

Weekly News Update Friday 19 March 2021

The 18 March 2020 will be etched in our many of our memories as it is one of those news worthy items where we remember where we were when the announcement was made. This was the date, a year ago, the Government announced that the country would go into lockdown and schools across the UK would close to all pupils except those of key workers. The last year has seen a seismic change in how we operate as a school, however one year on, it is such a real pleasure to see our students back in school and engaging in lessons, enjoying extra-curricular sports clubs and supporting each other.

Our KS4 students have started to receive their home testing kits this week and other year groups will receive these over the next week. The current Covid rates are low in the community and I would like to thank our school community for their understanding and working with us to keep everyone safe. We continue our cleaning regimes, ventilation and Covid protocols so we are able to keep students in school thriving and learning.

Home Testing

Once you receive your home testing kits students should take a test twice a week, as per the government guidance which you can read by following this link:

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-nurseries-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

Year 7 Parents' Evening

It is always good to have a chance to meet with our families, albeit remotely. At last night's Year 7 Parents' Evening teachers and parents and carers were able to check in on how the return to school has gone and to acknowledge the great work our students did during lockdown.

Speakers for Schools

As part of their Green Skills campaign, I am very happy to let you know that Speakers for Schools have organised for **Caroline Lucas MP** to speak to our students. As part of the Green Skills campaign, speakers will help to engage young people across the UK in numerous green topics, from climate change to green jobs for the future.

This is an amazing opportunity and because the talk will be remote many teachers will be able to share this with students period 5 on Thursday 25 March live from 2.15-3.10pm. We are aware that there is a calendar clash with the Year 8 Inter-house Football and an athletics tournament, however we will try to make a recording of the talk available so that everyone can be ably informed.

Wellbeing and Mental Health During Covid-19

We constantly updating our #StringerWellbeing@Home pages on our website and this week have added a resource from the Local Authority *Wellbeing and Mental Health During Covid-19*, a booklet with practical information about things you can do to look after your own mental health and wellbeing and how you can support others.

Year 11 Hoodies being issued today

As the Year 11 students are starting their internal assessments next week we thought it would be the perfect time to give them a boost by giving their leavers hoodies today. The class of 2021 will be able to wear these over their school uniform for the remainder of their time at Stringer. As per the uniform policy, once the Heads of Year determine an appropriate time in the year, the leavers' hoodies are the only to be worn by Year 11 students, in place of the school black jumper.

Yearbook

The Class of 2021 Yearbooks are now on sale and can be ordered from the School Gateway via the school shop. This year we have reduced the cost of the Yearbook to £12. The deadline to order is Friday 23 April 2021.

Word of the week - March 22 – 26: Serendipity (noun) - making a discovery by luck or good fortune.

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier

Important Dates

Wednesday 31 March – Virtual Spring Concert

Thursday 1 April – Non-uniform day & end of Spring term