

Weekly News Update Friday 25 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

This weekend marks the start of British Summer Time as the clocks go forward one hour. It has certainly felt brighter this week both in terms of the weather and the return of some of our extra-curricular highlights that were much missed during lockdown. This last week has seen our first trip to Dolawen for over two years and it has been great following their adventures on twitter: <https://twitter.com/dsdolawen>. We have no doubt these memories will stay with the students for a lifetime, and we look forward to the rest of Year 7 enjoying their trips over the coming months.

It was also wonderful to see the Stringer Dance Show last weekend after a year's absence and the students blew the audience away with their professionalism. None of this would have been possible without the fantastic staffing body we have here at Stringer. We would like to say a huge thank you to our talented and dedicated staff for giving up their free time to ensure that our students can enjoy these superb opportunities, especially to Katie Booth and Livvi Stoner who organised the entire week of Let's Dance and to Chloe Sampson, Ellie Bishop-Williams the PE staff, and everyone else who helped backstage, including our former students.

In school this week, the Maths department have been delighted with how dedicated the students have been during the Year 11 GCSE Maths Booster sessions. There has been a wonderful atmosphere of hard work and focus as students have been working to improve their core skills in preparation for their exams. Year 11 PDES (Personal Development and Employability Skills) students have been working hard on a "personal project" as part of their award. This week they presented their projects to an audience of the Head and other members of the Senior Leadership team, who very much enjoyed viewing the project displays and discussing the students' passions and interests with them.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraising non-uniform day last week, which raised over £3,500. All the monies will be sent to DEC <https://www.dec.org.uk> who oversee the humanitarian aid and support for displaced families.

We also wanted to let you know that we have recently reviewed our fire and emergency lockdown procedures. We had a fire drill last week and form tutors will be going through the emergency lockdown procedure with students next week. We do not expect to have to use this procedure, but it is always best to be prepared!

Safeguarding message

At Dorothy Stringer we have always prioritised safeguarding our students. Like most secondary schools, we occasionally facilitate police interventions: these are conducted through focus groups, one-to-one interventions or through PSHE lessons and assemblies to promote awareness about relevant safety campaigns. These sessions are always carefully planned and monitored to support our safeguarding procedures and to ensure they are appropriate for our students. The aim is always to educate our students to make good decisions about their safety. We would always contact parents or carers before the police are allowed to speak to a student and an appropriate adult would be present.

Our students are fully aware that we have a dedicated pastoral team and of our processes for reporting any safeguarding concerns. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Giles Ward (WRD@dorothy-stringer.co.uk) and the other members of our safeguarding team are Stewart Furini, Loretta Lloyd and Moira England.

Oxford University Computing Challenge

Congratulations to our students who competed in the Oxford University Computing Challenge at the beginning of March. Over 90 Upper and Lower School students were invited to take part in this prestigious challenge as they achieved a Gold Award in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge taken in the Autumn term. Special congratulations go to Yida for achieving a Distinction in the Intermediate Challenge. See more on this in the Stringer Press at the end of term!

10X Challenge 2021

This week our Year 10 GCSE Business students competed in this year's UK wide 10X Challenge. The Challenge is run by Young Enterprise www.10Xchallenge.org.uk the UK's leading enterprise and financial education charity. Students were pledged £10 from the school's 10X Challenge Fund and used this start-up capital to get their enterprise off the ground. All profits from students' enterprises are being donated to the DEC. See the Stringer Press at the end of term for the full details!

Earth Hour - Saturday 26 March

This year Earth Hour falls on Saturday 26 March at 8.30pm. During Earth Hour, people across the world are encouraged to mark the hour with one iconic action: **switch off the lights**. But it is so much more than that. It is a symbol of unity. It is a symbol of hope. It is a demonstration of the power of collective action for our future and the planet's. As a school we are encouraging staff to SWITCH-OFF any non-essential appliances and lights over the weekend, and we would like to encourage the Dorothy Stringer Community to join in over the weekend and SWITCH-OFF during Earth Hour.

Our City, Our World – Brighton & Hove competition to design a logo

We recognise that climate change is happening, and that this is affecting people, places and nature. There is a lot we can do to help the situation, and the council is working with a group of schools across the city to make sure that schools are doing what they can. This involves learning about climate change, taking action to slow the changes and adapting to the changing world. This work is called 'Our City, Our World' and we'd love you to design a logo for the work we're doing. Your logo should be simple, bright and colourful (up to 4 colours). It should include the words 'Our City, Our World' and something that represents Brighton & Hove. There will be prizes for the best entry. Please scan or photograph your entry and send to katieebertstein@sussexwt.org.uk by 8 April 2022. Winners will be announced on 28th April. Good luck!

