

# NEWSLETTER

May 2009



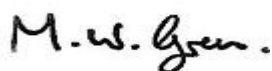
Dear Parent/Guardian

You will be aware that we are reaching the end of the first half of the summer term, which finishes at 3.30 pm on Friday 22 May. May I take this opportunity of wishing all parents and students a good half-term break. School returns at the normal time on Monday 1 June (to Week A). The calendar for next half-term can be found on the school website.

Once again this past half-term has been busy, in particular we are now fully under-way with national assessments. GCSEs and other Key Stage 4 assessments have begun in earnest and are being followed by the AS and A2 examinations. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all students the very best in these assessments. I would also like to thank colleagues for their relentless hard work and parents for their continued support with coursework and during the preparation stages for these external examinations.

As part of this newsletter I am also including Government and Local Authority advice about swine flu—I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M.W. Green.'.

M W Green  
Headteacher



### Lunchtimes

Parents will be aware that at lunchtime students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 are allowed to go into town for lunch. All other students should remain on the school site. The only exception to this is if parents have signed a letter saying that the student lives in Driffield and will be going home for lunch. Families living outside Driffield are not able to use this facility. A copy of the letter from Driffield parents should be stapled in the school planner.

It would be appreciated if parents could reinforce our school rule at home.

Thank you.

### End of Key Stage 3 Maths Examination

The Year 9 students and the accelerated Year 8 students will be sitting an internal examination on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. The exam will be 90 minutes long and they will be expected to bring a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, compass, protractor and a calculator. The assessment will be used to give them an end of KS 3 level in place of the SATs. Students will be told the location of their examination by their teachers. Revision materials are available via the learning platform. Year 7 and 8 students will sit an end of year assessment in class. Their class teacher will explain when this will take place and what equipment will be required. The support of parents at this time will be much appreciated.

C. Badham  
Assistant Head of Mathematics.

### "Swine Flu" and the Summer Examination Season

Please note that the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) is offering information via its website [www.JCQ.org.uk](http://www.JCQ.org.uk) – parents and students can access this at any time. The school has a "Disaster Recovery Plan" in relation to examinations. Normally these special consideration procedures are invoked on an individual candidate basis – however, we have been informed that the special procedures are sufficiently robust to cope on a large scale, should this be necessary. The government may also make other special arrangements should there be a pandemic.

I would like to reassure students and parents that wherever possible the timetable for the planned examinations will go ahead with appropriate supervision. If candidates are ill we understand that the normal arrangements for eligibility for special consideration will be in place if preparation for, or performance in the examination, is affected by missing some examination and coursework components.

We can, however, only apply for special consideration with a valid doctor's note for the day or period of exams affected – this note must be forwarded to the Exams Office at the school as soon as possible after absence from an exam. If you require any advice about what is required in the context of a doctor's note, again please contact the Exams Office. This information is subject to further advice from government.

Thank you

Miss L Noble  
Examinations Officer

# **THE DRIFFIELD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

TO ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND  
FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL.

IT IS TIME TO CLEAN OUT THOSE CUPBOARDS  
AND THE ATTIC AND EARN SOME HOLIDAY  
MONEY  
AT THE ANNUAL

# **GIANT CAR BOOT AND PLANT SALE**

**SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
DRIFFIELD SCHOOL FIELD**

**9am-12 noon**

**setting up from 8am (no earlier please)**

**£5 per unlimited space**

**Refreshments**

**Toilets**

**(Please display this poster at your workplace)**

## "Swine Flu"

You will be aware of recent outbreaks of "swine flu" around the world, and the possibility of a spread of such an illness causing a pandemic.

At a recent meeting of Driffield Area Headteachers, we felt it appropriate to draw up a common response and keep parents informed in the context of national advice and guidance. This message is being sent out to parents with children at local primary schools and at Driffield School.

We have been informed by government that the illness can be passed on particularly quickly by young people in a school environment, and it may be necessary to close schools in order to prevent the disease spreading. It may also be necessary to close schools if the number of staff absent due to illness reaches such a level that pupil safety is jeopardised.

If schools have to be closed (and subsequently reopened), information will be given in the local media, Radio Humberside being the most commonly available.

Hopefully this will not be necessary, but in any case there are a few precautions which we can take to limit any effect that the pandemic may have. These precautions are fairly obvious, but we repeat them here as a reminder;

1. cover the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and dispose of used tissues promptly
2. avoid non-essential travel or large crowds
3. maintain good basic hygiene (washing hands frequently with soap and water)
4. clean hard surfaces, such as kitchen surfaces and door handles, regularly.

If a pupil is taken ill at school, we would need them to be collected promptly to reduce the chance of infecting others. Please ensure that the contact details held by the school are up to date.

Finally, if your child does exhibit flu-like symptoms, please do not send them to school. We would also be grateful if you could inform us of any confirmed cases of flu in the family.

