

Weekly News Update Friday 1 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the final week of the Spring term, we have seen a raft of revision sessions, drama auditions and sporting fixtures taking place in school. I was fortunate to watch the Year 10 / 11 rugby team in their match against Varndean this week, which ended with a resounding victory. The spirit, teamwork, respect and camaraderie were great to see and reminded me once again of how much we have all missed these opportunities. The skills that students gain from these sporting opportunities will stay with them for life.

I know too that many of our upper school students are excited by the prospect of the Year 10 ski trip next week, and the initial letter has already gone out to parents and carers of Year 9 students about next year's ski trip. The upcoming trip to Italy in May is now clearly in prospect, and the second of our Year 7 trips to Dolawen has been taking place this week. Follow us on our twitter accounts @dsdolawen and @SkiStringer to see more on the trips as they happen! Preparations are continuing apace for the formal examinations, and we are looking ahead to the return of Work Experience Week for Year 10, The Duke of Edinburgh Award and of course Enrichment Week in the Summer term.

This will be the final weekly communication of the Spring term as next week we will have our end of term newsletter, The Stringer Press. Friday next week is a normal full day of teaching and school finishes at 3.10pm. We return promptly for registration at 8.40 a.m. on Monday 25 April (Week 2 on the timetable). Our hope is the warm weather will be with us by the end of April and if so, therefore, coats will no longer be worn in lessons. We will send an update about this at the start of the new term.

Changes to measures and guidance for managing Covid-19 in education settings from Friday 1 April

The Government has set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England and these include the following:

- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college, or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting

As a school we continue to follow this guidance and understand it is not possible to order the free lateral flow testing kits through the government website. We continue to ventilate rooms, stagger our entrances to the canteen to allow year groups to stay together, and will keep our one-way system. When the warmer summer weather returns, we anticipate being able to return to assemblies in person and we have the flexibility to ramp up, or ramp down our mitigations if needed over the coming term. This blog is a useful overview of why the changes are happening:

[The Education Hub - Living with Covid: the end of routine testing](#)

Drama – Lower School Production Auditions

This week the Drama Department held auditions for the Lower School Production, which over 100 students attended. Thank you and well done to all involved! You can see more information and pictures from rehearsals on the newsletter item on our website.

PE news and results

This week the Year 9 Netball team finished the season on a high with a great performance ending in a resounding win. In Rugby news, special mention goes to Ernie T, Otto M and Felix J who represented the U14 Brighton Barbarians Rugby Team vs Newman. The final score was 40-29 to the Barbarians and Otto M was named Player of the Match.

More fixtures results below:

Year 7 Girls Football	Lost 1-0 to Cardinal Newman
Year 9 Netball	Won 18-9 against Varndean
Year 10/11 Rugby	Won 31-5 against Varndean
Year 7C Boys Football	Won 3-2 against Cardinal Newman
Year 8B Boys Football	Won 5-2 against Cardinal Newman and 4-1 against Blatchington Mill

Congratulations to everyone who participated and represented the school.

Musical success for Stringer student and fundraising concert

One of our Year 7 students, Richie, was recently involved in Springboard – the Brighton and Hove Performing Arts Festival, where he gained second place in competition for Grades 6-7 violin performance, which is a great achievement. Richie also represented Brighton and Hove in the Rotary Club Young Musician competition, where he was the youngest competitor. He received some fantastic feedback and praise from the judges. Well done, Richie!

Richie will also be performing along with other child musicians at a children's fundraising concert organised by a Dorothy Stringer parent at St Michael and All Angels' church on **Sunday 3 April 4-6pm**. Music from Bach to musical theatre, jazz and tango will be performed. There is a voluntary suggested donation of £10 per household and monies raised are being used to help Ukrainian refugees in Brighton and Hove.

Eco Schools Committee

This week the Eco Schools committee have had a busy week. They have been analysing the school energy data through the Energy Sparks website - please see the newsletter item on the SLG to read about their outcomes and plans to move forward to save energy. Along with some of our Year 7 and 8 classes, the Eco Schools Committee have also been digging over patches of ground and planting wildflower seeds as part of two different projects, the Brighton and Hove City of Meadows project and The Superbloom event. Read more about these projects, and how students are getting involved, in the newsletter item on the SLG.

Reminder: Year 11 Leavers' Yearbooks – *last chance to order*!

Deadline for orders: Friday 8 April 2022

The class of 2022 yearbooks are made up of 76 pages in a hardback A4 book. It includes memories for the students such as letters from the Headteacher, Head of Year, and Form tutors; Year 7 and Year 11 school photos; tutor group photos; Year Group Awards voted by students, and much more.

Yearbooks are £12 each and can be purchased via the School Gateway system, which can easily be accessed by using the following link: <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>.

If you have any questions, please email communications@dorothy-stringer.co.uk. If you require any financial assistance regarding the above, then please contact our Financial Support Officer (FSO)

fso@dorothy-stringer.co.uk

Reminder: FREE 3-day Easter Drama and Dance holiday club

For those eligible, HAF provides free childcare, respite and opportunities for children and young people to have fun and socialise throughout the holidays. Participants also receive a nutritious meal as part of their session. Early booking is recommended.

Eligibility: School-aged (Reception to Year 11) and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM). Dates: 11-13 April 2022 09.30-16.30

Contact: Email Gareth: sussex@helengrady.co.uk or Call: 07980 607139

Local Authority message - support available for families

The last two years have been a difficult time and we know that many families are struggling with money and affording healthy food. However, there is support available. You may be eligible for free school meals for your child [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK](#).

The Brighton and Hove Food Partnership has lots of useful information on how to access emergency food parcels <https://bhfood.org.uk/resources/accessing-emergency-food-parcels/>. Everyone across the City can buy low-cost shopping if they need to. More information is available here: <https://bhfood.org.uk/how-to-hub/low-cost-and-free-community-shopping/>. If you are pregnant or have a child under 4 you may also be able to get help to buy milk, fruit and vegetables. [Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#). If you would like any more information on any of the above, please contact Giles Ward: WRD@dorothy-stringer.co.uk.

Reminder: Tickets now on sale for Prom – Friday 1st July 2022

We are excited to be returning to the AMEX after a break for the last two years, for Year 11 students to celebrate completing their examinations and their time at Stringer. Further information has been sent home and a link to the letter can be found on the Trips page of the SLG.

Root Word of the Week – Quer, quir, ques, quis, meaning ‘search, ask’

- **Quest** – a long or arduous search for something
- **Inquisition** – a period of prolonged and intensive questioning
- **Query** – a question, especially one expressing doubt or requesting information

Key Dates

Easter holidays: Monday 11-Friday 22 April 2022

Year 8 Parents’ Evening (Via video call): Thursday 28 April 2022

Bank holiday: Monday 2 May 2022

Key Dates for 2021/2022 and 2022/3 are on our website: https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/pages/key_dates.aspx

**Note: If any of the hyperlinks in this update do not work, please copy and paste the link address into your address bar.*

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier