

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of the first week back after the half-term break, it's been lovely to see how well the students have focussed on their learning in lessons. The weather too has certainly helped students enjoy their break and lunchtimes, with some senior staff even joining in the games of football taking place on the field.

The Orchestra struck up their first rehearsal this week as well, it was great to see the participation both in this and the extra-curricular Drama and PE. We offer a raft of creative subjects and know how important these are to develop well rounded individuals.

We were also able to record students receiving their tutor group and subject awards this week. It was wonderful to celebrate all the student successes and to note their resilience during this past year. We have a former student, who hosted the BAFTA awards, coming in to record the keynote speech and I hope many of you will be able to watch the virtual awards evening when it is released.

We are mindful that although there is some normality back, the rates have started to increase with the new delta variant. We have not had any positive tests in school this week, however I would ask that families regularly test so we are able to limit any potential transmission in school. We continue to make sure rooms are ventilated and the main doors are kept open, together with our staggered slots, and one-way systems which will be an aspect of the school we will keep once the pandemic is over.

Year 10 End of Year Exams

Year 10 exams will start on 23rd June and last for a week. For this year group, this will be the first opportunity to experience formal exam arrangements; we run the exams like formal GCSEs, so that students can potentially make mistakes now rather than in the real GCSEs. Students will be in lessons when not in exams, but will be allowed to do supervised revision in those lessons. Subjects have given out revision lists, so we hope revision is well underway. These exams are a perfect opportunity for teachers and students to judge their progress and identify targets for the start of Year 11.

Each child has been sent a personalised timetable, this tells them where their exam is and the duration. If your child is entitled to extra time this is included in this figure. Students in the Sports hall will have been given their precise seat. It is important that they carry this with them so they can seat themselves quickly in the hall.

This weekend is a perfect time for students to ensure that they have all of the equipment they need for the exams, including Maths equipment and scientific calculators. Having more than one pen and more than one sharpened pencil are a good idea to avoid wasted time. Students are required to have their equipment in a clear plastic pencil case or clear plastic bag. Students may bring water into exams, but this must be in a clear bottle with no labels, logos or measurements on them.

Year 9 End of Year Maths Assessments

Year 9 will have their end of year Maths assessments on Tuesday 22nd June. As for Year 10 exams, these will take place in the Sports hall under formal conditions. Again, this weekend is a perfect time to ensure they are fully equipped for the assessments.

Basketball taster opportunity

Brighton Cougars are offering all Year 7, 8 and 9 girls a free Basketball Taster session during the school day on Wednesday 16th June. This will include some key skills in dribbling, passing and shooting. Followed by some games. All girls are welcome to come and try it out. This will be taking place from 2pm. If you would like to sign your daughter up or for more information, please just email Mr Corrigan (CGN@dorothy-stringer.co.uk).

Summer term extra-curricular timetable

Our current extra-curricular activity timetable can be found on the newsletter item below, this includes a separate PE & Dance timetable. If your child wishes to find out further information please do speak with their tutor, or alternatively their subject teacher who can let them know about opportunities that are running.

Word of the week: 14th June - Aspiration = A hope or ambition of achieving something.

The suffix, "tion", means an act or process so the literal definition is the act of hope or ambition to achieve something.

Key Dates for your diary:

24 June 2021	Year 10 internal exams
2 July 2021	Remote work experience day – Year 10
15 July 2021	Year 10 Parents Evening - (Remote)
22 July 2021	End of summer term – 12.30 finish
12 August 2021	GCSE results

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier | Headteacher