

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope that this letter finds you and your family well. We recognise that this has been a very challenging year with the national lockdown in January and the ever changing guidance. However, in order to keep our community safe, we have constantly adapted our provision and we are now preparing for September.

### **End of Term**

Thursday 22 July is the last day of this academic year and the school closes early, at 12.10 for all students. The canteen will remain open until 12.20 for students who wish to pick up their lunch.

### **The New Academic Year 2021/2022**

As you can imagine, the changing situation means that we may need to amend these plans over the summer if new government advice is released. The current plans for the start of the new academic year are outlined below and we will write again in the week prior to the start of school to give you an update.

### **Testing – New Dates - Important Change New DfE Advice**

You may be aware that the Department for Education have set out new guidance for schools when they open in September. You can read the full guidance on the [DfE Website](#).

Under the current guidance it is recommended **all** students are tested on their return to school. We have arranged for new **Year 7s (who have not been through the process before) to be tested on Friday afternoon, 3 September, in their tutor groups** and then for the second time on **Wednesday 8 September**. Tutor group information will be shared to all new families at the end of August. This will allow for a smooth first day, rather than students being concerned about lateral flow tests. Please could new Year 7 families complete the consent form (if not already completed) as we cannot test students unless we have had parental permission.

### **NHS Test Parent/Carer Consent Form Year 7**

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4BBjP1dYjUi58A\\_z9Ourh4\\_p1hsrt5tLgNiGKeNuJFZUNEFPU01aTEJKWjYyTlpRS0Q3VDJBNVFTVC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4BBjP1dYjUi58A_z9Ourh4_p1hsrt5tLgNiGKeNuJFZUNEFPU01aTEJKWjYyTlpRS0Q3VDJBNVFTVC4u)

**Video on lateral flow tests:** <https://youtu.be/-JKora6ITBw>

We will then test **Year 11 and Year 10 on Monday 6 September** (as we only have Year 7 in on this day). They will test and then return home. Year 10 Peer Mentors have been asked to come in on Friday 3 September with their Year 7s mentees so they will be have tested on this day too (see schedule attached).

**Year 8 and 9 students will be tested on Tuesday 7 September.** At the start of the school day, they should go to their tutor time and we will be seeing a tutor group at a time. Attached is the schedule for all students. Testing will take place in the main hall and students will be directed to enter via the fire exit on the side so we can ventilate the area well. There will be plenty of staff around to guide them. Please remember all students should continue to test regularly over the summer with the home testing kits. Walk in PCR tests are also available locally.

### **First Days of Term**

**Year 7 will join us on Monday 6 September** together with Year 10 peer mentors. All Year 7 (and 10 peer mentors) should report to the sports hall at the start of the school

day. Throughout the day students will be with their form tutor doing a variety of transition activities and lessons.

**Years 8-11 will join us on Tuesday 7 September.** They will spend the first 2 hours of the day with their form tutor before starting timetabled lessons period 3. Students in Years 9 and 8 will undertake lateral flow tests at outlined above. All students should be in school from 8.40 and go to their tutor rooms.

### **Movement around the school**

We will keep our effective one-way-system and all students must follow this one-way system at all times. The system is in place for the safety of all students and staff. Students are now used to this system and it allows safer access throughout our school site. As last year, there will be hand sanitiser in each classroom that students can use as well as our usual hand washing facilities.

### **Canteen Facilities**

We will continue to have dedicated slots for the canteen to allow for smooth transactions and to make sure it is safe for the number of students who wish to use these facilities. Canteen slots are as follows:

#### **At break time:**

Year 7 – 10.40 (Left side) and AstroTurf available from 10.50

Year 8 (left side) and 9 (right side) – 10.50

Year 10 (right side) and 11 (left side)– 11.00

**At lunchtime**, each year group will also have a dedicated 10 minute slot at the following times:

Years 8 (left side) and 9 (right side) – 12.10

Year 7 – 12.20 (Left side)

Years 10 (right side) and 11 (left side) – 12.30

It is important that students have their own water bottle or container as no one should share drinks containers. The canteen is entirely cashless and top-ups must be completed online. Year 7 students will all receive a card for the canteen on their first day in school which is used for the gates as well as canteen purchases. Other Year groups should use their current cards. If any student has lost their canteen cards, replacements can be purchased from the canteen hatch (under the covered area at the back of the canteen).

### **Uniform**

As of September our uniform is the same for all students with the compulsory white polo shirt, black tailored shorts, black tailored trousers or the new school skirt and a regulation school jumper. Sussex Uniform, the designated uniform shop, has a choice of a knitted jumper or a sweatshirt. Footwear should be plain black. Our full guidance on uniform can be found here:

<https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/pages/uniform.aspx>

### **Equipment**

All students are expected to bring a school bag big enough to carry a range of books and folders. They must also have a fully equipped pencil case. The full guidance on our uniform can be found here: <https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/Pages/stringer-learning-culture.aspx>

### **Pastoral Support**

On their first day of school in September all students will spend time with their form tutors; we will take time and care to clearly talk through our expectations, routines and

support with all students. We have increased our capacity for students' pastoral care and have five pastoral managers (one for each year group). These pastoral managers will work closely with both the tutors, Heads of Year and Heads of School.

Our tutors and staff look forward to welcoming our new Year 7s on Monday 6 September and all year groups on Tuesday 7 September. On Tuesday students will have an extended tutor time for the first two lessons of the day to go through routine, timetables, expectations and students support, before starting their lessons after break. The week commencing 6 September will be a week 1.

If you have any queries before the end of term, please contact the relevant form tutor or Head of Year.

In the meantime, if you are looking for advice on services available in Brighton and Hove during the summer break please see our newsletter items.

### **Summer Showcase**

What better way to finish this last news update of the academic year then with a Stringer Summer Showcase! The music department, staff and students have persevered to bring together a wonderful virtual production.

Stringer Summer Showcase Link: [Stringer Summer Showcase 2021](#)

It is just one example of the resilience that so many of our staff and students have shown this year. We are looking forward to the summer break and hope this lovely weather continues so all of the Stringer Community get to enjoy a relaxing few weeks.

Yours faithfully,

Matt Hillier  
Headteacher  
Dorothy Stringer School