

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been wonderful to have the whole school back together this week and see students settling back, not only into their learning, but also the social side of school as well. The new Year 7s are settling in well and are quickly adapting to finding their way around the school, experiencing new lessons, meeting new friends and learning the routines here. As we launch our extra-curricular programme, I have no doubt many will find a club to join so they can make the most of what Stringer has to offer them. Years 7 & 8 will be invited to attend the Clubs Fair in the sports hall on Friday 22 September. Please check the newsletter for list of clubs.

A fresh start

We are excited to start this new academic year with a new vision and set of core values to develop and strengthen Dorothy Stringer's reputation for offering relevant, high quality education. We felt that the old school motto of Industry and Integrity didn't reflect the world in which our students live in today. Our new school motto "EDUCATION FOR LIFE" underpins our new strategic vision that will take the school into the future. Education never ends, and we are always learning and developing, adapting our curriculum and making sure we are preparing students for the ever-changing world. Last year we worked with students, staff and governors to find out what they believed our core values should be. Collectively they identified three areas they believe we should focus on as a school: Creativity, Resilience and Respect. Over the course of the year we will work together to embed our values into the everyday life of the school and place them at the heart of everything we do.

COVID Updates

Thank you for bearing with us as we completed our "mass testing" this week. Students should now test at home twice weekly until the end of September whilst we await further guidance. We know many households are still experiencing cases and families are following the advice, for which we are grateful. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 if the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, NHS Test and Trace will inform affected individuals, children or their parents or carers that they have been in close contact with a positive case, and advise them to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Anyone with a positive test result will need to:

- self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](#)
- [book a further test](#) (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result.
- Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.
- If the PCR test is taken within the 2 days following the positive LFD result, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and your child can return to school
- NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

Meet the Tutor Evenings for All Year Groups

Parents/carers will receive an email from their child's form tutor inviting them to a virtual event on Monday 20 between 5 & 6. This will be an evening to meet their child's form tutor, to find out about the pastoral support available as we now have non-teaching pastoral managers in every year group.

Prepare your Child for GCSE

On Tuesday 14 September we will be holding online webinar for the parents of students in Year 10: 'Prepare your Child for GCSE'. The aim will be to give some general information and advice on the next two years. There will be an opportunity to submit questions. You must register in advance of the event by using the link provided below, once you have registered you will be sent a link and password for the webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BUaQ3loAT4aU7jd4pPY1lq

Contact Information

Our SIMS Manager has asked us to remind parents and carers to check that your information on the SLG is correct. If there are any errors, please complete the online Data Collection Sheet with the correct details. It is easily accessible as it is on the front page under My Children Links

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier

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