

NEWSLETTER

September 2009



Dear Parent/Guardian

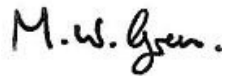
I do hope that you had a happy and peaceful summer break. Here at Driffield School we are looking forward eagerly to the new academic year. We have welcomed large groups of Year 7 and Year 12 students and wish all of them the very best with their studies.

Please see our website (address below) for updates to all our policies including our Behaviour, Discipline, Anti-Bullying and Drugs Policies. If any parent wishes for a "hard copy" of our policies please contact the school.

I include in this newsletter a copy of the calendar for the academic year 2010/2011 – I am aware that some parents are already planning their holidays well in advance!

I do hope you enjoy reading about our school.

Yours sincerely

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

M W Green
Headteacher

Please note that e-versions of our newsletters can be sent to you if you register at www.driffieldschool.net - you are able to visit and follow the link now.

In this way you will always receive a secure copy of our newsletters without relying on (often unreliable!) pupil post.



DRIFFIELD SCHOOL UNIFORM

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
- One discreet bracelet on each arm, 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

Music Tuition

A gentle reminder to parents - if your child(ren) are going to participate in music lessons provided by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, please ensure that an agreement has been signed and returned to the Finance Office at the School. If you have not already received an agreement, agreements are available in the Performing Arts Building – please see Mr Watson. Payment for lessons must be made for either the first term or the whole year by the end of the second week of lessons ie by 25th September 2009. Subsequent payments are due by the end of the second week of term. Please note we do not issue invoices and no further reminders will be sent.

Many thanks.

Mrs J Loft
Finance Manager

Swine Flu

Please keep an eye open for further advice via NHS Direct and Driffield School Online. In the meantime, if your child has flu like symptoms (particularly the high temperature (38°) and sudden cough), please keep your child at home and notify Health Point.

Thank you.

Change of Contact Details

If your address, telephone or e-mail details have changed, please inform your child's building office as soon as possible so your records can be updated.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Miss S Lord
HR Manager

Wear It Pink Day - Friday 23 October

Whilst we will not be holding a full non-uniform day, students may seek sponsorship and wear an item of pink on Friday 23 October. All monies raised for Breast Cancer Research.

Thank you.

Multi-Agency Liaison

The Student Services Team operates within school to help make your child's time here as successful as possible by working to remove barriers to learning, whatever the nature of the difficulty. Occasionally in order to meet your child's needs effectively it may be necessary to discuss certain issues with our multi-agency partners. If you have any concerns about this or would like to discuss the matter further please contact Mr D Andrews (Assistant Head-teacher:Inclusion), 01377 253261.

Volunteer Parents

During the next academic year it would be appreciated if any volunteer parents can assist staff by joining any of our many visits as a parent supervisor. During the course of the year there are a large number of visits for students in Years 7 – 13. If you would be interested in taking part in any of these, please contact Miss L Noble (Information Services Manager) here at the school.

In addition, you may wish to volunteer to help students remove any "barriers to learning" such as special educational needs. If this is the case please contact Mr D Andrews (Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion).

Booked Up

This is the Government initiative which entitles all Year 7 students to a free book. All Year 7 students attend an induction in the LRC when they will be given a Booked Up magazine for them to choose their free book from, we will also have samples of the books for them to look at. There is a deadline for ordering the books and to ensure the books are delivered the students will have to return their form to the LRC by Friday 25th September 2009.. There is also a website, www.bookedup.org.uk which the students can access to help them make their choice and enter a competition. The website also details six further books with accessible text if required.

Mrs P Harrison
LRC

Our School Site is Changing

Our new barrier has been erected at the main entrance so that vehicles using the school site can be limited and controlled – improving safety levels for students.

We would appreciate parents not driving beyond the visitors' car park when dropping off children at school. Because of the bottleneck nature of Manorfield Road it would, of course, be preferable if you could drop off your child away from the main school entrance altogether.

I would like to thank all parents in anticipation of their co-operation in this matter.

Mr S Wood
Site and Buildings Manager

Spiers Bank House Open Day

The Spiers Bank House Open Day will take place on Sunday 4 October between 12 noon and 3.00 pm. All pupils, parents and families are invited to visit the Centre and view its facilities.

Light refreshments and a warm welcome awaits. Why not bring the family and make a day of it? Enjoy a walk along the forest trails or on to the open moors. There is ample parking and the local pubs offer excellent bar meals. You may even find yourself volunteering to join the Trust's Committee as a parent representative. Location maps can be requested from North, East and West Buildings.

Mr A Corscadden
Educational Visits Co-ordinator

Term Dates for Academic Year 20010/11

Autumn Term 2010	Staff Training Day	Monday 6 September
	Staff Training Day	Tuesday 7 September
	Term Start	Wednesday 8 September
	Half Term Start	Monday 25 October
	Half Term Return	Monday 1 November
	School Closure Day	Friday 26 November
	Term End	Tuesday 21 December
Spring Term 2011	Staff Training Day	Wednesday 5 January
	Term Start	Thursday 6 January
	Half Term Start	Monday 21 February
	Half Term Return	Monday 28 February
	Term End	Friday 15 April
Summer Term 2011	Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May
	Term Start	Tuesday 3 May
	Half Term Start	Monday 30 May
	Half Term Return	Monday 6 June
	Term End	Friday 22 July

Attendance Matters!

The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 provided new powers to tackle poor school attendance. These powers came into force from February 2004 and include Fixed Penalty Notices. This means that for pupils with unauthorised absence from school (i.e. any absence that has not been agreed by the school) the person with parental responsibility may be subject to a fine of £50.

At Driffield School we consider regular attendance and punctuality to be extremely important. Governors have therefore accepted the recommendations of the Local Authority to use Fixed Penalty Notices as a tool to improve attendance. This would, of course, only be an option after the full range of alternatives had been considered. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance we hope you will seek the support of your child's Head of House or House Tutor who may in turn ask for specialist support from the Driffield School Student Services Team. Together we will develop a plan to help ensure your child successfully attends school.

However, in cases where a student has recorded 10 unauthorised absences within a 13 week period it may be necessary to move to a Fixed Penalty Notice. This will be issued by the Local Authority after an individual warning letter giving an opportunity for attendance to improve.

It is important to realise that any child arriving late after registration will receive an unauthorised absence mark.

It is also important to be aware that for students found truanting by the Police an automatic Fixed Penalty Fine can be issued. This also applies to students who have received a fixed term exclusion being found in a public place unsupervised by an adult.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding attendance or Fixed Penalty Notices please contact Mr D Andrews, Assistant Headteacher at Driffield School. Alternatively advice and support is also available through the Education Welfare Service, County Hall – 01482 392146.

Student Absence

It is important that we have an accurate record of student absence. If your child is absent from school it is important that you notify the school by ringing before 8.40 am on the first morning of the absence. By choosing the first option on the answer phone a message should be left including your child's name, form and brief reason for absence. If your child is absent for more than 3 days, please contact the school again so we can ensure our records are accurate. Thank you for your support in this matter.

School Lunches

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council has advised us that the price for schools meals has gone up as from the new autumn term. We are unable to provide complete price lists as have been provided in previous years as we have tried to keep rises at Driffield below the levels advised by the Local Authority.

For information, the school provides a very varied choice of items, too many to list. However, as examples:

Sandwiches start from £1.08 basic up to £2.20 for luxury

Baguettes – half start at 66p
full start at £1.31

Paninis – half start at £1.10
full start at £1.79

Drinks range from 25p up to 90p with the average being 65p, although there are drinking water fountains on school site.

A main meal consisting of meat, two vegetables and potato can be purchased from £2.09 upwards, depending on choice of potato, vegetables and whether a meat dish or roast.

Vegetarian meals start at £0.91 without vegetables and potatoes

Pasta meals start at £0.91 without vegetables.

Pupils are able to purchase half portions.

We would estimate that a pupil will need on average for a full cooked meal, pudding and drink £3.32 each day. Pupils can either bring drinks into school or use the water fountains.

Please can parents ensure that pupils have sufficient monies on their cards to purchase items from the canteens. We have had a number of instances where pupils have come to school with either no or insufficient monies or packed lunches. This has caused added stress to pupils especially those who are new to the school.

If you have any queries or problems, please contact Mrs J Loft, Finance Manager.

