

NEWSLETTER

February 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to the latest edition of the school newsletter. The world of education continues to move apace with significant changes being introduced by the Coalition Government. On the one hand, schools are being told that they will have greater autonomy in the future as many of the systems and structures that previously underpinned education are removed. On the other, the Government has imposed a new performance measure for schools (the English Baccalaureate) that seeks to shape the curriculum offer at Key Stage 4.

At Driffield, our students have always had access to the subjects that make up the Baccalaureate via their Year 9 Options choices. As this is not actually a qualification, we see no reason at the current time to change our approach simply in order to climb the education league tables. Therefore, we will continue to offer a free choice of three options this year so that students (suitably guided by the school, parents and carers) can select those subjects that are appropriate and they enjoy the most.

In school the spring term is always very hectic as the exam season starts in earnest. On a very positive note, we can already report some outstanding results from the Year 11 November entries for Maths. Of the 229 students entered early, an incredible 223 achieved a pass at A* - C, with 40% of all grades awarded being either A* or A. This is a fantastic achievement for both our students and the Maths Team. We are now hoping that Year 11 can make the best use of the extra time over the new few weeks to maximise their chances across all other subjects.

The spring term is also the run up to our Performance Review Day (Thursday 10 March) when we invite you to book an appointment to meet with your child's Form Tutor. We remain firmly committed to continuing to improve our home/



school partnership by putting the role of the Form Tutor and our vertical House system at the heart of our work. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you in March.

On a related note, I would also like to thank you for all your help in backing up the school's drive to improve behaviour, uniform, equipment, punctuality and attendance. As a parent myself, I understand that it can be frustrating to receive letters home that might appear to be highlighting relatively minor issues. However, if we are genuinely aspiring to be an outstanding school I believe attention to detail is vitally important and with your support we will continue our efforts to raise standards still further in the future.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the cast, crew and staff who put on 'We Will Rock You' in January - in my view, it was quite simply brilliant! Seeing so many of our students getting so much pleasure from their involvement reminded me of the tremendous benefits of the extensive extra curricular offer at Driffield - as important as they may be, it's not all about exam results!

Yours sincerely



S Jones
Acting Headteacher

New Parent Governors

Elections have recently taken place for new parent governors and we would like to welcome Mrs S Harman, Mr G Tulloch and Mr J Railton to the Governing Body of Driffield School.

Mr S Jones
Acting Headteacher

Changes to Driffield School PE Kit



Indoor Kit:

- Plain green (standard school green) polo shirt - the current white shirts are to be phased out.

- Black shorts
- White or no socks

Indoor clean non-marking trainers

Outdoor Kit:

- Green and black long sleeved shirt - Available from Drury Sports only.
- Black shorts
- Green long socks
- Boots and outdoor trainers
- Towel for showers (boys)
- Navy or black tracksuit bottoms may be worn during winter months for outdoor activities

A gum shield and shin pads are *strongly recommended*

History Time Capsule Competition

Congratulations to Jack Gibson, Cerys Rees and Kira Hirst in winning awards for the Year 7 2010 History Time Capsule Competition. Students were asked to record their most important personal and world events of 2010 for future generations to view. Personal artefacts and written accounts of The World Cup and the Icelandic ashcloud proved popular.

The capsules will be encased in the new Vocational Learning and Arts Building, marked with a plaque and opened in 50 years time.

Thank you to all Y7 students who entered the competition and to Mr Wood, Mr Jamie Denham from Interserve and Ms Warner for judging the competition.

This is just one of many ways the school is using the building itself and a great research tool for many of our students as well as being an exciting prospect for staff, students and the local community.

Mr C Rees
Head of History

EXAM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011

Wednesday 2 March - Y10 GCSE Modular Science Exams & Y11 Resits
(Resits charged per unit)

March/April/May 2011 - KS5 French / Spanish Orals

Friday 8 April - Y11 English Language Mock Exam

Friday 13 May - Y9 Science Test

Monday 16 May until the end of June - Summer external exams: (AS/A2/GCSE)

**There will also be a number of Y10 exams
in a variety of subjects in the summer series**

16 - 20 May - Y10 French / Spanish Orals

w/c Monday 20 June - Work Experience/Enterprise Week 1

w/c Monday 27 June - Work Experience/Enterprise Week 2

Tuesday 28 June - Y10 Modular Science GCSE Exam

Wednesday 29 June - Y8 & Y9 Maths Test



Driffield School Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Event 2011

3.00 pm - 6.30 pm Thursday 10 March 2011

We wish to extend an invitation to all Year 9, 10, 11 and Sixth form parents (and students) to Driffield School IAG Event (formerly known as Careers Event) in the West Hall on **Thursday 10 March 3.00 pm - 6.30 pm**. We envisage a day where students and parents can gain information and guidance relating to various potential career pathways.

There will be representatives from a variety of industries with the opportunity to speak to skilled specialists to gain information on career opportunities and share insight and experiences from the following areas:

1. Skilled trades
2. Apprenticeships
3. Connexions
4. Further Education
5. Higher Education
6. Armed forces
7. Jobs

For further details please contact Miss Woodman Tel: 01377 253631 Ext 267, email: ewoodman@driffield.e-riding.sch.uk

Work Experience for Year 10 Students

Work experience for students in year 10 gives a valuable insight into the world of work. It gives them the opportunity to spend one full week on an employer's premises. Students are expected to make the most of their time in a working environment and carry out tasks and duties as directed by the supervisor on the placement. They also have a journal to complete which helps them summarise their experience for future use.

All students were given the opportunity to source their own **local** placement if they have contacts with employers. All students have been asked to indicate their chosen areas of interest for work placement.