We hope that this planning proves unnecessary, but feel sure that you will understand the need for preparation.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE "ANNOUNCEMENTS" SECTION OF THE SCHOOL WEBSITE WILL BE KEPT UP TO DATE TO INFORM ALL PARENTS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS.

Thank you  
M W Green

## Work Experience for Year 10 Students

### How Parents can offer support

Most year 10 students should now be aware of their placement and the dates when they are attending their work experience placement. Students who have self canvassed their own placements but have not yet had confirmation will be notified in due course once approved.

Every student will be given a work experience journal once the parent permission slip has been received. This is a very important and helpful booklet which should be looked after carefully, as it will be used in school once the placement has been completed. The journal will;

- Help students prepare for their placement.
- List the skills they will be using.
- Contain a diary section where students can log their daily experiences.
- Include a section for review and references.

Students have received assistance during their English lessons to complete a letter of application and a CV. This should be sent to the placement as an initial way of introducing themselves to the organisation. Could you please encourage your son/daughter to telephone the placement prior to them attending? This helps to build a positive start to the work experience. Some placements may request an interview with the student; this will be stated on the placement details sheet.

As a school we place a high value on the knowledge and skills gained from work experience. We can provide support with travel expenses incurred by travelling to the placement. Currently we are the only school in the East Riding to offer this beneficial opportunity. Bus passes are available for collection from Miss Woodman in the Enterprise Office during June.

Due to the Science exam on Monday morning 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009, work experience will commence from lunchtime on this date.

If students are ill during their placement and can't attend their work experience, please contact the school in the usual way and also inform the placement.

We hope that this first taste of life in the workplace will be a memorable and positive experience. Much of it will depend upon the students' individual attitude and effort. I am sure that we can count upon your support in our endeavours to help young people enter the world of work with confidence.

If you have any queries about your son/daughters placement please contact the school using the information below.

Miss E Woodman  
Co-ordinator of Careers, Work Related Learning and Enterprise  
Ext 284  
ewoodman@driffield.e-riding.sch.uk

## Driffield School Podcast

The Driffield School Podcast continues to go from strength to strength and has now built up an international listening audience. Our current episode, number 24, features an interview with Mr P Grinstead, past pupil and current teaching assistant and school governor. We also have some interviews recorded by Year 8 students as part of our cross-curricular Malawi project.

In order to maintain interest and variety in our podcasts, which are largely student made and led, we would welcome any parents who might have an interesting job and/or hobby and would be willing to give up 15 minutes of their time to record an interview. Anyone interested please contact Mrs W Baxter at the school or via [podcast@driffield.eriding.net](mailto:podcast@driffield.eriding.net)

You can access the school podcast via the school website home page. Even better you can subscribe using iTunes (search podcasts for 'Driffield' to find us easily). A subscription is free and means that each podcast is delivered automatically to your PC as it becomes available.

Many thanks  
Mrs W Baxter, Podcast Co-ordinator

## DRIFFIELD SCHOOL UNIFORM

### As a reminder for parents and students:

#### Key Stage 3 Students (Years 7, 8 and 9) - Students must wear:

- A navy polo shirt with the school logo stitched or heat sealed on.
- A navy v-neck jumper, navy sweatshirt or navy cardigan all with the school logo stitched or heat sealed on.
- Plain black trousers or a plain black skirt.
- Sensible plain black or brown shoes or boots, or completely black trainers.
- A plain black or brown belt (only if required), with a simple fastening

#### Key Stage 4 Students (Years 10 and 11) – Students must wear:

- A plain white shirt or blouse with a collar and the school logo stitched or heat sealed on, or a white polo shirt with the school logo stitched or heat sealed on.
- A black v-neck jumper, black sweatshirt or black cardigan all with the school logo stitched or heat sealed on.
- Plain black trousers or plain black skirt.
- Sensible plain black or brown shoes or boots, or completely black trainers.
- A plain black or brown belt (only if required), with a simple fastening

### **Students are not allowed to wear the following items:**

- Shorts of any length or style
- Inappropriately short skirts
- Jeans, or denim trousers or denim skirts of any type or colour
- Pinstripe, checked or patterned trousers or skirts
- Clothing displaying brand names or brand logos
- Open toe or backless shoes
- Fashion boots or 'Ugg' style boots (plain black or brown boots are permitted).
- Stiletto heeled shoes or boots of any type
- Fashion, studded or wide belts
- 'Hoodies'
- Coloured t-shirts underneath school shirts or school polo shirts

### **Hair Colour, Hair Style and Make-up**

Natural hair colours only are permitted. Hairstyles must not include extreme colours or styles. Excessive use of make up is not allowed.

### **Jewellery**

- One pair of studs or small sleeper earrings is allowed. No other body piercing is allowed—this includes the use of retainers.
- One plain ring may be worn on either hand.
- One watch may be worn
- One discreet necklace may be worn

**All permitted jewellery must be removed when requested by any member of the school staff as appropriate e.g. during PE, D & T or other lessons and activities where it may pose a health and safety risk**

Thank you.