

Weekly News Update Friday 29 January 2021

Teaching and Learning in Lockdown

We have now been delivering remote learning for four weeks and we are increasingly impressed by the enthusiasm for and engagement with learning the majority of our students are showing. Thank you for the lovely emails you have been sending in acknowledgement of the immense effort our staff are putting in to provide learning in line with the curriculum students would have following in school and the skill they have shown in adapting to this new way of working. Our pastoral teams continue to support children by running tutor times and calling home to check up on the well-being of all our families.

Our students are learning some essential life lessons too: they are managing their time independently, learning to communicate with staff and students electronically and improving their digital literacy all the time.

We are still aware that with two weeks until half-term students and staff have spent a lot of time in front of a screen. To give staff and students a break from the screen and to counter remote learning fatigue staff have been asked to set a task for their lesson on Friday 12 February that doesn't involve screen time and no live Teams lessons will be taught that day. Staff will still be in their classrooms, to answer queries, however the students in school will also be completing independent/creative learning tasks.

The Prime Minister announced this week that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity. As has been the case throughout the last year, we have not yet been provided with any clear information as to whether this will be a staggered return or a full return. We have been assured however, that schools, parents and students will be given two weeks' notice to prepare for the return of face-to-face learning. During lockdown we will continue to offer our blended Teams learning and pastoral contact through both tutor time and direct contact with Form Tutors or Heads of Year.

Vulnerable/Critical Workers - partial opening of school

Keyworker Form

Please be reminded that schools are open only for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Government guidance is that everyone should stay at home where possible.

We are experiencing higher than normal levels of staff absence and we need to prioritise places for children who need them most. We will continue to make as many places available as possible but we are asking that if you are able to look after your child at home safely, to please do so.

In order to maintain safe levels we need to know who requires a critical worker/vulnerable place each week. For this reason, we ask that you complete the following form so we can plan accordingly: [Keyworker Form](#)

[Please note if you have any problems accessing the form please try cutting and pasting directly into your web browser]

Thank you for your patience and understanding in helping us manage our school safely.

You can keep up to date with the latest Government Guidance on our website:
[Covid-19 Advice and Information](#)

Options Choices – Year 9

A reminder the options recorded speech and videos can still be viewed here. [virtual_options_evening \(dorothy-stringer.co.uk\)](#) Students have until the end of the school day on **Friday 5 February** to complete the online form.

Holocaust Memorial Day 27 January

This year's theme was Light up the Darkness. The Brighton & Hove Holocaust Education Project in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council commemorated this year's Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January. For the first time this event was entirely on-line, joining communities around the UK as they observed this national day of awareness and reflection.

Latest TV's Yael Breuer conducted interviews with Holocaust survivors who shared stories and there were tributes from communal and public officials under this year's Holocaust Memorial Day theme, 'Be a Light in the Darkness.'
Stringer's History Department prepared an assembly for students this week which you can watch by following the links below:

Part 1 <https://www.loom.com/share/d6f05c20178742b384d0c34490cdffd3>
Part 2 <https://www.loom.com/share/4226d431cf77438b83dd925ca1848297>

School Nurse Team

The School Nurse Team are still here to listen to and support children and young people.

- The school nurse team are offering a virtual **drop in** for all secondary school pupils once a week on Wednesdays at 3-4 pm.
- Children, young people, parents, carers and school staff can contact a school nurse by calling the duty line **01273 696011 Ext.1692** (Monday – Friday 9-5pm).
- ChatHealth (textline) is available for young people and parents/carers of primary children on **07480 635423** (9-4.30pm Monday to Friday).

Word of the Week: Jubilant (adj) - feeling or expressing great joy or triumph

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier | Headteacher

Important Dates next half-term

Monday 15 - Friday 19 – Half-term break (school closed to all students)

Thursday 25 February – Year 11 Parents' Evening – Virtual using school cloud system

Thursday 18 March – Year 7 Parents' Evening – Virtual using school cloud system

Thursday 1 April – End of Spring term