Thank you.

Mrs J Loft
Finance Manager

LRC News

Information of what is available to students and staff in the LRC is on the Driffield School Website.

A reminder:

All students and staff have been issued with user names and passwords to enable them to access their own Oliver area in the LRC management system. These individual areas show what books a person has on loan, when they are due back and allows one renewal on line without bringing the book back to the library. Reservations can also be made here. The OPAC enquiry is also in here, showing all the resources we have in stock. Oliver can be accessed from any computer on the school site and also from home using Kaleidos. All new year seven students will be given Oliver user names and passwords during their library induction. Any student having difficulty with this should call into the LRC.

The latest version of Oliver we have includes 'Olly'. This is a much more user friendly interface for our younger students and can be accessed by clicking the 'Olly' tab when entering your area.

Thank you

Mrs P Harrison
LRC

Staff Leaver

Ms D Smith (PE Teacher and School Sport Co-ordinator for Bridlington and the Wolds) leaves Driffield School from the beginning of this term. I am sure that parents and students join me in thanking Ms Smith for her service to the school and its students and wish her all the very best in the future.

M W Green
Headteacher

EXAM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010

w/c Monday 12 October 2009: - Year 7 Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT's)

Thursday 12 November 2009 – School Photographs – Individual and House

Friday 13 November 2009 – School Photographs – Year Groups (11, 12, 13)

Thursday 19 November 2009 – Y11 GCSE Modular Science Exams Resits.
(Resits charged per unit)

w/c Monday 7 December 2009 – Y11 Mock Exams

January 2010 – AS/A2 January Exams

Thursday 14 January – Y11 GCSE Triple Science Exams

Monday 18 January – Y11 GCSE Triple Science Exams

Wednesday 20 January – Y11 GCSE Triple Science Exams

Thursday 21 January 2010 – Y10 GCSE Geography Exam

Wednesday 3 March 2010 – Y10 GCSE Modular Science Exams & Y11 Resits
(Resits charged per unit)

March/April/May 2010 – KS5 Language Orals

Monday 19 April till Wednesday 28 April 2010 – Y11 GCSE Orals

Thursday 22 April 2010 – Y11 English Language Mock Exam

Friday 7 May 2010 – Y9 Science Test

Monday 10th May 2010 until the end of June – Summer external exams: (AS/A2/GCSE)

Friday 14 May till Wednesday 19 May 2010 – Y10 Orals

w/c Monday 21 June 2010 – Work Experience/Enterprise Week 1

Friday 25th June 2010 – Y10 Statistics GCSE Exam

w/c Monday 28 June 2010 – Work Experience/Enterprise Week 2

Monday 28 June 2010 – Y10 Modular Science GCSE Exam

Tuesday 29 June 2010 – Y9 Maths Test

Please note that the school cannot authorise any student absence during an assessment/exam period.

Staff new to Driffield School from September 2009.

The following staff join us from the beginning of this term and we would like to wish them every success at Driffield School.

Miss L Adams – Maths Department
Mr J Amos – Extended Schools
Miss M Anderton – English Department
Miss F Barnes – English Department
Miss K Barr – Student Services
Miss F Bentley – English Department
Mrs J Brearley – Kitchen Assistant/Lunchtime Supervisor
Miss K Cheshire – Cover Supervisor
Mr N Collier – ICT Department
Mr B Couper – Performing Arts
Miss H Davies – PE Department
Miss L Ebblewhite – Art Department
Mrs H Fewtrell – Parent Support Advisor
Mrs J Hall – Assistant Information Manager
Mrs C Hawes – Kitchen Assistant
Miss S Kilvington – Art Department
Mrs P Mancrief – ICT Department
Miss K Martin – Geography Department
Miss D Martyniak – Science Technician
Miss G Noble – Cover Supervisor
Mrs A Pierce – Student Services
Miss G Ramsay – Assistant Headteacher/Geography Department
Miss C Sargeson – Student Services
Mr R Simson – Maths Department
Miss A Smith – Maths Department
Miss S Speck – Kitchen Assistant
Mrs S Taylor – Student Services
Mrs C Touhy – Head of Geography
Mrs L Walker – Assistant Head of Science
Miss J Woodcock – Student Services