



creativity | resilience | respect



“What I love about Stringer is that all the teachers are so kind and welcoming. On my first day my worries completely disappeared.”

Dorothy Stringer Student

Welcome Dorothy Stringer School



Dorothy Stringer is a vibrant, stimulating and happy community – a place where everyone is encouraged to play their part, both inside and outside the classroom. We aim to create a learning environment that meets the needs of every one of our students.

Today's young people face a world that is changing at an ever-increasing pace. As a school we have a duty to prepare them for their adult lives. We firmly believe the five-year experience at Dorothy Stringer will help to unlock their full potential and instil a lifelong love of learning.

We work to ensure that all our students achieve their full academic potential. However, we believe that school is not just about academic success: we want our students to thrive and to develop holistically.

We excel at nurturing our students in a safe and happy environment and believe that schools need to care for the emotional wellbeing of their students and understand their personal needs.

We are a community with clear moral values and where there is a sense of belonging and identity. We work hard to engage our community, to develop partnerships with parents and carers and to secure their interest, support and commitment.

At Dorothy Stringer our motto is 'Education for Life' and we have three core values; creativity, resilience, and respect. Our school values guide everything we do.

Matt Hillier | Headteacher



“All the Year 7s I have spoken to are so happy and excited to be there!”

Dorothy Stringer Parent

Education for Life

We are proud of the opportunities we offer our students, both in and beyond the classroom. Our school motto “Education for Life” underpins our strategic vision to prepare our students for the ever changing social, cultural, economic and technological world. Education never ends, and we are always learning and developing, adapting our curriculum and making sure we are preparing students for the future.

At Dorothy Stringer School we nurture our students' emotional wellbeing in a safe and happy environment, where they are known and supported as individuals. We give our students the confidence to be ambitious, determined and independent. Students take pride in our school and in their own achievements as well as in the achievements of others. We work hard to develop partnerships with parents and carers; their interest, support and commitment is vital. We aim to be a community that is open to all, where everyone feels respected and valued.

We have high aspirations for our students, but we also believe that learning should be enjoyable. We learn throughout our school experience, achieving together. Our values guide everything we do. There is a strong focus on achievement and excellence but also an underlying ethos that through teamwork and perseverance we can achieve much more, whether this is teachers working together, parents working with staff or the students helping and supporting each other.

Our focus is on developing curious, well-rounded young adults. Our primary goal is to challenge all of our students to maximise their progress during their time with us. We want them to leave school with not only the best possible qualifications but also a lifelong love of learning – hence our strong belief in ‘Education for Life’.

We expect excellence and progress from each and every student while recognising their particular talents and challenges. We encourage students to aim high, take risks and learn through their mistakes – all part of preparing them for life after school.



“ The teachers are encouraging and teach the subjects so well they make me want to learn more and read more.”

Dorothy Stringer Student



Creativity

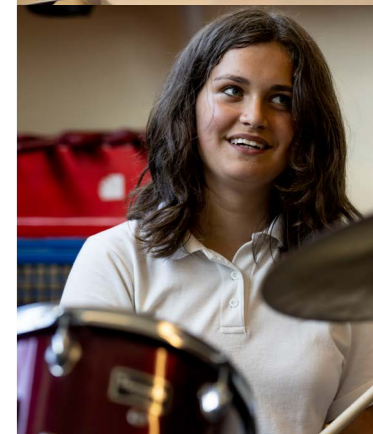
We believe that a school should inspire students to recognise the value of creativity; our students are given opportunities in Art, Dance, Drama and Music. Students are also encouraged to take part in sport, to experience the joys and challenges of competition and teamwork. We aim to help students understand the importance of fitness and healthy lifestyles. Our sporting excellence is recognised nationally and we support many talented students in their sporting aspirations.

