

## **Weekly News Update Friday 21 May 2021**

With only one week left until half-term, Year 11 students can see the end in sight and are busy finishing off the assessments which will form part of the grading for this year's GCSEs. We await any updates for next year's exams; Mrs Cummings has started to send out bulletins to Year 10 with information about the content to be covered in the upcoming mocks after half-term.

This time last year we were in full lockdown, so were unable to play the annual staff vs student football match. This year it managed to go ahead and yesterday after school the Year 11s challenged staff to a match. It was played in difficult conditions, with both rain sweeping across the pitch and the wind howling a gale, however it was an excellent game. Although the staff had a secret weapon in Gabe Robinson, as well as James "the cat" Gill in goal, the aging legs meant the students came out on top. Staff were a very respectful 1-0 down at half-time with a goal from Elliott, however in the dying minutes two quick goals from Paddy and Ollie meant the match finished 3-0 to the students.

It was fantastic to see the respect between all students and staff on and off the pitch. We know how sport around the globe has the power to push the respect agenda and with the delayed Olympics this summer and Euros it was good to be reminded of how powerful it can be.

Having met with the JLT I know how much value they place in promoting respectful relationships in school and the wider community. They are planning an assembly to deliver to the whole school and I will be reiterating the mantra "work with anyone, respect everyone" at the start of next term. We will continue to make sure this is high on the school agenda so that students are safe, respectful, happy and continue to make good progress, as well as participating in all that we offer.

We have some additional fantastic sporting news this week. Tom Iorpenda in Year 11 has spent the last nine years playing football with Brighton and Hove Albion Academy but this week he signed a two-year scholarship with Huddersfield Town Football Club. This is a huge achievement and testament to his hard work, dedication and resilience. Tom's ambition is to play football professionally and it will offer him the opportunity of a full time programme of football, education and a sporting excellence and performance course. We are all really pleased for Tom and we look forward to watching him progress over the coming years.

### **Uniform reminders**

With the easing of restrictions, after half-term we will be returning to full school uniform for all students now that they can use the changing rooms in the sports hall for PE lessons. We have been reminding students of our jewellery expectations which are for a single pair of stud earrings and also a nose stud is also permitted, but not rings -excessive jewellery is not permitted.

As parents and carers will know we have teamed up with Smarter Uniforms who collect uniform students have outgrown or no longer need for resale to parents. It is a super initiative that not only saves parents money but protects our planet's resources. We hope

that our Year 11s will donate any unwanted uniform when they leave us this year to ensure there is plenty of stock to choose from: [Dorothy Stringer School – Smarter Uniforms](#).

A polite reminder that if you are purchasing any additional uniform items for when the weather warms up, that tailored black shorts are permitted all year round but not PE shorts which are for PE lessons only. All students can of course wear black tailored trousers, or the school skirt (the black skirt becomes obsolete from September). Sussex Uniforms have plenty of available stock in time for the new Year 7s who will attend in September, as well as those in current Years 7- 10: <https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/pages/uniform.aspx>

## Safer Schools App

As you will be aware from previous communications, we have launched the Safer Schools App to our whole school community and the support and guidance from the safer schools team has been excellent. The parent/carer presentation they delivered was pitched perfectly, highlighting the concerns of online safety and providing tips on how to keep children safe.

We feel the Safer Schools App will help engage our whole school community in safeguarding children by providing instant up to date guidance so that they can make better safeguarding decisions. We strongly believe the Safer Schools App will provide another layer of safeguarding protection to our current safeguarding procedures.

You can download the app for both Apple and Android devices via the following link: <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/>

## COVID Updates

With the easing of some of the COVID restrictions, we will be restarting Senior Detentions on Wednesday 26 May. This will run from 3.15pm-4.15pm and you will be notified if your child has been set a detention prior to them being asked to attend.

Although rules have been relaxed please can parents remain vigilant in their approach to COVID testing and remember to have their children tested at a **COVID testing centre** if they have any of the following symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

## **Glyndebourne Youth Opera Auditions**

An exciting opportunity to audition for Glyndebourne's Youth Opera, *Pay the Piper*; full details can be found in the newsletter.

## **Puzzle of the Week**

You have until midnight on Sunday 23 May to solve the latest Puzzle of the Week.

**Word of the week: 24 - 28 May: Quaint (adj.)** = being old-fashioned or unusual

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier

## **Key Dates for your diary:**

**Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June:** Summer half-term

**Monday 7 June 2021: Year 9 Photos**