

## **Weekly News Update Friday 27 November 2020**

This week we have been appreciating members of the Stringer community. Ms Uren led virtual assemblies this week thanking those staff and students who go the extra mile, these included our site team and colleagues on the cleaning team who are working tirelessly to make sure the school is able to operate under these challenging times. We are lucky to have some of our ex-students join our cleaning team; they are from last year's cohort and others from previous years. They are a real credit to themselves and to the school.

It has also been fantastic this week watching the students participate in year group sports competitions. The Year 11s had a close game of football which ended in a three-all-draw.

Next week, as we move into December, we will have three full weeks left of learning for this term. Next week also sees an end to national lockdown and from Thursday 3 December Brighton & Hove moves into Tier 2 (high tier). However, there will be no change to the way the school currently operates between now and the end of the Autumn Term, on 18 December.

For more information on what Tier 2 means for Brighton and Hove you can visit the Council's website:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/news/2020/covid-19-brighton-hove-will-be-tier-2>

### **Year 10 Parents' Evening**

Thank you to the Year 10 families who attended the virtual parents' evening on 19 November. The vast majority found the system worked effectively and provided an opportunity for feedback from subject staff. Our next virtual Parents' Evening will be the **Year 9 Options' Evening on 21 January** followed by **Year 9 Parent's Evening on Thursday 28 January**.

### **DEAR next week for Years 7 - 9**

Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) will take place every afternoon next week. A bell will sound and the whole of the lower school will stop what they are doing and read at the same time. Students should have a suitable reading book in school every day, however they can use the Library Click and Deliver service to have a book delivered to their form tutor.

### **Buses**

We are aware that the buses are still an issue in the mornings as students from all the local schools arrive for the start of the school day. I have met with the Principal at Varndean College and the Headteacher at Varndean School and have liaised with the Local Authority to try and find a solution to this.

The bus company, who are privately owned, are clear that they do not have the resources to facilitate a change for the times requested, however the Authority continue to work on our behalf to come up with some viable solutions.

### **Working together to support the Stringer Community**

Last week we launched our Working together to support the Stringer Community campaign. 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.

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

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.

### **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.

**Word of the week: Impertinent** – Talking or behaving in an impolite or disrespectful way

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier | Headteacher