

Dear Parents/Carers

As we start a new month, the seasonal changes have certainly kicked in with the warmer weather of September changing to wind and rain. With this in mind, it is really important that students have a raincoat to keep them warm and dry on the way to and from school. We are also acutely aware that some of our clubs start at 7.40am and with temperatures already much colder in the mornings, so this weekend is a good time to dig out these autumnal items. See the extra-curricular timetable for more information about school clubs.

The next three weeks are packed with both sporting fixtures, rehearsals for drama and music, as well as our annual open evening next Thursday 7 October. We have an early closure on Thursday and then a late start on Friday morning, when students should be in school for registration at 9.40am. This is to accommodate the late evening for our students who are helping out on Open Evening. Thank you to all those students who are helping, they play such an important part of our Open Evening, especially for Year 6s, we can hear first-hand what Stringer has to offer.

We know that current Year 7 families missed out on a live Open Evening last year and we are looking at how we can accommodate families for tours on the afternoon of 15 November, which is an INSET day. More information will follow in future communications.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We are looking for a parent or carer to join our Governing Board. We have the provision for four parent governors and there is currently one vacancy to fill.

If you are interested in joining the Governing Board please see the newsletter for more information and associated paperwork

Sussex NHS Consent Form for Covid-19 Vaccinations for students aged 12-15

We are in liaison with the NHS Sussex Immunisation Service to agree exact dates for their team to administer the COVID-19 vaccinations to students at Dorothy Stringer, aged 12-15 year olds, who have completed the NHS consent forms.

The NHS Immunisation Team have indicated that they will be in school on 14 October however they cannot confirm times/dates for individuals until such time as they know the number of students to be vaccinated. Therefore, the deadline for completing consent forms is Wednesday 13 October.

Track & Trace

Some parents and carers have contacted us asking for clarity on self-isolation guidelines for siblings. If a student has been in close contact with someone who is positive, even if it is their sibling who has tested positive, they do not need to isolate. They are able to attend school, but they should continue to test using home testing.

If your child is showing any of the symptoms of COVID, or has a positive Lateral Flow Test, they should book a PCR test and isolate until the result is negative. They do not need to isolate once the result comes back negative and should return to school if they are well enough to do so.

We have updated our website with the current advice

https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/Pages/covid-19_information.aspx

Year 11 – Post 16 events

There are some important events coming up for Year 11s to help them decide what to do when they leave Stringer. On Thursday 7 October there is a large scale online event created for Year 11 students and their parents/carers in Sussex. It is hosted by Get Careers Confident (GCC). Another important event for parents, carers and our Year 11 students is our Post-16 Pathways evening on Thursday 14 October. An email has been sent to Year 11 students and their parents and carers with more information.

The Big Choir Returns

Finally, we are thrilled to see the return of the Big Choir! Students and staff have been invited to join in the Big Choir to take part in the 'BIGgest night of the school calendar', the Carol Service. Rehearsals started this week and will continue every Monday afterschool and will continue until the big night itself, Thursday 16 December.

Root Word of the Week - 4 October: Cosm – Universe, world, order

Examples include: Cosmos; Microcosm; Cosmology

Key Dates

- Thursday 7 October Open evening – early closure
- Friday 8 October Late - start for students – Registration at 9.40am
- Friday 22 October: staff INSET school closed for students

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

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier