

NEWSLETTER

May 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

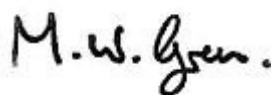
You will be aware that we are reaching the end of the first half of the summer term, which finishes at 3.30 pm on Friday 28 May. School returns at the normal time on Monday 7 June (to Week A). The calendar for next half-term can be found on the school website.

Once again this past half-term has been busy, in particular we are now fully underway 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 the relentless hard work and parents for their continued support with coursework and during the preparation stages for these external examinations.

I also write to ask for the support of parents with our school uniform—a number of “fashion trends” have been noted, which we need to “nip in the bud”. This support from parents is much appreciated, and will hopefully avoid the application of sanctions. **In addition, the school will be having a re-newed drive to improve punctuality**, particularly Y10 students as they return to school from Driffield Town Centre at lunchtime. Please see the important articles inside this newsletter. There is also information about temporary changes in leadership at the school for the next academic year and **preliminary information about Driffield Show Day**.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all parents and students a good half-term break.

Yours faithfully

M W Green
Headteacher**Reminder**

You can register for our e-newsletters at www.driffieldschool.net - home page. This will avoid you having to wait/rely on pupil post!



Leadership of the School: September 2010

I would like to inform parents about the leadership of Driffield School from September 2010. From this date I will be undertaking the equivalent of a half-time temporary secondment working with the National College for the Leadership of Schools and Children's Services.

During the academic year 2010/11 the governors have agreed that Mr Simon Jones (currently Deputy Headteacher) will be Acting Headteacher for Driffield School. During my part-time attendance at the school I will operate as Co-Headteacher.

Later this term we also welcome back Mrs Janine Harris (Deputy Headteacher) from maternity leave and Mrs Linda Towse (Assistant Headteacher) who this year has been seconded to another East Riding School. I am confident that next year we will have the capacity and consistency to ensure the continued effective leadership of the school as we work hard to ensure the best possible outcomes for all of our students.

Thank you

Martin 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

Exam Results – August 2010

AS and A2 results available Thursday 19 August

A2 Results from 10.00am – Y13 Centre

AS Results from 2.00pm – Y13 Centre

Y11 GCSE results available Tuesday 24 August from 11.00am - Y13 centre – *students will need to bring their clearance letter with them.*

Anyone who is not here on results day can hand a stamped addressed envelope to the exams office before the end of term. **Results are not able to be given via telephone/email.**

Thank you

Miss L Noble, Examinations Officer

Year 10 Work Experience 2010

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 CV and covering letter. 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, Enterprise Office, West Building w/ c 7 June.

There are exams during this period: Geography Thursday morning 24 June and Science Monday morning 28 June, work experience will commence immediately after these have finished.

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 Uniform

Please find below the long established and agreed Driffield School uniform for students at Driffield School. On the whole our students conform to our requirements and we have excellent support from parents. However, from time to time, a number of fashion trends can take hold and some students attempt to "adapt" the uniform beyond what is acceptable. A recent example of this has been a small number of girls wearing extremely short skirts. Students have recently been informed that these skirts should not be worn, and we have consequently been asked for guidance about what length of skirt is acceptable and appropriate for school.

Having undertaken research at other schools, we have decided that a skirt should be no shorter than knee length. Anything shorter than this would be deemed inappropriate and school sanctions would be applied.

In addition, we would like to further clarify our position on two other issues. Firstly, in relation to "Hoodies" – these should not be brought into school. It is unacceptable for them to be worn to and from school – please leave them at home.

Also, if any jumper or cardigan is worn to or from school or anywhere on the site, it should be a school jumper or cardigan in the correct colour with logo. No other jumper/cardigan should be worn at any time.

When students return after the half-term break there will be wide ranging checks on our school uniform. If there are transgressions the student will receive a letter informing parents of the specific problem. If the student then returns to school wearing the same garment, the sanctions to be applied will include exclusion from school. I am sure that parents will understand that it is important that we send a clear message to students about our high expectations regarding dress and appearance. It is especially important that parents of girls ensure that any skirt worn is of an appropriate length in the context of the information given above.

If you have any questions about uniform, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs D Dalton (Assistant Headteacher: Student Well-Being) here at the school.

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. (**no shorter than knee length**)
- Sensible plain black or brown shoes or boots, or completely black trainers.

