

## Weekly News Update Friday 20 November 2020

### INSET

A reminder that next **Monday 23 November** is one of our scheduled INSET days and the school will be shut for all students. Although we may not be in school, I do hope that all members of the school community will continue to follow the national lockdown guidelines and avoid meeting up with others and limit the transmission of the virus.

### Working together to support the Stringer Community

As we approach the Christmas period, we are looking at how we can further support our community within the school. Over the coming weeks we will be putting together food parcels and Christmas gift boxes to help our Stringer families, please see the flyer below to see how you can help us with this. Please [CLICK HERE](#) if you wish to make an online donation.

If you would like a little help this Christmas, please contact Mrs De Banks-Hirst on [FSO@dorothy-stringer.co.uk](mailto:FSO@dorothy-stringer.co.uk) to request a food parcel and/or gift box. Please see the second flyer for more information.

We are looking for donations to be made by Monday 14 December so we are able to quarantine all items and have them ready to be collected/delivered on Monday 21 December.

[Working Together to Support the Stringer Community/How Stringer Can Support our Families](#)

### Christmas Music Concert – Thursday 17 December

The Dorothy stringer Music department would like to invite, Stringer families and the Community to join us for an evening of festive music. This year, because we are unable to hold our Annual Carol Service at St. John's Church, we have organised a slightly different event to mark the start of the festive period.

On Thursday 17 December at 7.00pm, you will be able to tune in virtually and watch our Winter Concert, where you will see a range of soloists, duets, and small ensembles representing all year groups. We also have several special guest speakers too.

We hope you will join us, virtually, for this very festive event. Our students and Music department have been working extremely hard to make it extra special this year, we will send out a link to the event nearer the time, but for now pop it in your diary and spread the word to your friends and family.

### Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening

This week we held our first virtual parents evening and we hope that you found it useful experience. If there is any feedback please do let us know as it seems likely we will use this software for other parents' evenings scheduled this academic year.

### Year 11 College Applications

Following the recent news that BHASVIC and Varndean College have extended their priority deadline until 4 January, **our careers team still recommend that college applications should be submitted before 27 November.** Although this extension will be useful for a small number of students who are still making a decision, the majority of our students have now made up their mind. If your child is still struggling to make a decision, please feel free to contact our Post-16 Champion, Ms K Metcalfe at [MTC@dorothy-stringer.co.uk](mailto:MTC@dorothy-stringer.co.uk) or our Independent Careers Advisor, Amanda Carroll at [amanda.carroll@dorothy-stringer.co.uk](mailto:amanda.carroll@dorothy-stringer.co.uk)

### Year 12 GCSE certificates

Year 12s (Leavers 2020) certificate collection is on Tuesday 24 November between 3:30pm and 5.00pm. Students will need to wear masks and enter via the student entrance to the atrium. They are kindly requested to leave the building via the L block doors as soon as they have collected their certificates.

### Covid Symptom study

We have partnered with the COVID Symptom Study to help make sure our students are as safe as possible as we head back to the classroom.

We are asking all parents to join the COVID Symptom Study now, by downloading the free app and taking less than 1min a day to report how your child/children are feeling each day. With all parents reporting daily

via the app, the app will provide a powerful tool for helping the school and parents understand COVID in the community and help keep our students safe.

The app is available to download from the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#). Simply create a profile for yourself and for your child/children. To join our school network in the app and receive personalised COVID insights about our school, go to Edit Profile for your child's profile > School Network > enter our school's Unique School Network Code (see below) > select the bubble that your child belongs to.

Our Unique School Network Code is BWUCSFK. To avoid outsiders joining, please do not share this code with anyone who is not a parent of our school.

For more information including full instructions on how to join and use the COVID Symptom Study app please head to: <https://covid.joinzoe.com/schools>

What is the COVID Symptom Study app and why should you use it?

The [COVID Symptom Study](#) app is a not-for-profit initiative that was launched at the end of March 2020 to support vital COVID-19 research. The app was launched by health science company ZOE with scientific analysis provided by King's College London. Now, with over 4 million contributors globally, the Study is the world's largest ongoing study of COVID-19.

The app also provides unique insight on asymptomatic and symptomatic information across the UK which builds into a larger picture for the government and captures information not covered by other means. The Government has been so impressed with the data and research being produced it is now funding ZOE to continue the great work.

All data collected in the app is used anonymously for informing other parents in your child's school and your child's school, and anonymously for research and for public health purposes only. ZOE takes data security and privacy very seriously and enforces [best practices](#) to ensure all data is protected. ZOE is required to protect all data by law. As the work that ZOE does takes place in the UK, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation applies.

**Word of the week: Haughty** = thinking or acting as though you are better than other people

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier | Headteacher