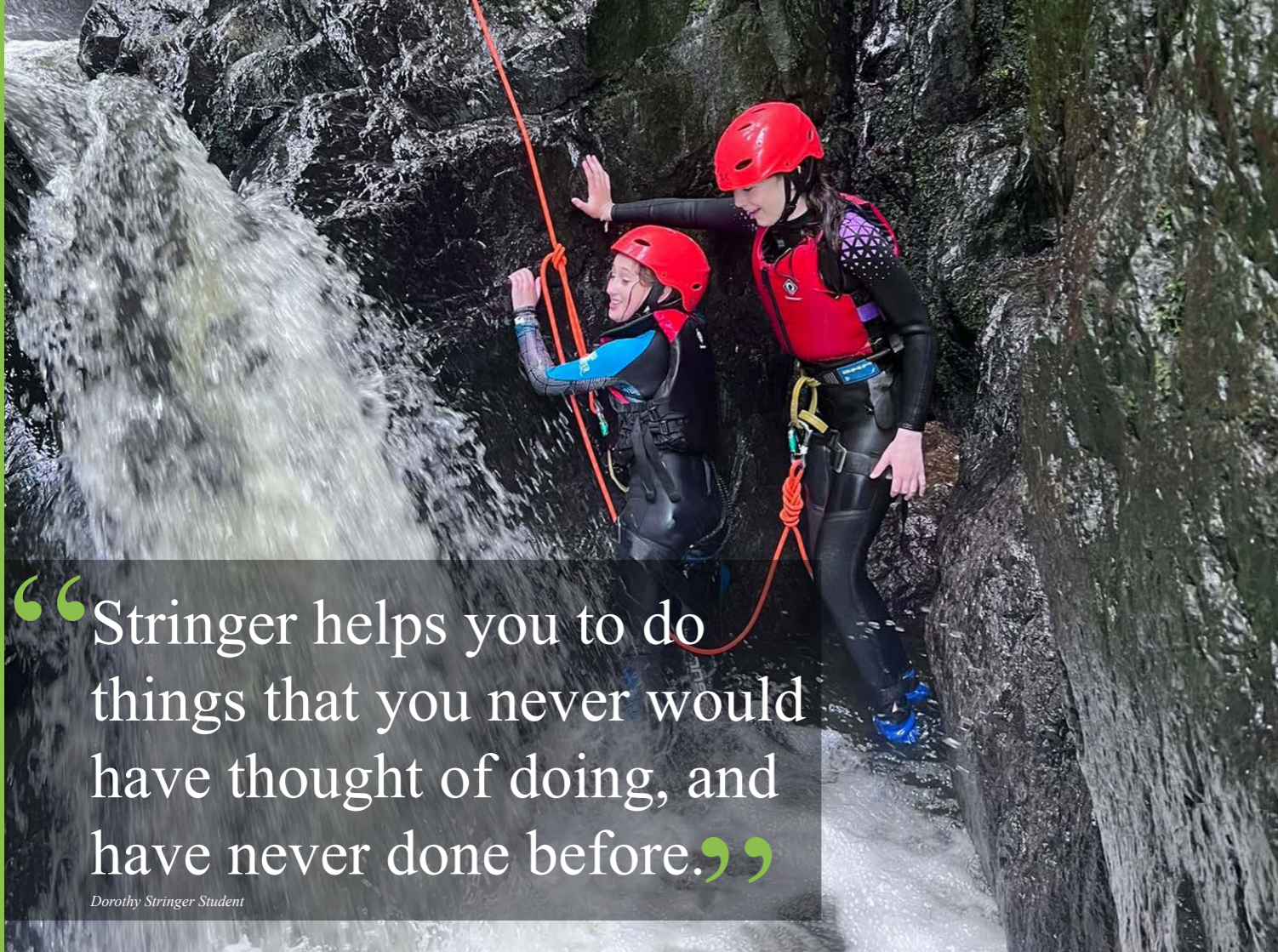
We believe that learning should be fun for students and inspire a lifetime of curiosity and engagement in the subjects they are studying. We want all our students to develop a positive attitude to learning and have confidence in developing their talents.