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. (***no shorter than knee length***)
- 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 (***shorter than knee length***)
- 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

PE Department

We would be grateful if parents could note the following:

- Plimsolls are not suitable to be worn for sporting activities as they do not offer any ankle support.
- Students may wish to apply sunscreen for outdoor lessons once the weather improves.
- Please ask all students to leave their valuables at home.
- If any Year 11 students who are leaving wish to donate their PE kit, please ask them to leave it with the PE Department or one of the building offices.

Many thanks for your support in these matters.

Parentpay

The system updates are now completed and parents can use their parentpay accounts to access information of what their child(ren) have purchased in the School canteens, balance of monies remaining on their respective cards, menu choices available, ability to set alerts to an e-mail address to ensure that a minimum balance remains on pupils' cards.

Parentpay also ensures monies are spent on the purchase of healthy options within School and discourages the misuse of lunch monies through spending in shops outside of the School.

Thank you
Mrs J Loft , Finance Manager

Music Tuition

Music tuition agreements for those lessons as provided by the ERYC Music Service are now available for the academic year 2010/2011 i.e. the year starting in Sept 2010.

Please could I remind parents that music lessons must be paid for within two weeks of the start of each term or, if paying in full, at the beginning of the academic year. Lessons commenced part way through a term must be paid for immediately. Payment terms are to ensure the continuation of the provision of lessons within School and avoid pupils losing their 'slot'.

Thank you
Mrs J Loft, Finance Manager

LRC News

LAST CALL FOR TESCO VOUCHERS!!!

Please can you send in any Tesco vouchers you have collected as soon as possible. We must have all our vouchers in by Friday 2 July 2010. We have booked a collection day before then of 17 June and need to have all the vouchers in NOW, to be counted and parcelled up. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us by sending in vouchers already. However last year 2200 vouchers were sent to us after the cut off date and were thus lost. As was the case last year the vouchers are now combined and will be used to get sports equipment and IT equipment for the school.

Creative Writing Sessions

The LRC has hosted two Creative writing sessions in conjunction with extended schools as a follow on to the Meet the Author session last term. Pupils are now eagerly awaiting the return of their competition submissions for the best beginning of a story and the best story.

Reading Champions Sessions

Mrs Cavalli continues to run the Reading Champions group in the LRC on a Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime. This week the group are visiting a Fire Station. Anyone who finds reading hard and anyone who finds reading easy can join this group and together participate in fun activities which will enhance reading skills.

Thank you
Mrs P Harrison

Twilight Bus Service Announcement

After half term the following changes will be made to TBS services:

Red Route (Skerne, Wansford, Foston, Gembling, Kelk, Lowthorpe & Harpham) is cancelled until the end of term. The service will start again in September 10.

Green Route (Kilham, Langtoft, Rudston, Octon, Thwing & Wold Newton) will operate on **Monday** evenings only until the end of term.

White Route (Kelleythorpe, Kirkburn, Bainton, North Dalton & Middleton) will operate on **Monday** evenings only until the end of term.

All other routes will continue to operate as normal until the end of term.

Thank you
Mrs E Collinson, Extended Schools Co-ordinator

Improving Punctuality

We are writing to ask for your help in tackling lateness back to school immediately after lunch. The issue is particularly relevant to our **Year 10** students who are currently allowed into town during lunchtime and we hope will retain the same privilege when they move into Year 11 in September.

For obvious reasons, excellent punctuality is consistently quoted by employers as one of their key criteria when recruiting. Working with you, we want to play our part in establishing those good habits and skills for life amongst our students.

Presently there are a small number of pupils who are arriving back onto the school site after 1.20 pm (when a warning bell sounds to remind students to move towards their next lesson). As a result they are often late to the start of Period 4.

After half term we will be introducing a new system designed to encourage a prompt return. **A key part of the new procedure is the introduction of a 30 minute 'same day' end of school detention.** Essentially, those students who are not back on site by **1.20 pm** will have their names taken by the senior staff on duty. The school will then contact the relevant parents/carers to inform them that a 30 minute after school detention has been issued.

Wherever possible we intend to hold the detention on the same day as the lateness so as to reinforce the message. We realise that for some this may cause inconvenience regarding the journey home (although there is a well established Twilight Bus Service – details available via the school website).

If there are particular circumstances that prevent the detention from being served on the same day we will of course be flexible and re-arrange for the following day. However, I'm hopeful that with your support we can minimise the need to defer the sanction so as to maximise its impact.

