

15 July 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

### End of Term Update

As this unusual academic year draws to a close, I wanted to give a brief update as I would normally at the end of term.

Firstly, I would like to commend our students for the positive manner in which they have managed the sudden switch to remote learning and home working. I'd also like to thank parents and carers for their help, understanding and support throughout this period. It has been a steep learning curve for us all; my thanks go to the staff who have continually adapted their methods to ensure that resources, support and feedback have been available throughout this period, alongside developing the curriculum in preparation for the new school year.

It is clear to see from the work submitted and from the telephone calls made by tutors and pastoral staff that most students have been working hard to keep on top their studies and are prepared for the return to school in September. You may have seen through social media some examples of the stunning work that our students have been completing. Since April, 1200 electronic positive post cards and over 200 hard copy post cards have been sent to students across all year groups, which speaks volumes for the commitment students have shown.

### Site Improvements

During the period of lockdown, we have taken the opportunity to continue to invest in the facilities for students. Improvements include: an extensive painting and decorating programme; the carpeting of several upstairs rooms (to reduce potential noise in classrooms below); and the refurbishment of ACE reception to ensure it is fully accessible and inviting for all. I am particularly delighted to confirm that the planned major refurbishment of our student toilets is now well underway too. With support of The Education Alliance, we have been able to invest over £650,000 to transform the girls' and boys' toilets across the site, after overwhelming requests from our students each time we have sought their views. I am sure they will be delighted with the results on their return.

### Pastoral Update

As well as providing high levels of pastoral support to many of our students, our pastoral teams have been completing various training programmes during the lockdown period to ensure they are fully prepared to support students on their return to school. They are currently making sure that we have comprehensive programmes in place to support students who may have struggled to complete all the work at home, or who need additional emotional support when they return. The school is also in the privileged position to have access to additional support for students, parents and staff, through our 'Be Well' programme. We will continue to work very closely with HEY Mind, SMASH, CAMHS, School Nurses and other specialist agencies to ensure that we can respond to any emerging needs as swiftly as possible. Further information about the 'Be Well' programme can be found on our website. However, if anyone

has any concerns or queries over the summer break, the pastoral support email will be checked daily ([pastoral.support@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral.support@driffieldschool.org.uk)).

When we return in September, the student planner will remain key to our Behaviour for Learning Policy. We are making some small amendments to our Behaviour for Learning (BfL) Policy to reflect our basic expectations around keeping the school COVID safe and these will be published on our website in September. On the first day back, students will be provided with an insert outlining these additions for their planners and we will fully explain the new routines we have established so they are clear and reassured.

In September, most year groups will remain with their existing Head of Year. However, as Year 7 finish their first school year and move to Year 8, Mrs Frazer will move from Year 11 to become the Head of Year 8, remaining with them for the rest of their time in school. As many of you will already be aware, Mrs Jones is leaving us at the end of the school to become the Head of Maths at The Snaith School, one of our other Trust schools. Mr Davison will become the new Head of Holtby House.

Please find attached a leaflet with full details of our Pastoral Team and their contact details.

### **Uniform and Equipment**

As we move into the school holidays, now is a good time to check your child's uniform in preparation for the new school year. Just to confirm, we will be expecting all students to return to school in full school uniform, including the wearing of a tie. Please note that students will also need to bring a **pair of clean, dry trainers** to wear for **indoor PE and Drama**, as they will no longer be able to take part in these activities in bare feet. If you have items of uniform that your child has grown out of but that are still in good condition, we would be happy to receive them to use in our uniform store. Any items can be donated via the school uniform store in September.

If you are unsure what the uniform requirements are, you can find a full list on our website (<https://www.driffieldschool.net/index.php/parent-information/uniform>); if in any doubt about the suitability of any item (especially trousers or shoes), please check with your child's Head of Year.

### **Additional Support**

We will be writing to you again in August with more specific details about your child's return to school and what the new school day will look like. If you have any particular concerns or anxieties that arise in the meantime, please complete the google form at the link below and the most appropriate member of staff will contact you.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdD0WFOD4LNhQKGQ-6qddux9ddOkfv26FELbjzScuP0gfWmQg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdD0WFOD4LNhQKGQ-6qddux9ddOkfv26FELbjzScuP0gfWmQg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### **Goodbye, Thank You and Good Luck**

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye, thank you and good luck to staff members leaving us this summer. I would particularly like to single out two long serving members of staff - Mrs Bilton (19 years) and Mr Rees (18 years) - who move to pastures new this summer. They have supported and inspired literally thousands of students during their time at Driffield School and I know they will be very much missed. I am sure you join with us in saying a huge 'thank you' for all they have done. We send you all very best wishes for the future.

### **First day details**

Finally, all that remains is for me to wish you and your family a very enjoyable summer break. We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school in September. As usual, **Year 7 and Year 12 students will return on Tuesday 8 September with all year groups attending from Wednesday 9 September.**

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Ratheram", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Scott Ratheram  
Executive Principal

Enc: Pastoral Team contact details