

Weekly News Update Friday 04 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

With just over a week to go until the half-term break, students have been busy not only in lessons, but also with the intermediate Maths challenge, at various lunchtime clubs and with preparations for the dance show in March.

Half-term for Brighton and Hove (and East Sussex) is a different week to those schools in West Sussex this term. Our half-term week is 14-18 February, and we return on Monday 21 February, which will be a Week 1 on the timetable. Year 11 students have their second set of mock exams when we come back, and next week the exam boards and Ofqual will be providing further details about this summer's examinations.

Stringer Dance Show (Saturday 19 March) at Brighton Dome

Our students have been working very hard preparing their dance routines for this fantastic event. A reminder that tickets are now available to purchase from the Brighton Dome Box Office at a price of £10.00. You can use this link to book: [Stringer Dance Show tickets](#)

Stringer Students' Success in UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

During the Autumn Term, all of our Lower School students, as well as our Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Computer Science students competed in this year's Bebras Computing Challenge online. The challenge is run in partnership with Oxford University with the aim of enthusing students about Computer Science.

Our students performed fantastically across the challenge. Year 7 competed in the Junior Challenge, Years 8 and 9 in the Intermediate Challenge and Years 10 and 11 in the Senior Challenge. A special mention to Orlando G-B in Year 7, Daniel B in Year 9 and Charlie B in Year 11 who were all awarded Best in School certificates for their performance in their respective challenges. Huge congratulations go to our students who received a Gold Award. This places them in the top 10 per cent of students who competed across the country. They have been invited to take part in the Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC). In total, 37 Year 7 students, 56 Year 8 and Year 9 students and eight of our GCSE Computer Science students have qualified for the next round. We wish them all the best of luck in the OUCC first round which takes place next week.

PE news and results

In PE news this week, Dorothy Stringer hosted a long-awaited Brighton and Hove Schools Netball tournament. Our Year 11 team won all their matches in the pool comfortably and went through to the final against Cardinal Newman. They should be proud of their excellent performance and of taking second place overall – a great result.

Full results below:

Year 11 Girls Netball	Won all pool matches; eventually lost 6-1 in the final to Cardinal Newman.
Year 9A Boys Football	Lost 3-1 in the Brighton & Hove Schools League to a well organised Newman team who scored their goals from three corners.
Year 9B Boys Football	Won 1-0 vs Longhill
Year 8 Girls Netball	A team won 8-1 v Vardean A team won 6-0 v PACA B team won 6-1 v Vardean

	B team won 4-0 v PACA
Year 7 Boys Rugby	Won 55-15 against Beacon Academy – some outstanding performances.
U15 Boys Basketball	Lost narrowly to Bohunt Worthing 78-72
U13 Girls Cricket	Great performances from our newly put together side.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the fixtures and represented the school. We would also like to say a huge well done to Izzy, Frankie and Angus who took part in the East Sussex Schools Table Tennis event last weekend. Teresa Bennett, the event organiser, contacted us to congratulate them on how well they performed in the tournament, securing Dorothy Stringer two Silver medals: 'In the Under 13 boys Frankie reached the semi-final but Angus did one better getting to the final playing against a student from St Andrews Prep. Izzy was runner up in the under 13 girls and just lost out to a student from Patcham High.' Teresa Bennett – School Games Organiser HRS GP.

Reminder: Year 10 Work Experience Forms – deadline extended to 20 February 2022

We would like to remind parents and carers to complete the relevant forms by the end of half term. Links for these can be found on the newsletter item below. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Work Experience Team via email: workexperience@dorothy-stringer.co.uk or telephone on 01273 852213.

Major works to Brighton train line – Saturday 19 February to Sunday 27 February 2022

For those planning travel at half term, we have been notified about disruption to the normal train service. There will be no trains at the following stations and rail replacement buses will run instead: Balcombe, Haywards Heath, Wivelsfield, Burgess Hill, Hassocks, Preston Park, Plumpton, Cooksbridge. A Brighton to London Victoria train service will run via the Arun Valley. Work for this project will also close the line on the following weekends:

Saturday 12 – Sunday 13 February 2022

Saturday 5 – Sunday 6 March 2022

Sunday 3 April 2022

Public health message

As I'm sure you are aware, we are still seeing high and rising Covid rates locally. Please see public health reminders below:

- If you have any Covid symptoms, however mild, you must self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test.
- If you test positive on a PCR test or lateral flow test you must self-isolate. Register your lateral flow test result so that you receive advice about what to do next. You no longer need to order a PCR test to confirm a positive LFD test.
- Continue with regular symptom-free LFD testing
- Secondary schools will continue to provide tests kits for pupils to use twice weekly,
- Other family members should [order online](#) or pick up test kits from pharmacies, Jubilee Library, or Hove Town Hall.
- Please report all results so that you receive the most up-to-date guidance.
- Adults in the household should take lateral flow tests before you meet others, socialise or go to crowded or enclosed places or where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- Get your Covid vaccines as soon as you can by [booking online](#) or by attending a [walk-in](#).
- Reduce your close contacts and keep groups small.
- Meet outside where possible or open a window.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitiser regularly and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Continue to wear a face covering in all crowded or enclosed spaces, including when you're on public transport.

Root Word of the Week – theo, relating to god, religion

Theology – the study of the nature of God and religious belief

Pantheism – a group of particularly respected, famous, or important people

Theocratic – relating to or denoting a system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god

Key Dates:

Half Term: Monday 14 February–Friday 18 February 2022

Key Dates for 2021/2022 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