

Weekly News Update Friday 15 January 2021

Teaching and Learning in Lockdown

Thank you again for the effort that is going into your children accessing their remote learning. We understand there will be Wifi and technical glitches along the way, however we are all in this together, and are acquiring new skills and ways of making sure we can all learn in these exceptional times.

Next week we have our INSET day on Friday and school will be closed. It is a packed schedule for staff and will allow us to work on aspects of our school development plan. It is really important that we continue to look forward and dedicate time to staff training so we can support all students over the coming months and years.

We understand from parents/carers students learning at home would like a longer break in the middle of the day. To facilitate this, we will only operate full tutor times on two days a week. One day to allow for the assembly and another day for the check in with students. Heads of Year and tutors will communicate this to students separately and let them know the days for their tutor groups. On other days students have the chance to get a full break away from screens. If students would like a small group conversation, or an individual tutorial, then tutors will still be available to schedule these through Teams. Those in school will continue to operate as per the normal timetable.

We are starting to see a greater proportion of staff having to isolate with this new Covid strain, however, we are still operating the vast majority of lessons from school. We are asking those **students who are in school next week to please bring headphones into school** (we will have some sets here at school) as it is likely that for some lessons students will be bubbled into a classroom, or area with ICT access and access their Teams lessons this way. This will alleviate the need to cover a class if a teacher is unable to be in school as they are isolating. Each dedicated area will be supervised with a member of staff from the school.

Buses

The local authority has contacted us regarding the school buses. They have told Headteachers that, unfortunately It has been necessary to again withdraw a number of services across the city as usage has generally not increased. However, following the review of usage this week, the local authority has been able to reach an agreement with Brighton & Hove Buses that their 94A service will continue to run from Whitehawk via Hanover. The 94 will be combined with this so all services will run via Queen's Park Road and Elm Grove rather than Southover Street.

Book Collections

We are inviting Year 10 students to come into school next week to collect books and resources that will support learning at home. They should go to the rooms in which they are taught unless otherwise guided by their teachers. Please remind them to bring a bag to carry their book homes.

D-half: On Monday 18 January between 3.30 and 4.30
S-half: On Tuesday 19 January between 3.30 and 4.30

Options Evening for Current Year 9s - 21 January

Choosing Options for Years 10 and 11 (KS4)

We have reached the time in Year 9 where students have to select their options for their next two years. On Thursday, Mrs Cumming will be explaining the options process in detail to all students during one of their humanities lessons (Geography, History, RS, PSE or Computing). It is really important that students attend these lessons.

The 2021-23 options booklet has already been published on the SLG (Options Book) and website; https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/pages/options_booklet.aspx . Those students who are attending school will also receive a paper copy of the book on Friday.

On Thursday 21 January, there will be a Virtual Options Evening. This will run from 5:00 to 7:30, and is an opportunity for you and your child to find out more about the options on offer. The link for the evening will be emailed out on the day. The schedule will be as follows:

5:00 Pre-recorded Options Talk

5:30 Live moderated Q&A on the options process (through Zoom)

6:00 Individual options videos available. For each subject there will be a Frequently Asked Question list and the opportunity to email subject leads with questions. Subject leads will be available until 7:30.

Musical Instruments left at school

This half term, the Music Department are having a tidy up prior to students returning to school. They have a number of instruments in their store cupboard that belong to students. If your child has left their instrument at school, please email Mrs Flint at flt@dorothy-stringer.co.uk with a brief description of the instrument and who it belongs to so that they can be kept safe until it can be collected when the school reopens.

Condolences. - Sue Addis - Donatellos

We were devastated to hear news of Sue Addis's tragic death. Sue was a good friend to the PE and Dance department and her presence and friendship will be sorely missed. Sue's work with Dorothy Stringer started many years ago; her generosity and hospitality has touched the lives of thousands of Dorothy Stringer students. From team meals spent at Donatello to her generous donations to the work of the department, each student accessing PE, Dance and Sport will have benefitted from Sue's kindness.

Over the years, Sue's generous support of the PE department has meant that our students have been able to experience even more physical activity, the best equipment, the best kit and the best facilities. Sue was a keen dance enthusiast and was always interested in the work of the students. She helped fund the dance studio floor and was a keen supporter of the Dorothy Stringer Dance show. This passion and drive to help others has undoubtedly had an impact on the Dorothy Stringer community.

The PE and Dance department have lost an incredibly kind and generous friend. Our heartfelt condolences and thoughts go to the family at this difficult time.

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier

Important Dates for the remainder of this half-term

22.1.21 INSET – no lessons on INSET day

28.1.21 Early Closure at 2.15 for Year 9 Parents' Evening

Schoolcomms Checklist

In case you missed them we sent the emails below to parents and carers this week

Date:	Audience:	From:	Subject:
Year 7			
12/1/21	Year 7 Parents/Carers	Mrs De Brun & Miss Smith	Head of Year Message to Year 7
Year 9			
12/1/21	Year 9 Parents	Mr Knott	Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening
12/1/21	Year 9 Parents	Mrs Cumming	Options for Years 10 and 11 (KS4)
Year 10			
8/1/21	Year 10 Parents/Carers	Mrs Lloyd	Second Opportunity to Purchase Revision Books
Year 11			
8/1/21	Year 11 Parents/Carers	Mrs Lloyd	Second Opportunity to Purchase Revision Books
All Year Groups			
8/1/21	Parents / Carers	Mr Hillier	Update on School Bus
9/1/21	Parents / Carers	Mrs Lloyd	Support with Internet Access for Remote Learning