

## **Weekly News Update Friday 11 February 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another half-term, I would like to thank the staff, students and wider community for continuing to ensure we offer students a high-quality education. Teaching staff have worked extremely hard, going above and beyond, to help provide cover this half term, and we would like to thank our admin and support staff too for their dedication and commitment to keeping things running in these challenging times. As you will be aware, we were forced as a last resort to close one Year group for the last two days of this half term in order to remain open safely for the rest of the school. Thank you for your understanding and support at this time. I hope the half term break will have a positive impact on reducing local Covid rates and I anticipate that we will be able to re-open fully to all Year groups when we return on Monday 21 February. Looking ahead, I am pleased to announce that we will be making some improvements to our Science department and these works will be undertaken over the summer. In addition, the long-awaited additional toilets have been agreed by the local authority and planning is proceeding apace.

I wish all our families a relaxing half-term break and I know that staff are looking forward to a digital detox over the next week. I hope all our staff and students will return refreshed and ready for the new half term.

### **Examinations 2022**

The exam boards have published advance information on the content of most Summer 2022 exams, including GCSEs, on their public websites. This is part of an unprecedented package of support for students, including changes to non-exam assessment, providing formulae and equation sheets in some exams and more generous grading, to help make exams as fair as possible for students. There is no advance information for Art and Design as they do not have written exams, and GCSEs in English Literature, History, Ancient History and Geography have some optional topics or content instead of advance information. For the latest information, please refer to Ofqual's [rolling update](#). Subject staff will share relevant updates with students; however, all adaptations can be found on the appropriate exam board website. The exam boards we use (as well as the exams timetable) can be found on our exam page on the SLG: [Year 11 Exams Information](#).

### **Dorothy Stringer Platinum Pudding Competition**

Calling all keen chefs and bakers! In celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, we will be running our very own Dorothy Stringer Community Platinum Pudding Competition. The competition is open to all students and staff, and will consist of planning a pudding, writing up the details, cooking and submitting supporting photos to the Food Technology department. The judges will then shortlist the entries to go through to a semi-final cook-off in school. Those who make it through to the final will be judged by Mr Desborough and Mr Hillier, with the winner being announced as the Stringer Platinum Pudding Competition Winner 2022 and receiving a baking-related prize. Further details can be found here: [School Newsletter](#)

### **Children's Mental Health Week – Revision of SLG Student Support Page**

To help support our students' mental health and wellbeing, this week four members of our Junior Leadership Team (JLT) have been making presentations to Year 8 tutor groups to let them know about a new Student Support Page on the SLG. This has been created by the students, working together with Paul Watson (SENCo) and Mark Wood (IT Network Manager). The students' vision was to have one page where information that is important to student wellbeing could all be found easily, and students could access advice and links to support they might need. The students,

Jonah M, Cassidy B, Emma M and Iona T, deserve credit for their vision, focus and dedication to ensuring that support is accessible to the Dorothy Stringer student community.

We would also like to share the following resources for parents, carers and students, taken from Place2Be's website:

Activity for students to explore personal growth: [My Changing Shapes | Children's Mental Health Week 2022](#)

Place2Be's Website: [Parents and Carers - Children's Mental Health Week](#)

### **National Apprenticeships Week 2022**

This week has also been National Apprenticeship Week. All students have had an assembly about apprenticeships, appropriate for their year group. Each year we will provide students with a little more information, so that when the time comes to decide on pathways after their time at Stringer, students can make an informed choice. Parents and carers with children in Year 10 and Year 11 who are interested in applying for an apprenticeship can view the pre-recorded assembly, made by the Department for Education's ASK Apprenticeships, on our webpage linked below. On this webpage you can also find lots of useful information and resources surrounding apprenticeships. [apprenticeships \(dorothy-stringer.co.uk\)](#) To coincide with National Apprenticeships Week 2022, Alex Burghart, Minister for Skills, has written to students and parents about the opportunities and benefits apprenticeships can bring to young people. The links to these letters are here:

[Open the letter to students](#)

[Open the letter to parents, carers, and guardians](#)

### **Brighton Bowling Club – Preston Drove**

We have had a report from the Brighton Bowling Club on Preston Drove that Dorothy Stringer students have been sitting on the bowling green and some of these students have been climbing on the Bowling Club building. These gatherings have been taking place after school. Therefore, please can you inform your child that they are not allowed to meet up at the Brighton Bowling Club. Form tutors will be reinforcing this message with their tutees. Thank you for your support with this matter.

### **Year 11 Prom – Friday 1 July 2022**

After a break for the last two years, we are pleased to announce the return of Prom this year. This will be held at the AMEX for Year 11 students to celebrate completing their examinations and their time at Stringer. Further information has already been sent home and a link to the letter can be found on the Trips page of the SLG.

### **Woodland Working Day – Saturday 26 February 10am-2pm**

On Saturday 26 February we will be hosting another woodland working day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome to attend, and drinks and biscuits will be provided. Come and enjoy the school woodland and help with some maintenance to improve the biodiversity. Enjoy the Spring flowers and meet other like-minded families.

### **PE news and results**

In the first week back after half term many clubs will not be running. This is due to exams and staff meetings. Please make sure you check the SLG (student notices) to see whether your child's club is on. All clubs usually in the Sports Hall or Fitness Suite will not be on.

Fixtures results below:

U12 Boys Rugby	Beat Worthing in the County Cup
Year 8 Rugby	Varndean / BACA – an evenly fought contest, with Stringer coming out on top.
Year 9b Boys Football	Lost 2-1 to BACA
U15 Girls Cricket	Hosted at BACA – Stringer came 2nd
Year 10 Basketball	Stringer came 6th
Year 11 Basketball	Stringer came 3rd

**Reminder: Tickets now on sale for Stringer Dance Show (19 March) at Brighton Dome**

We are excited to be running our very own Dorothy Stringer Dance Show at the Brighton Dome and students have been working very hard preparing their dance routines. Tickets for this event 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](#)

**Key Dates**

**Half Term:** Monday 14 February–Friday 18 February 2022

**Year 11 Parents' Evening:** Thursday 3 March 2022

**Inset Day (school closed to students):** Friday 18 March 2022

**Year 7 Parents' Evening:** Thursday 24 March 2022

**Easter holidays:** Monday 11-Friday 22 April 2022

**Key Dates** for 2021/2022 and 2022/3 are on our website: [https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/pages/key\\_dates.aspx](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