

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we had our Year 9 virtual parents' evening and I know how valuable those conversations were about options choices as well as students' progress. It has been a great pleasure for me this week spending time in the science department, observing lessons and speaking with students, and I am also happy to announce that we have successfully recruited new staff to provide further capacity in this area.

Yesterday the Government's Plan B restrictions came to an end and face coverings are no longer mandatory in indoor venues. Staff and students may now make their own informed choice on wearing a face covering in school, and we continue with our other covid protocols, including ventilation, one-way systems and staggered use of the canteen.

We are pleased that we are now able to offer more trips and visits for students. As well as Year 7 students going to Dolawen, we have two separate trips to Italy for Year 8 (one at Easter and one during Enrichment Week), and our ski trip makes a welcome return. As a school we will follow the latest guidance from both the Local Authority and the Foreign Office on travel. Further information can be found here about the current rules for each country: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

For those planning travel in the summer holidays, a reminder that our school term ends on Thursday 21 July. This is a day earlier than previously published, owing to the extra bank holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Autumn term 2022/3 starts for new Year 7 students on Friday 2 September (Thursday 1 September is an INSET day) and the whole school returns on Monday 5 September.

Year 9 Options deadline

A reminder that the deadline for Year 9 students to submit their Options choices is 3 p.m. next Friday 4 February. Students needing support with this should see Mrs Cumming, who will be happy to help.

Let's Dance (14 –18 March) and Stringer Dance Show (19 March) at Brighton Dome

Let's Dance is the largest celebration of schools' dance in the country, bringing together youth dance from 78 schools, groups, universities and colleges from the local area to perform together on the stage at Brighton Dome. The event is organised and managed by Dorothy Stringer and after a year off we are very much looking forward to its return. Tickets will go on sale to the public soon.

On Saturday 19 March, we are excited to be running our very own Dorothy Stringer Dance Show at the Brighton Dome. Our 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](#)

Uniform Consultation

As you know, last term the Dorothy Stringer governing body approved an interim uniform policy, adopting a wellbeing-focused approach using recent UCL Institute of Education and Dept of Education guidance as reference points. ([DfE guidance on cost of uniform](#) is here, the UCL guidance [here](#) and a piece in the TES about it [here](#).) We have formed a Uniform Working Group, consisting of staff working on wellbeing and anti-racism, representatives of the governing body, parents and experts. Our next stage is to put the uniform policy out to consultation with staff, parents and carers, and students.

We are pleased to announce that Dr Sara Bragg will be leading the consultation process. Dr Bragg leads the MA programme in Education and Social Justice at IOE UCL's Faculty of Education and Society and is a co-author of the UCL uniform guidance document that we have adopted. Dr Bragg will begin the consultation process with staff after half term and will then gather the views of students, parents and carers. We appreciate all your feedback so far and will keep you updated on the plans for further discussion over the coming weeks.

PE news and results

In PE news this week, Year 7 Interhouse Tag Rugby had over 50 students participating. Fixtures results are below, with some closely fought matches this week:

U16 Girls Football	Lost to Warden Park
U14 Girls Football	Drew 0-0 with Cardinal Newman in the Brighton League
Year 7 Boys Football	Beat Uckfield 2-0 in the County Cup
Year 8B Boys Football	Lost to Longhill 1-0
Year 8 Rugby	Lost to Patcham 5-2
Year 9A Boys Football	Lost to Downland 4-3
Year 9B Boys Football	Beat Kings 2-0 in their first game of the year

Well done to everyone who participated in the fixtures and represented the school.

Brighton and Hove City Council – Help with food, fuel and other essential costs

A wide range of support is available in Brighton and Hove this winter to help residents struggling with fuel bills and other essential costs. To find out more and apply, go to www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/household-support-fund or call the Community Hub on 01273 293117 (option 2).

Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative (BHESCO) offer free home visits and advice to residents who are struggling to pay their energy bills. For more information, go to <https://bhesco.co.uk/fuel-poverty-energy-bills-brighton-hove>

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership offer local support available for people struggling to buy food. More information can be found here:

Food Emergency: <https://bhfood.org.uk/resources/referring-to-a-food-bank/>

Root Word of the Week – Pre, meaning 'before'

Previous – existing or occurring before in time or order

Predicate – to found or base something on

Apprehend – arrest (someone) for a crime, or to understand or perceive something

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