

Weekly News Update Friday 12 February 2021

We reach the end of another unusual half-term and I know staff, as well as students, are looking forward to time away from computers, microphones and webcams. Over the half-term break it will be an opportunity to re-charge so we are ready to support students in their learning and well-being for whatever the next half-term will bring.

We know that constant screen time is a concern for parents and students and although we have restricted some tutor times, we will look again after half-term at some additional days away from screens which we hope will motivate and support all students through these challenging months. To support the students we've added some new resources to the [#StringerWellbeing@Home pages](#) which parents and carers may find helpful if they are worried about their child's mental health during the pandemic.

Finally, after six weeks of online learning we have added a short survey which we would appreciate you completing so we can plan for the next few weeks before the proposed gradual full re-opening of schools.

[Parent Survey – Microsoft Form](#)

[Note: if you are unable able to access the form when you click the link please try cutting and pasting the link to your web browser]

You can keep up to date with the latest Government Guidance on our website:

[Covid-19 Advice and Information](#)

Dorothy Stringer Photo Calendar Competition

We are inviting entries for the Stringer Photography Competition with a different category for each month of the year. These will make up our school calendar for the next academic year. This year we would love to get you, our parents and carers, involved too. The deadline for entries is Friday 7 May so plenty of time to take some photos and search the archives for your favourite images. For full details follow this link: <https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/Documents/Photo%20Competition%20Information.pdf>

Covid cases

We are still reporting any confirmed cases to public health England and undertaking track and trace over the break. If there are any confirmed cases and you have been in school, please report these to covid@dorothy-stringer.co.uk so we are able to contact anyone who has been in close proximity.

Wishing you and your families a restful half-term break.

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier

Important Dates

Monday 15 - Friday 19 – Half-term break (school closed to all students)

Thursday 25 February – Year 11 Parents' Evening – Virtual using school cloud system

May we also remind you that as per usual when a Parents' Evening takes place, **school will finish at 2.15pm**, to allow for preparation for the evening. Teachers are also likely to set work during Period 4 rather than teaching an online lesson.

Monday 8th March – proposed phased return to English schools from 8 March

Thursday 18 March – Year 7 Parents' Evening – Virtual using school cloud system

Thursday 1 April – End of Spring term