Finally, if there are any pupils who still continue to make the wrong choices and turn up late in the afternoons we will be operating a '3 strikes and out' policy. After 3 such detentions students will lose the privilege of going into town at lunchtime and will be expected to remain on the school site.

Can we take this opportunity to thank you again for your continuing support.

Mr S Jones
Deputy Headteacher

We Will Rock You

The next school production is 'We will Rock You' and audition material is now available from the Performing Arts Office. Auditions will take place from Monday 28 June. Students who are interested should collect materials and book their audition slot. There are a lot of parts available for this show and we need actors, singers and dancers as well as those who can do all three! We will be performing the full orchestral version and students who would like to play a musical instrument should also book an audition.

Visit to Malawi 2011

We are at the planning stage for a staff student visit to Malawi in July 2011. Information about this visit will become available in June and interested students in current year 9 – 12 (next years 10 – 13) who are interested in applying for this visit can register their interest with Mr Watson in Performing Arts. As soon as the visit information is available we will make sure you have a copy.

Would you like to perform with our Malawian visitors in October!

The Performing Arts department are planning and preparing for our next project with Peatry Ntodwa and the Crusader Theatre Company from Malawi. They will be resident with us in October and we are putting together a community choir to sing in the performances. There will be three rehearsals before the end of term which will take place on:

Wednesday 30 June 6-15 pm to 7-15 pm Room 240 Performing Arts

Wednesday 7 July

Wednesday 14 July

All rehearsals take place from 6-15 pm to 7-15 pm Room 240 Performing Arts building. All welcome – please come, you will absolutely love this music!!!!!!

Thank you

Mr J Watson
Head of Performing Arts

May 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

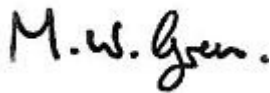
Driffield Show – Wednesday 21 July 2010

There has been a long established tradition that our students be allowed to attend the Driffield Show. We believe that the show provides a very worthwhile experience for our young people and I am more than happy for this to continue.

The school will provide study facilities for students who will not be attending the show. It is essential, therefore, to complete the slip below if your son or daughter will be attending school on 21 July. If the slip is not returned by this date, regrettably we will not be able to provide study facilities as it is essential that we know numbers in advance to ensure that appropriate supervision is provided. If your son or daughter is attending school, he or she will need to bring in to school their own packed lunch. If your child has a free school meal, please indicate below and a packed lunch will be provided.

Please note that students must attend school for the whole of the day and not attend the show for a short time and then arrive at school. I am sure that you will understand that this creates a situation impossible for us to manage.

Yours sincerely



M W Green
Headteacher

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**DRIFFIELD SHOW
WEDNESDAY 21 JULY 2010**

Name(s) of child(ren) _____

Form _____

Form _____

will be attending school on Wednesday 21 July and will not be attending Driffield Show.

My child is in receipt of a free school meal – please tick

Signed (parent/guardian) _____

Date _____

Please return to your child(ren)'s Form Tutor by **Wednesday 7 July 2010**

THE DRIFFIELD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

It's time to clear out the garage and loft and turn all those unwanted items into cash at The Driffield School Association's annual **CAR BOOT SALE!** If you haven't been to one before then make this your first, it's good fun and refreshments - including bacon butties - will be available too!

It's been another good term for the DSA with a successful Easter Bingo. We would like to thank all of you who provided prizes or came along to support this event.

We've also been busy looking at bringing new ideas into the DSA including some ambitious projects to benefit the school -watch this space!

We've been pleased to support the Students in a number of ways this term, making funds available for the year 9 event 'Prison? Me? No Way!' as well as providing £500 towards history resources for the school library (LRC).

Later this year the Malawi Theatre Company will be returning to Driffield School to host a whole series of events working with the students and we have been able to sponsor one of the members of the Company for this.

It's been encouraging to welcome new members to the DSA meetings this term, active new members are always welcome, no qualifications needed, just your enthusiasm! Check out our DSA link page at the school web-site or go direct: dsa@driffieldschool.e-riding.sch.uk

Driffield School Association are Hosting
their annual

GIANT CAR BOOT AND PLANT SALE

SUNDAY 6th JUNE
9am – 12 Noon
(SETTING UP FROM 8AM)

at
Driffield School

£5 per pitch
No need to book in advance

Refreshments

Toilets