

Weekly News Update Friday 15 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

With just a week to go before the half-term break, we have been trying to accommodate a number of sporting fixtures. It was good to cheer the Year 8 boys football team on against a competitive St Pauls at home this week. The music department are also in full flow preparing for the Christmas concert which will, no doubt, come around quickly.

Over the last couple of weeks many of us will have experienced issues with fuel shortages and been impacted by shortages of HGV drivers. We have noticed the issues surrounding delayed deliveries and limited stocks of certain products, which some students may have experienced in the canteen. However, we continue to provide a full service during these testing times.

Last week I mentioned about mock exams. These will solely be for Year 11's and will take place after half-term. Students in Year 10 will have progress reports but will not sit mocks until the summer (after the main GCSE exams).

Post-16 Pathways Programme

Thanks to those who attended our Post-16 Pathways on Thursday evening. We had great feedback from the post-16 providers who told us that our students were asking some really intelligent questions to help inform their decisions.

This year we have spent a lot of time developing our post-16 information programme:

- we have updated our resources in Year 11 PSHE lessons
- dedicated one Form Time each week to Post-16 decision making
- we increased the number of 1:1 careers appointments available to our Year 11 students
- we have promoted online Post-16 information and events while continuing to hold the face to face Post-16 Pathways evening in school.

Having spoken with lots of Year 11 students, it would appear that many have already made their decisions about what they would like to do when they leave us, which is fantastic.

However, if your child is still unsure, please contact our careers advisor, Amanda Carroll at amanda.carroll@dorothy-stringer.co.uk to organise a 1:1 appointment for your child.

If you have any feedback about our Post-16 Pathways Programme, please send your comments to Mrs Lloyd at careers@dorothy-stringer.co.uk

Work Experience

We are now in the process of arranging Work Experience placements for our Year 10 students (age 14-15) for the week commencing 11 July 2022. If you, or someone you know, are able to offer a place to a Dorothy Stringer student, please contact our work experience team wexp@dorothy-stringer.co.uk. See the newsletter for further details.

We aim to provide students in Years 7-9 with a raft of enrichment activities during this week and further information will follow in the next half-term about the Enrichment Week in 2022.

Year 7 photos

Tempest have extended the deadline for Year 7 photo orders for a limited time only. You can place your order by visiting <https://tempest-orders.co.uk/> . You will need your 10-digit reference number which you should have received from Tempest direct.

Local Authority Support for Parents /Carers of Children Struggling with Anxiety

It's been widely reported that greater numbers of children are experiencing regular anxiety. As a parent/carer, it can be hard to know how best to support your child and what to do to help.

Family Learning runs online workshops to support parents/carers with practical strategies to help the young person. Sessions are run in small groups, allowing space to reflect on the situation and how best to help. One parent who completed the sessions commented:

“Gave practical tips as well as reassurance. I feel I'm better able to support my child with their anxiety.”

For more information or to book a place, email AEH@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 292828 stating which course you're interested in.

Courses are **free** to those on a low income/ means tested benefits. For other parents there is a fee of £10 for anxiety courses and £15 for resilience courses (fees are used to fund creche provision and travel for learners on the lowest incomes).

Supporting a Teen with Anxiety (secondary age)

Friday 15 and 22 October from 1.30 – 2.45pm; or
Monday 1 and 8 November from 7.30 – 8.45pm

Building a Teen's Resilience (secondary age)

Tuesdays 2, 9 and 16 November from 1.30 – 2.45pm; or
Thursdays 4, 11 and 18 November from 1.30 – 2.45pm.

Root Word of the Week - 18 October: Cycl: circle, wheel (Greek word root)

Key Dates

- **Friday 22 October:** staff INSET school closed for students
- **Monday 25 – 29 October:** Half-term break
- **Monday 1 November:** school reopens Week 1 on the timetable
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Key Dates 2021/2022 are on our website: https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/pages/key_dates.aspx

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier