

#STRINGER LEARNING @HOME

#SL@H newsletter 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

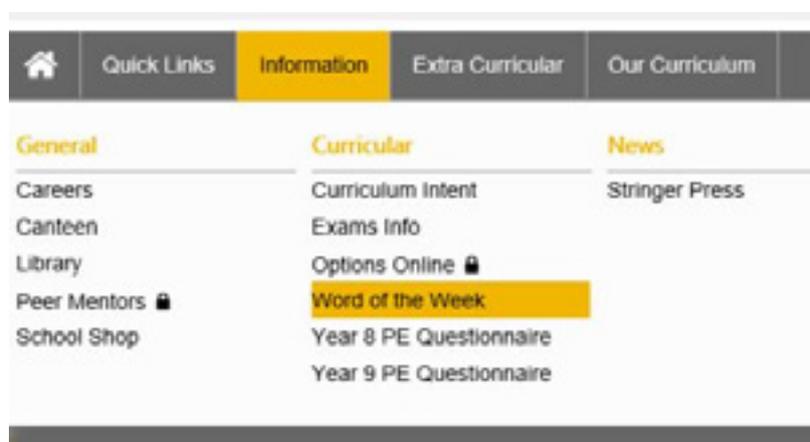
As we are now into our final half term of the school year, we'd like to reiterate our sincere thanks for the support you're giving children at home to help them complete and submit their home learning across the curriculum. Our teachers are working relentlessly to set appropriate and engaging assignments and we are delighted with the resilience and independence students continue to show. Teachers are also building formative assessment and regular feedback into their teaching approach through a mixture of quizzes, digital tools and modelling of good answers. These will help teachers understand how students are achieving, what progress they're making and where intervention is needed. As our 5th Stringer Learning@Home Galle shows so many of our students are tackling tackle their learning with real creativity and imagination too. This is real team effort and no mean feat; we are very aware that so many of you are spinning plates to ensure our children maintain important routines at home and we are grateful to you all.

Following guidance from the Department for Education we continue to offer a blended approach to home learning "in a range of formats, so that they are accessible to all, reducing the risk of pupils being left behind." We continue to use existing technology as the SLG platform is already familiar to staff, students and parents. However, as Mr Hillier informed you in his latest newsletter, we are now in the position to begin to rollout Office365 for everybody. We have been trialing **Microsoft Teams** which is a secure and safe way of collaborating. Staff have had some remote training on this and some may choose to use this with students over the coming weeks – they will contact their classes via email with details of how to log-on. You can download Teams onto an Android or iOS device as well as laptops or desktop clients.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to share with you some fantastic resources on offer to our students at this time:

- In addition to the remote learning offered by our teachers, we are also very pleased to be working with **Speakers for Schools**, who offering free livestreamed talks from some of the UK's top leading figures. Our students (and parents/carers if you wish) will be able to remotely attend masterclasses and hear interviews with speakers from across: business, arts, academia, media and more. Speakers share their own stories and expertise on a variety of subjects. Each week will be sent a schedule of talks, some of which class teachers may recommend for students, some of which you might simply be interested in attending. You can see the schedule of talks [here](#)
- This week we are encouraging our Y10 & Y11 students to engage in the national 'My Week of Work' event. This is a week-long **Virtual Work Experience programme**. It's free, safe for students to access alone, and allows for live interaction with employers via the Learn Live platform. Details about this week-long event have been emailed to Y10 & Y11 students by their PSHE teachers; students are encouraged to attend two live events every day this week.

- **Option choices:** In the next couple of weeks Year 8 will be sent confirmation of their practical subject option choices for next year and Year 9 will receive confirmation of their GCSE option choices. This is often an exciting time for students as they have made their first independent decision about their school curriculum.
- So many of our students continue to work conscientiously at home and showing a fantastic attitude to learning, they have been picking up plentiful Achievement Points from teachers in acknowledgement for this amazing effort. We want to reassure students and parents that these **Achievement Points will roll over into next year and be converted into our D Bucks currency** so they can spend as they wish when they return in the autumn.
- We'd also like to remind students and parents of the **Word of the Week** resource that can be found on your home screen of the SLG and the fact that they now have access to the back catalogue: as research proves explicit teaching of sophisticated vocabulary will enhance student progress across the curriculum: being word rich is a gateway to academic success.



- And finally, our Year 10 students had just started studying *Macbeth* in their English Literature lessons when school closed back in March. Of course we will continue with this when school returns next year but, in the meantime, there is a wonderful opportunity to watch an amazing RSC production on BBC iPlayer as part of the **RSC Culture in Quarantine** season: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p089zg9d>

Please remember you can access all documents and guidance we have published relating to learning and well-being at home on our website: https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/Pages/stringer_learning_at_home.aspx

As always, please do let your child's teachers and/or Head of Year know if your circumstances have changed, meaning it is difficult for your child to complete or submit their home learning assignments.

Kind regards,
Liz Uren
Deputy Head teacher