly
- Work can be handwritten or completed electronically – there should be no expectation that resources or completed work should be printed (of course you can do so if you are able to)
- Students should email completed work to their teacher when possible (see safeguarding advice attached to this message if photos or videos are sent to staff). If your child has no access to such technology, please help them file their work in an orderly way at home – when we return to school they can show their teachers the progress they've made.

Some parents have contacted us to ask who to contact if you or your child **needs additional support or advice**:

- If the question concerns home learning assignments, their class teacher is best placed to answer
- If you have pastoral concerns about your child's well-being or emotional health, then contact their Head of Year
- If your child has an EHCP please contact our SENCo, Mr Paul Watson paul.watson@dorothy-stringer.co.uk
- If you have safeguarding concerns please contact our designated safeguarding leads: Mr Giles Ward, Head of Lower School wrd@dorothy-stringer.co.uk or Mr Stewart Furini Head of Upper School frn@dorothy-stringer.co.uk
- Further guidance on well-being and emotional health can be found on our new web-page https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/Pages/stringer_wellbeing_at_home.aspx

After the Easter break we will be trialling on line, lessons for our GCSE classes in English maths and science – you and your children will be sent information about logging on and how to participate in the coming weeks. We hope to roll this out over the coming weeks as our staff are trained and become more familiar with using the technology required.

The Easter holidays begin next Monday and whilst we will not be setting any new school work some students (especially year 10s who are studying for their GCSEs) might want to use this breathing space to catch up with that set in this last fortnight. If you want suggestions for ways to engage your children we sent a list of “50 things to do in isolation” last week and there are plenty of engaging, fun activities on subject pages of the SLG and in the list below:

- [Artyfactory.com](https://www.artfactory.com) recommended by our art department has plenty of activities and tutorials to keep you creatively active
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/> a rich treasure trove of images, quizzes, podcasts that will allow your child to explore the world whilst stuck at home!
- <https://www.funbrain.com/> FunBrain is an educational browser game website for children and adults
- <https://www.brainpop.com/> BrainPop is a group of educational websites with over 1,000 short animated movies for students
- <https://www.audible.co.uk/> Download and listen to the world’s best storytelling. Enjoy audiobooks, original series and more on the free app. This is now free during the school closures
- <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home> a remarkable opportunity to watch 4 stunning productions offered free by the National Theatre. We also have a subscription to NT archive performances – students should contact Ms Ettinger ETT@dorothy-stringer.co.uk for the code to log on
- <https://www.thewell.world/mindful-music/mindful-poetry-moments> offers ways to find peace and relax with music and poetry
- And don’t forget our **Word of the Week** resources continue to published weekly on the SLG – teachers have been asked to award achievement points for students who use the work in assignments or correspondence.

We hope you find this guidance useful and supportive as we continue to create a new direction for learning during the closure of our physical school. Hopefully you will now have visited https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/Pages/stringer_learning_at_home.aspx as this is where we will continue to share ideas around learning at home.

Kind regards,

Liz Uren, Deputy Head Teacher