All Work experience placements must undergo a health and safety appraisal prior to any student starting work. This process can take up to 12 weeks and is a legislative pre-requisite; therefore all forms **must be completed by Friday 4 March 2011**.

If the desired/chosen placement does not pass the health and safety appraisal, the school can not endorse the placement and an alternative must be chosen from the pre-approved list. It may not be possible to allocate all students to their first choice. We will do our best to find an alternative or second choice. Students must be prepared for this eventuality as it also gives them a taste of the experience when job seeking in their future career.

We encourage students to recognise the transferable skills that are gained from undertaking a work placement. These include for example; self awareness, working with others, resilience and communication. The value and effect of the time spent on work experience depends greatly upon the individual's attitude and effort. We hope that it will be a memorable and positive experience!

The work experience period unfortunately clashes with some exams. Further information about these arrangements will be given in due course. Groups for work experience are;

- W/c Monday 20 June 2011 for IAG groups X and **10Y-1AG16**
- W/c Monday 27 June 2011 for IAG groups Y

If a placement proves popular and there are only limited spaces available, a further interview by the Work Experience Co-ordinator may be necessary to resolve this. We hope to match students according to their suitability and aptitude.

It is anticipated that notification of placements will be issued around Easter. If you have any further queries, please get in touch with:

Miss E Woodman
Co-ordinator of Careers, Work Related Learning and Enterprise
Ext 267
ewoodman@driffield.e-riding.sch.uk



School Photographs

Driffield School took the decision earlier in the year to take Year 7 and 10 individual photographs only to allow parents to purchase one school photograph per Key Stage. These photographs were taken in November 2010 and orders can still be placed with The School Photography Company using the order form enclosed with the photograph proof. Proofs were handed to students via form teachers in December 2010. There will be no additional charge for late orders.

At this time we also took House Photographs along with Years 11, 12 and 13. If you are interested in ordering one of these you can access the proofs for these photographs using the usernames and passwords below at the web address:

www.tspc-shop.co.uk/groups

Username: jggool

Password: ejzdof

Should you have any queries about your order, please contact The School Photography Company direct on 01295 250812.

Term Time Holidays

During the summer term 2010 the Governing Body adopted the Local Authority Term-time Holiday Policy. The criteria for authorising term-time holidays has altered significantly, therefore if you are considering applying for a holiday absence it is essential you are aware of the detail of the policy and we recommend you contact the school prior to making firm arrangements. A leaflet explaining the new policy is attached to this newsletter and the full policy is available on the website. If you require further information please contact Mrs. Dalton (Assistant Headteacher: Staff and Student Well-being).

LRC News

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We are holding our annual Scholastic Book Fair in the LRC from Wednesday 2 March until Monday 7 March. Year 7, 8 and 9 classes will visit the Fair during their English lessons and it will be open at break, lunchtimes and until 4pm after school.

This is our main fundraiser of the year and if you can support it by allowing your child to purchase a book, not only does it give your child the opportunity to own a brand new book, because we get 60% commission on all sales, your child will have the opportunity to borrow many more books from the school library. Thus when comparing the price of books on the internet and in the Book Fair, if you purchase a book from the Fair you will be enabling you child to access more than one book.

Also because World Book Day (Thursday 3 March) falls within the Fair we will be giving all pupils a £1 World Book Day Token which they can use to reduce the cost of any book they purchase by £1. These tokens can alternatively be used to purchase special £1 books for World Book Day available at Sokells, and Tesco in the week of World Book Day.

DRIFFIELD SCHOOL'S LITTLE BOOK OF POEMS

The LRC reading group - The Author's Retreat - has put together a 'Little Book of Poems'. They have selected the best poems from many good poems submitted by Driffield School pupils. We are very pleased with the result. The book is lovely and full of really interesting poems. We are selling the book at the price of £4.99. Anyone wishing to purchase their own copy should contact Mrs Harrison, in the Learning Resources Centre. Telephone: 01377 253631 Ext 217. Any profit from the sale of these superb little books will go towards the purchase of new library books for pupils to borrow.

We are lucky at Driffield School to have many keen readers and the above fundraising efforts mean we can buy new and interesting titles for these pupils to continue their reading and also attract more pupils to begin their reading journey.

TESCO VOUCHERS

Tesco will begin their Vouchers for Schools campaign on 28 February through to 8 May. As was the case last year these vouchers combine the previous Computer Vouchers for Schools and the Sports Vouchers for Schools. Also, as in the previous two years, Tesco have moved the deadline date forward and all vouchers **MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THEM BY 1ST JULY 2011**. Last year nearly 3000 vouchers were handed in after the deadline date and lost to the school. All vouchers can be sent to school, either to the building offices or the LRC. Last year we purchased sports equipment, food technology equipment and a digital camera for pupils and staff to loan for use in lessons.



Your Views on the Driffield Times/Post

As part of the school's commitment to supporting the local community we would like to invite parents to take part in an eSurvey on behalf of the Driffield Times and Post. Please read the message below from the Editor.

Hello, I am the Editor of both the Driffield Post and Driffield Times. I am writing in the hope that you will take a minute to give me some feedback.

I like to think that the Post and the Times are at the heart of local life in and around Driffield, but it is important to know whether or not people like you feel the same way. Could you please take a moment to complete a short online questionnaire about our Driffield newspapers and website? The survey really will only take a couple of minutes to complete and your feedback will be invaluable to me and my team. To complete the survey please go to www.jpsurveys.co.uk/driffield/.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Nick Procter
Editor, Driffield Times and Post