

May Day Bank Holiday Weekend

We're now two weeks into the summer term and although the mornings have been chilly, the weather does appear to finally be improving. It has been wonderful to see the drama students in full flow in the woods this week completing their assessments, even the cold and rain didn't hold them back!

This weekend is the May Day bank holiday which means the school is closed on Monday 3 May. As the weather improves and with lockdown restrictions on indoor gatherings still in place, more of our students are visiting outdoor venues and parks. We know most continue to behave safely and responsibly but we ask that you remind your children that gathering in large groups is still not allowed. We work closely with local groups and community police officers and they have asked us to bring this to our parents and carers attention that some young children are putting themselves at risk gathering in large groups in the local parks and nearby sporting venues.

The bank holiday weekend is a good opportunity to get some photos for our Photography Competition, particularly the May category – Brighton & Hove. The deadline for entries is Friday 7 May.

Climate Change Conference

Today, Mr Sandercock was one of the keynote speakers at the Brighton and Hove headteachers conference on leading climate change and action in the whole school. We know how much work has already been undertaken at school; as an eco-school, we make sure the environment is a golden thread through both our environmental education lessons, as well as throughout other areas of the curriculum.

Clubs

We're delighted that so many of our clubs are restarting and in keeping with the theme of today's Climate Change conference we have lots of opportunities to take part in Eco clubs, for example:

- **Eco Club for Year 7** to explore the habitats & help wildlife and enjoy the pond, woodland and environment centre.
- **Allotment/Gardening Club for Year 8** to learn how to grow a range of plants and flowers, enjoy the harvest to take home.
- **Groundforce for Year 10** carrying out work around the school including the school garden and woodland management. Year10 DoE students can use this as their volunteer time if they come regularly.

You can find a full list of the clubs currently on offer by following this link: [Extra-Curriculum Clubs](#)

Yearbooks

The deadline for ordering yearbooks has now passed, however we have extended it until Tuesday next week for those who have missed the original date. If you haven't yet ordered a yearbook and still want to for your child, please make sure you do by Tuesday 4 May, this will be the last opportunity, as after this date we will not be able to accept any more orders. You can order via the school gateway <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login> (if the option for yearbook does not show up, it means you have already placed the order).

Year 11 NCS

NCS (National Citizenship Service) is a fantastic opportunity for those completing their secondary education. It runs for 2 or 3 weeks over the summer and provides an outdoor adventure (which is a 3 weeks programme), learning some life skills and an action project. The whole cost is just £30, that's for the accommodation, food and learning new skills. We know some students have already signed up and there will be a virtual presentation to Year 11 next week. If you want to find out more please see the following page. <https://wearencs.com/faqs>

Dorothy Stringer Virtual Artist Open House

We are really pleased that after the disappointment of not being able to take part in last year's Artist Open House we are joining the Five Ways Trail as an online listing this year. We are extremely proud of our students' creativity and dedication in the face of such difficult times and the Open House is a fantastic opportunity show the work they have been doing both in school and at home. We will share further details over the coming weeks.

We are recruiting

As you will know from the last edition of our Stringer Press, the Surrenden Pool refurbishment is now complete and we are looking forward to resuming our swimming lessons for Year 7 and restart our swimming clubs. We are currently recruiting to appoint a Lifeguard and would welcome applications from our parents, carers and former students. You can find full details on Vacancies newsletter item below.

Puzzle of the Week returns

You have until midnight on Sunday 2 May to solve the latest Puzzle of the Week. [Puzzle of the Week](#)

Year 9 Peer Mentors Applications Invited

Peer mentors are an important part of our transition process as they support our new Year 7s settling into school. Being a peer mentor is a fantastic opportunity for Year 10s (2021/2022) and a great opportunity to develop skills and confidence as they provide support and advice for our Year 7s.

The deadline for the applications is **Friday 21 May**. If you have any questions about the process, then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Ward through wrd@dorothy-stringer.co.uk

Word of the week: 3 - 7 May (adj.) = furtive - attempting to avoid notice or attention

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier

Key Dates for your diary:

Monday 3 May: school closed for bank holiday

Monday 3 May: extended deadline for Yearbook orders

Thursday 13 May: Virtual Launch of Safer Schools App to Parents and Carers at 5pm

Monday 17 – Friday 21 May: DEAR events - more information to follow

Wednesday 19 May: Year 11 Photos

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

Schoolcomms Checklist		
In case you missed we sent the emails below to parents and carers this week		
Audience:	From:	Subject:
Year 9		
Parent/Carer	Mr Ward	Peer Mentor Applications
Parent/Carer	Medical Officer	Teenage Booster Vaccinations Program
Year 11		
Year 11 Students	Mrs Cumming	Year 11 Assessment Bulletin
All Year Groups		
Parent/Carer	Mr Baker	Daily Contact Testing
Parent/Carer	Mr Ward	Safer Schools App