

Weekly News Update Friday 23 October 2020

As we reach the end of the first half-term of this academic year, I would like to thank all the parents/carers and staff for enabling the school to operate safely and effectively. Students have been making really good progress with the learning taking place in lessons and have adapted to the new safety regimes in the school. Staff have worked tirelessly, learnt new skills and adapted to new ways of working. I know everyone is looking forward to a week of recuperation so we are able to come back refreshed and continue to support students' learning.

A reminder that when we return after half-term lesson times revert back to an 8.40am start (for tutor time) and then period 1 starts at 8.50 for all students. Tutors have talked through the new timetable with tutees and expectations for when we return.

When we come back, a major change is the need for face coverings when moving through the school. This applies in enclosed spaces (particularly in corridors) and during lesson change over, so we can continue to keep the rates of Covid at a low level and protect the community. Any student who is unable to wear a face covering (owing to medical reasons) must inform their Head of Year/Pastoral Manager so that we can provide the student with an exemption band. We will be selling face coverings in the canteen, at a subsidised cost of £1, the masks are re-usable, so will reduce plastic waste. The monies to purchase the face coverings will come off the school canteen account.

When we return after half-term Year 11s will move into their mock examinations. Further information about these exams are below. Year 11 parents/carers will also have received additional information from Mrs Cumming.

Year 11 mocks

The [mock exam timetable](#) is now available in the SLG and information about study privileges has been sent out today.

Mr Holtom produced a great guide to getting ready for exams which was shared with students during tutor time, including how to plan a revision timetable.

Teachers have led revision in lessons to support and reassure students, and provided checklists and guidance around what students can expect in their different exams.

The [Course Materials](#) page on the SLG is a good source of revision materials and there is also generic guidance around exam preparation and revision strategies

College Deadlines for Year 11s

The deadline for applications for both Varndean and BHASVIC is Friday 4 December, however we recommend that all students should have completed and submitted their college applications by Friday 27 November. The forms for colleges are electronic and available on the college websites. If you have any questions regarding the college application process, please contact your child's PSHE teacher.

Year 10 Parents' Evening – 19 November

The first subject teacher Parents' Evening takes place on 19 November for Year 10. This will be a chance to meet with your child's subject teacher and discuss their progress to date. It will be a virtual event using the same software which we used for the "Meet the

Tutor" evening. Year 10 parents and carers will receive an email after half term with details on how to book appointments.

Interactive Zoom Quiz University of Sussex - Have I Got Trade News for You

<https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/events/>

Tuesday 10 November 2020 - Time 17:00 – 18:00 GMT

The University of Sussex are hosting a fun quiz to find out how trade and trade policy affect our future prospects, the wider economy, environment and international relations. Participants will get a chance to win either a £100 voucher or one of two £50 vouchers just for turning up and joining in!

This quiz is for young people (you can also be young at heart!) with an interest in what is going on in the world at the moment. It will focus on some of the challenges we are now facing, such as: on-going technological change, the UK leaving the EU, Covid-19, and the green agenda to name a few.

Letter from Deb Austin – 22 October

Please see the attached letter from Deb Austin, Interim Executive Director of families, children and learning to all parents and carers in Brighton and Hove.

[Letter from Deb Austin - 22 October](#)

Maths Puzzle of the Week

Congratulations to Mr Imrie who was the first staff winner of the Maths Puzzle of the Week. Dorothy Stringer School came 14th in the world out of almost 250 schools which is very impressive. Well done to all of our students, parents/carers and staff who participated.

We will post a new puzzle each week on our newsletter and Maths twitter account. Please do consider taking part. Register and submit answers at www.puzzleoftheweek.com

Reminder that the clocks go back this weekend as daylight saving time ends.

Wishing all our Stringer families a very restful break and I look forward to seeing all students back in school on Monday 2 November which will be Week 2 of the timetable.

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier
Headteacher