We aim to inspire our students to be independent, curious and resilient. We want them to try out new things and develop the courage to learn from their mistakes. Our aim is for our students to be confident, well-rounded and motivated to reach their full potential.

We encourage our students to direct their own learning as well that of others. During their time with us, students learn to take realistic and responsible decisions based on their ability to approach and solve problems effectively. Students can take on leadership positions throughout the school and are able to influence decisions and help drive the push for excellence in all areas.

Our aim at Dorothy Stringer is to provide all our students with an experience of education that gives them the optimism, skills and resilience to face the future with confidence.





“Stringer helps you to do things that you never would have thought of doing, and have never done before.”

Dorothy Stringer Student

Resilience

At Dorothy Stringer we encourage our students to have a go at everything, to embrace new challenges and learn from their mistakes. It is important we prepare our students to be adaptable and resilient. Students are challenged to work things out for themselves, to take risks and experience new ideas, concepts and emotions. As a school we do not stand still; we are always striving to do the very best by each student and ensure that they are supported by our outstanding pastoral system so that they are fully prepared for the challenges they come up against over the coming years.

We are proud of the supportive relationships that exist among our students. Senior students mentor and support younger students; they care about one another and take pride in each other's achievements. The school offers leadership opportunities from Year 7 through to Year 11 and our student

leadership teams make a real difference to the school and its environment. As a community we are respectful of others. We take personal responsibility for our actions. We want to develop understanding and compassion so our students play their part in helping to create a better world.

As students approach the end of their five years, we support them into the next stages of their education. We have excellent links with all local sixth form providers in the city, as well as further afield. Our alumni are keen to come back and discuss career choices, as well as reminisce about their experiences here at Dorothy Stringer. For many of them, the learning they received here and at college and beyond enabled them to go on and forge successful careers. They recognise the value of 'Education for Life' and the important role that Stringer played in setting them off on their journey into adulthood.





“I have always liked the feel around the school, the relaxed atmosphere and the nature of our students.”

Respect

Respect is a fundamental value here at Stringer. Mutual respect between staff and students creates an atmosphere that allows students to explore ideas and express their opinions without fear of criticism.

We treat everyone's differences and views with equal respect, encouraging diversity and a tolerant, open-minded view of society. We create a safe and inspiring place to learn and create a community of learners who respect, value and learn from staff and students. The positive attitude of students to learning stems from the mantra, 'work with anyone and respect everyone'. Students at Stringer value other people's ideas, values, work and contributions and this makes for a positive learning environment.

We provide a supportive environment for our students, one in which each student is recognised as an individual and supported according to their needs. Our pastoral structure means that as far as possible each student has a tutor who remains with them throughout their five years at Stringer. Tutors are at the heart of each child's learning; over the years, they get to know, listen to, nurture and inspire the students under their care. Tutors help to monitor students' academic progress as well as their personal and social development. Students are also supported by a Head of Year and a non-teaching Pastoral Manager, who are overseen by the Head of Lower or Upper School. This means that each child has a supportive network that helps them to feel safe and happy.



Learning with us

We are pleased to have subject specialists throughout the school and to be able to offer a real breadth of curriculum from which students pick their GCSE option subjects. Our team of highly trained and motivated experts provide continuous staff training and development. Consequently our curriculum is stimulating and creative and we work closely with both our secondary colleagues and primary schools to promote best practice in teaching and learning.

Pastoral Care

We provide an excellent level of pastoral support for students. Each form has a dedicated tutor who is an advocate for every student in the form. Each year group is led by a Head of Year and Pastoral Manager who stay with them throughout the five years, sharing in their journey, and guiding students through the different challenges and successes that each year of secondary school life brings. The pastoral teams are overseen by the Heads of the Lower (Year 7, 8 and 9) and Upper (Year 10 and 11) Schools; they work closely together, getting to know the students really well.

