

Weekly News Update Friday 8 January 2021

Teaching and Learning in Lockdown

I want to start by thanking the staff for the monumental undertaking of teaching live lessons online and teaching the students who are in school in their classrooms. It has been an incredible learning curve getting used to delivering learning via Teams but staff have risen to this challenge with gusto, creativity and resilience. Whilst we might have had a few technical glitches and teething problems, it has been a fantastic week in which we have delivered over 158,000 hours of online teaching in just three days!

Thank you for the support you are giving your children at home; we could not do this without you. Thank you too for the constructive feedback you have given. One change we plan on making next week is to ensure all teachers schedule Teams lessons, so they will appear in students' Teams calendars.

Times of lessons: https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/Pages/school_day_times.aspx - All our teams lessons are running for 45 minutes so Period 1 is from 8:50 until 9:35, allowing time away from screens/devices.

Access to Teams through an Xbox or Playstation

It is possible to access Teams through these devices. Please see the attached document which does require some additional peripherals to make it possible.

Exams

As you will be aware, Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, confirmed this week that GCSE (and A level) examinations in England would be cancelled this summer. In their place it was confirmed that teacher assessed grades would be used to determine outcomes, without recourse to the algorithm used last year. While this provides some clarity, no details have been shared at this point regarding how these teacher assessed grades should be determined or the timeline for their submission. Mrs Cumming has sent a letter to all students, parents and carers about this and it details some frequently asked questions. As you will appreciate, the lack of precise detail in relation to the GCSE grading processes at present makes it very challenging to confirm an exact course of action. However, we are very fortunate that we are in a position to teach live lessons to all students during this period of lockdown, this will ensure that our students are best prepared to achieve the strongest possible grades in a scenario where grades are calculated by teachers and in a scenario where exams are sat pending further announcements.

Lateral Flow Tests

On the INSET day this week we set up our lateral flow testing stations in "the Hub". This means we can carry out weekly tests for staff and students (who are permitted to be in school). The tests are completed by students themselves with guidance from trained test operatives who will process the tests.

When students do the test they are given a test ID. In order to get their results via text message or email, students will need to register this on the government website: www.gov.uk/enter-lateral-flow-test. They will only need to register with an account once. When registering they will be asked for a Site ID, this is DSSB. Students will be given a card with this information on each time they do a test.

Testing will only be conducted on students who are in school so long as parents have given consent. Please complete the consent form by clicking on this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4BBjP1dYjUi58A_z9Ourh3mzp47pVUROgNbQysexZOtUQUUySkRVR1IWTUIUNDdaVEJUWU9XVIQwNi4u

Winter Concert

The end of last term seems like a distant memory, however, the music department and students here at Stringer were able to put on a wonderful musical celebration. If you haven't yet seen it, there are some stand out performances and it's well worth watching during this lockdown period. You can find the concert on our website.

Christmas Hampers & Gift Boxes

On Monday, 21 December, we delivered food parcels and hampers to people within our community. A huge thank you to all the helpers in school, but more importantly to all the families in our school who contributed what they could to support all our community. We continue to support those in need during this current lockdown.

Wellbeing during Lockdown from Brighton and Hove

If you have any concerns about your child's Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing you are invited to talk to a Primary Mental Health Worker from the Schools Wellbeing Service.

➤ Telephone consultations are available whilst schools are closed

Please email SWSConsultationLine@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call **01273-293481**

You will need to send/leave your name and phone number and a Primary Mental Health Worker will call you back.

Whilst their aim is to call back within two days, please be aware they may have a high demand so your patience is appreciated.

This is not a crisis number – if you require immediate support you need to contact your GP, call CAMHS duty care on 03003040061 or go direct to A&E.

For information on different services available, please visit findgetgive.com

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier | Headteacher

Schoolcomms Checklist

In case you missed we sent the emails below to parents and carers this week

Date	Audience:	From:	Subject:
	Year 10		
4/1/21	Parents and Carers	HOY Team	Pastoral Care
	Year 11		
8/1/21	Students, parents and carers	Mrs Cumming	Exams on Monday 11.1.21
5/1/21	All students, parents and carers	Mrs Cumming	GCSE Exams Update
	All Year Groups		
6/1/21	All students, parents and carers	Mr Hillier	Cancellation of school bus
4/1/21	All students, parents and carers	Ms Uren	Remote Learning using Teams