Upcoming webinar for parents: *How to Prepare Your Child for Exams*

We're excited to announce that next week Elevate will be hosting its next Parent Webinar. Elevate works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you will learn how to better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school. In this session:

- How your child can manage their study schedule before exams to study all areas - not just their favourite subjects!
- The best revision techniques and how to use practice papers effectively
- How to optimise exam room performance.

The webinar will run **live online from 6 – 7pm on Tuesday 29 March** and will include a live Q&A so you can ask questions directly. Use this link to register: [Webinar Registration | UK \(elevatecoaching.info\)](http://Webinar Registration | UK (elevatecoaching.info))

PE news and results

The Year 7 Hockey team played their first match together this week and showed excellent teamwork skills. They came 3rd in their pool and 5th overall out of 10 teams. A great start!
Congratulations to the U14A Girls football team, who have progressed to the semi-finals of the County Cup following their win against Varndean this week.

More fixtures results below:

Year 7 Rugby	Won against PACA
Year 7A Boys Football	Won 1-0 against Varndean
Year 7B Boys Football	Stringer won 4-0 against Cardinal Newman
Year 8B Boys Football	Won 4-3 against Angmering
Year 10B Boys Football	Lost 4-0 against BACA
U14A Girls Football	Won 1-0 against Varndean
Year 11 Boys Football	Drew 1-1 against Blatchington Mill

Congratulations to everyone who participated and represented the school.

Reminder: opportunity to join a Young Writers Collective and be part of Brighton Festival

Amplified is a free Young Writers Collective project looking for twelve 13-18-year-olds from across Brighton and Hove to take part in this year's Brighton Festival.

Participants will take part in intensive weekend workshops in storytelling, self-expression and performance will be led by three professional writers and trained story mentors. They finish with a piece ready to rehearse and perform on the Riwaq stage at Little Green Pig's Youth Takeover weekend on Sunday 22 May. See full details here: [Amplified 2022 full info](#)

Deadline for applications to take part: Friday 8 April

Courses to Support Parents and Carers

The Adult Education Hub is continuing its successful online courses: 'Supporting a Young Person with Anxiety' and 'Building a Young Person's Resilience'. Both courses offer parents practical strategies to help the young person manage anxious thinking and build their self-esteem. Sessions are run separately for parents of primary and secondary-age children.

Courses (2 x 90-minute online sessions) are free to parents on a low income/means tested benefits. Otherwise, there is a fee of £15.

For dates and times of courses this term, and to book, the link to the website is below:

<https://adulthoodeducation.brighton-hove.gov.uk/course-category/children-family-wellbeing/> or email AEH@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Reminder: Free Easter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

For those eligible, HAF provides free childcare, respite and opportunities for children and young people to have fun and socialise throughout the holidays. Participants also receive a nutritious meal as part of their session. Early booking is recommended.

Eligibility: School-aged (Reception to Year 11) and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM).

Use this link for more info and to apply: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/haf>

Reminder: Year 11 Leavers' Yearbooks – now available to order

The class of 2022 yearbooks are now available to order. The yearbook is made up of 76 pages in a hardback A4 book. It includes memories for the students such as letters from the Headteacher, Head of Year, and Form tutors; Year 7 and Year 11 school photos; tutor group photos; Year Group Awards voted by students, and much more.

Yearbooks are £12 each and can be purchased via the School Gateway system, which can easily be accessed by using the following link: <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>. **The deadline for ordering a Yearbook is Friday 8 April 2022.** If you have any questions or are unable to pay via the School Gateway, please email ad-oxs@dorothy-stringer.co.uk. If you require any financial assistance regarding the above, then please contact our Financial Support Officer (FSO) fso@dorothy-stringer.co.uk

Reminder: Tickets now on sale for Prom – Friday 1st July 2022

We are excited to be returning to the AMEX after a break for the last two years, for Year 11 students to celebrate completing their examinations and their time at Stringer. Further information has already been sent home and a link to the letter can be found on the Trips page of the SLG.

Root Word of the Week – Mal, meaning bad, evil

- **Malice** – the desire to harm someone; ill will
- **Malcontent** – a person who is dissatisfied and rebellious
- **Malicious** – characterised by malice; intending or intended to do harm

Key Dates

Easter holidays: Monday 11-Friday 22 April 2022

Year 8 Parents' Evening (Via video call): Thursday 28 April 2022

Bank holiday: Monday 2 May 2022

Key Dates for 2021/2022 and 2022/3 are on our website: https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/pages/key_dates.aspx

***Note: If any of the hyperlinks in this update do not work, please copy and paste the link address into your address bar.**

Take care and stay safe.
Matt Hillier