Our Support Department

We provide a range of support for students with special educational needs. Classroom learning is adapted to meet students' needs and information is shared through our live provision map, which is also shared with parents/carers. Additional teachers, teaching assistants or learning mentors may also work with students in small groups, within classes, or one-to-one. A copy of our SEN Report, special educational needs policy and the local offer are available to view on our school website, or on request.

Stringer Learning Gateway

The Stringer Learning Gateway (SLG) is our communication network for parents, carers and students. This provides access to live and up-to-date information on timetables, achievements, attendance, home learning, reports, behaviour, and more. The SLG supports your child's move to secondary school, and it's a great way for you to be part of your child's learning experience and keep in touch with us.



Timings of the school day



8.35 to 8.40	Tutors welcome students to form room
8.40 to 8.50	Morning registration
8.50 to 9.50	Period 1
9.50 to 9.55	Transition time
9.55 to 10.55	Period 2
10.55 to 11.15	Break (extra 5 minutes for Year 7)
11.15 to 12.15	Period 3
12.15 to 12.35	Year 10 and 11 tutor time Year 7, 8 and 9 lunch time
12.35 to 12.50	Lunch time
12.50 to 1.10	Year 7, 8 and 9 tutor time Year 10 and 11 lunch time
1.10 to 2.10	Period 4
2.10 to 2.15	Transition time
2.15 to 3.15	Period 5
from 3.15	Extra-curricular clubs and activities

Beyond the classroom



Extra-curricular provision and student leadership

Students are able to join a wide variety of free, extra-curricular clubs which run before, during and after school. Opportunities range from sports teams and dance clubs to music clubs, book groups, arts and crafts and our award-winning Eco committee. All our students are also offered the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, with expeditions organised in Year 9, and to join our welcoming and inclusive student leadership team.

Dolawen

We have our own outdoor centre, Dolawen, in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park, North Wales, which all our students have the opportunity to visit on various school trips. Led by qualified instructors, students can participate in a wide range of outdoor activities, such as gorge walking, abseiling, orienteering, and climbing. It's a fantastic way to bond with classmates and grow in confidence! You can see a video and more information about Dolawen on our website: <https://dorothy-stringer.co.uk/dolawen>.

Enrichment week

All our Lower School students (Years, 7, 8 and 9) get to experience Enrichment Week each year in July – with a huge variety of trips and experiences on offer for them to choose from.

College & University, Careers and Work Experience

When they reach Year 10, all our students participate in Work Experience week as part of our careers programme. Our in-house, dedicated careers officer offers one-to-one appointments to all students for impartial careers advice, and we run a range of skills development workshops, as well as college and university visits, throughout Upper School. Information events and support are provided for families and students when it comes to choosing their GCSE option subjects and making college applications.



Moving on

Our aim at Dorothy Stringer is for our students to love coming to school, to feel safe and happy here and to love learning. We hope that by the time they leave us, our students will have grown in confidence, be proud of their achievements here and be well-rounded young people. We prepare them for the future not only by providing an excellent education, but also by encouraging them to respect others, and to develop resilience and creativity – an Education for Life.

Joining the Stringer community

Our dedicated transition team will liaise with your child's primary school and we keep in touch with you every step of the way to help your child settle in well. You will be invited to attend key events such as taster days, welcome sessions and meet-the-tutor events., as well as parents' evenings and others throughout the year. Our pastoral team are on hand to support your child in school as well, along with their tutor and co-tutor.

If your child would like to join us here at Dorothy Stringer, you need to apply through the local authority admissions team:

brighton-hove.gov.uk/apply-school-place
schooladmissions@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 293 653

We look forward to welcoming you!

“ You and your team have done an incredible job at supporting and inspiring my child, and as a parent I am immensely and forever grateful. ”



DOROTHY
STRINGER
SCHOOL

EDUCATION FOR LIFE