

2 October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## Re: Head's Round Up

Welcome to the fortnightly edition of head's round up. I have enjoyed meeting many parents at various events over the couple of weeks and I look forward to meeting more of you at the sixth form open evening next week.

## Employability Skills

I am writing to inform you about an exciting and unique programme that will be running at Driffield Sixth Form from September 2018.

Students in Year 11 will be given the opportunity to apply for a place on our **Employer Led Programme** which runs alongside our Post-16 courses. The programme aims to put employability skills development at the heart of the curriculum so that students not only leave us with excellent academic qualifications but also the skills and qualities needed to succeed as a university graduate or higher level apprentice in the future.

The programme will have two options; the first will be **The Apprenticeship Preparation Programme** which will suit any student looking for an Advanced or Higher Level Apprenticeship after sixth form. This unique programme will allow students to;

- Complete an Employability Skills Development Course with Inspire Ignite who run courses for large organisations around the country
- Take part in our Industry Mentoring Experience which will enable students to work with someone from industry when making their applications in year 2
- Complete professional qualifications e.g. AQA BSL (optional\*)
- Complete a work placement
- Attend work place visits and tours
- Listen to talks from various employers and apprentices
- Benefit from one-to-one careers appointments and workshops to boost CV's and applications

The second option on this Employer Led Pathway will be **The Graduate Preparation Programme** which will suit any student wishing to apply for a degree course after sixth form. Students on this programme will;

- Complete the EPQ ( Extended Project Qualification) which will enable students to practise dissertation writing skills 3 years in advance (\*optional course)
- Complete an Employability Skills Development Programme with Inspire Ignite to enhance the skills needed for graduate positions after university
- Complete professional qualifications e.g. AQA BSL (optional\*)

- Complete a work placement
- Attend UCAS personal statement writing courses
- Attend university preparation talks and workshops
- Benefit from one-to-one appointments to work on their UCAS applications

Students in Year 12 and 13 will be able to switch between programmes and employer links should their decisions change. They will not be “locked” into one career choice at the start of their Sixth Form life. This will ensure that students sample all of the opportunities that are available to them so that the right career choices can be made.

Sarah Barley will be speaking about these programmes at the sixth form open evening on Thursday 26 October. Students will also be able to discuss this during their Year 11 sixth form interview and further information will be available next year.

### **Year 10 ICT**

We are now teaching computing science in key stage 3 to help prepare students for the demands of the new GCSE computing course, which sits in our options at key stage 4. The curriculum has moved away from end user experience to areas such as coding. If anyone would like any further information then please contact Mr Evans, Deputy headteacher with responsibility for curriculum.

### **Year 7 settling in evening**

On Thursday 19 October we will host the Year 7 settling in evening, appointments can be booked by visiting <http://www.parents-booking.co.uk/driffieldschool>

It is a requirement for you to enter the following information:

- Your first name and surname (these must match those we have on record for you)
- Your child’s first name, surname and date of birth

The system is live from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October and will be open to take your bookings until Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 9am.

### **SIMS parent app**

We have completed our trial of the parent app and are now ready to roll out to all parents. We will start with Year 7. As you know, we do need to hold an email address for you in order for you to access this app, so please provide us with an up to date email address if you haven’t already. **Year 7 parents** will be able to do this at the Year 7 settling evening, which is **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 4.30 – 6pm.**

### **Pastoral changes**

As you may be aware Mr Nicholls has decided to focus on teaching PE and increasing participation in extracurricular sports activities. This means he will be stepping away from his pastoral work from Christmas onwards. We would like to thank Mr Nicholls for his hard work and dedication as Head of Fawcett House. We will be discussing with students our intention to take this opportunity to reduce our houses from five to four after Christmas. We aim to move students from Fawcett House into the remaining houses and each form group will remain with their current form tutor to enable a smooth transition. We will ensure each house has an even number of students going forward.

### **Year 6 open evening**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October** we are holding a Year 6 follow up evening for those parents who would like to come in and talk to a member of staff regarding any particular issue or question they may have. The evening runs from at **5-7.00pm**, and again should you wish to attend, please book an appointment by emailing Mrs Worthington at [jworthington@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:jworthington@driffieldschool.org.uk).

### **Sixth Form open evening**

The sixth form open evening will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. The event will take place in the ACE building from 6.00-8.00pm with all Post 16 subjects represented at a subject fayre. There will be a presentation from Mr Andrews in the West Hall from 6.00- 6.20pm for the X half of the year group and 6.30-6.50 for the Y half of the year group.

### **Years 5 & 6 activity day**

On Friday 27 October, we are holding a Year 5 and Year 6 Activity Day, We have 140 spaces and we expect places to fill quickly so please return the reply slip or email to [office@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@driffieldschool.org.uk) by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October to reserve a place.

During the day the children will experience a range of activities including PE, Food Technology, Astronomy, Art, Computing, Music and Drama. A packed lunch will be provided.

We ask that parents/carers drop off their children at the Ace Building at 8.45am and collect them from the West Reception at 3.30pm. Refreshments will be provided from 3pm for you to come and meet fellow parents and the senior team.

I will write to you again in two weeks with more updates from around the school.

Yours faithfully



D Pickering  
Head of School