

Weekly News Update Friday 4 December 2020

GCSEs 2021

Yesterday, the Secretary of State for Education announced that students sitting exams and other assessments next year will benefit from a package of exceptional measures to make them as fair as possible and manage the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Building on the 3 week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision
- exam aids, for example formula sheets, provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on students across the country

The government will set out further detail on this process, and on adaptations to exams, in the new year.

They have published [guidance to support the summer 2021 exams](#) and [accountabilities](#) to provide further clarity for schools, colleges, parents and students.

This solution to next year's A-level and GCSE exams will make them as fair as they can be in the circumstances. It is not perfect. Nothing can be given the fact that learning has been so disrupted by coronavirus and the impact for students and their families differs to such an extent. When we have further detail about formula sheets and topics which will be covered, we will of course let parents/carers know.

Tier two restrictions

This week the national lockdown ended and we moved to our Tier 2 restrictions. 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>

Face Masks

Our supplier for face coverings has unexpectedly increased their prices. Face coverings will continue to be subsidised by the school however, when current stocks run out the new price will increase to £1.15. We are urgently sourcing a new supplier and will provide another update as soon as we can.

Free School Meals in Brighton & Hove

Many families are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) but are not claiming this support. FSM in the form of supermarket vouchers will be provided over the Christmas holiday for all children who are registered for FSM. Apply as soon as possible to Brighton and Hove Council so that you don't miss out. See our website for more information

https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/Pages/free_school_meals.aspx

Smarter Uniform Donations

We are delighted to announce that Dorothy Stringer School has partnered with Smarter Uniforms, Brighton & Hove's innovative school-uniform reuse project.

Smarter Uniforms collects uniform students have outgrown or no longer need when they move on from Stringer. The uniform is then sorted, washed and resold back to parents.

Uniform donations can be left in the Smarter Uniform collection box in Dorothy Stringer's reception.

Working with Smarter Uniform we will save parents money, protect our planet's precious resources for our children's future, and raise important funds for the school. Parents and carers can order through the [Smarter Uniforms website](https://smarteruniforms.org/collections/dorothy-stringer-school) and collect from the Fair Shop Queens Road, Brighton. Delivery is also available to all local families, see the website for more details.

Smarter Uniforms: <https://smarteruniforms.org/collections/dorothy-stringer-school>

Sussex Uniforms

Sussex Uniforms shop are due to re-open on 5 December and their Click and Collect service is now available. Opening times will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm. They are fully stocked at present.

Please note that they will be closed for the Christmas break from Monday 14 December until Monday 4 January. You can still place online orders throughout this period and they will be processed as soon as possible on their return.

Support for the Stringer Community

If you would like a little help this Christmas, please contact Mrs De Banks-Hirst on FSO@dorothy-stringer.co.uk to request a food parcel and/or gift box.

Movember

Well done to the Maths Department's male staff for raising £1,077.00 by growing moustaches for Movember. Thanks to everyone who supported by donating money. You can see a photo of the hirsute fundraisers on the SLG.

Word of the week: Diligent = working hard in a careful and thorough way

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier | Headteacher