

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

Traditionally the spring term is always extremely busy as we gear up towards the exams in May and June. However, this year has been even more of a challenge due to the unusually late Easter (in 2010 we finished almost three weeks earlier on 26 March!) As a result, I suspect we are all ready for the holidays and the welcome chance to re-charge the batteries. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their tremendous hard work and wish all our students the very best in their forthcoming exams.



We return after May Day on Tuesday 3 May and Year 11 study leave commences the following week on Thursday 12 May. As the Royal Wedding falls within East Riding's Easter holiday dates, all schools in the area are entitled to choose an additional day during the remainder of this academic year. Ideally we would have like to co-ordinate this with our primary schools and follow their original proposal date in early July. Unfortunately, this clashed with the GCSE/A Level exams and so following consultation with Governors, Driffield School has chosen to take **Friday 15 July** as the closure day.

For your information I have included a summary of the Ofsted questionnaire that was conducted as part of our Performance Review Day in March. The summer term is when we do most of our planning for the next academic year and the feedback received is vital in helping us to improve further. I will also be asking staff and students to fill in the equivalent versions over the next few weeks.

In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to the revised guidance on the use of mobile 'phones and the wearing of scarves, included in this newsletter. Your continued help and support is invaluable in reinforcing such messages in school.

Wishing you all a happy and restful Easter.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Jones





A Close Shave!

Mr. Colley, Mr Macdonald, Mr Mitchell and Mr Rees, shaved off their beards in the Performing Arts Block during lunch-time for Comic Relief. Over 100 students and staff came to support the event. The grand total raised was a whisker away from £500 at £481.17. There was plenty of blood, (Mr Colley), sweat, (all 4 grappling manfully with the abundant whiskers) and tears (students laughing so much), all in the name of charity.'

Museum Visit

On Saturday 26 March, students and staff from the history and biology depts. visited the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds as a complementary part of the GCSE history course. The visit was interesting, enjoyable and a useful addition to the revision programme for the students.

GCSE, AS and A2 Exam Revision

Easter is late this year and exams will be upon our students soon after they return to school on Tuesday 3 May 2011. So exam preparation is more important than ever.



Ambitious students aspiring to exam success need to use the Easter Holidays effectively and follow a structured revision timetable.

The day is best divided into 3 sessions: 09.00-12.00, 13.00-16.00 and 17.00-20.00 hours. Students should aim to revise at least one session per day and perhaps two for A2 students.

Revision is most effective after food and whilst hydrating with water, and by using a different session(s) each day.



Spiers Bank House



Maintenance and repairs, redecorating, and Health and Safety upgrades continue unabated at our field centre.

Currently, two projects are being rolled out: upgrading the shower facilities and replacing all the internal fire doors. As the field centre's Charitable Trust only charges pupils a nominal fee when visiting, money is tight and funding such projects is difficult.

Should anyone wish to sponsor a fire door approximately £60 each please contact the SBH Trust secretary Tony Corscadden, at school on 01377 253631.

Similarly, conservation work outdoors is ongoing. We are currently expanding our nest box scheme and breeding bird survey (in conjunction with the British Trust for Ornithology) and planting more deciduous trees in the Autumn.

If you would like to sponsor a nest box or a beech tree, £10 each, please contact the secretary as above.

Lastly, as part of our breeding bird survey equipment the field centre requires some bamboo poles, these are difficult to acquire but can be used by carpet shops and warehouses. If any parent has such a contact the Charitable Trust would be very glad to hear from them.



Paracetamol in School

Our current policy on the use of Paracetamol tablets only allows us to give one tablet in certain circumstances. Appropriate questions about previous use of Paracetamol will be asked and if the Health Adviser or other First Aider considers it necessary, parents will be contacted to check that this is acceptable. Only one tablet will be given in the school day and a record of Paracetamol given is logged at Health Point. Any Paracetamol given will also be noted in the student's planner.

If a student's need for pain relief is regular or frequent please contact Health Point to discuss individual requirements. It may be possible to store a small amount at Health Point for administration with written parental consent and instruction on use.

Work Experience 2011

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

Notification of students and their placements will be issued after Easter. Students that have self canvassed their own placement will receive confirmation when approval has been granted. This process can take up to 12 weeks so confirmation may take longer.

The work experience period unfortunately clashes with a Science exam on Tuesday 28th June in the morning. Work experience will commence directly after the exams have finished, placements will be notified.

We have now had funding approved for bus passes. Currently we are the only school in the East Riding to offer this assistance for travel. Driffield School values work experience and the skills that students gain and we would like to continue our support in accessing placements.

Further information will be issued in due course. If you have any queries please get in touch with:

Miss E Woodman
Co-ordinator of Careers, Work Related Learning and Enterprise
Ext 267

ACE Day - Monday 16 May 2011

Aiming for College Education (ACE) Day is an exciting opportunity for Year 9 students to gain insight into what life is like at College or University. The event is run in connection with the University of Hull and will fit into the normal school day. Students will need to wear school uniform and take a packed lunch. There will be a series of short activities throughout the day including a tour of the facilities. Letters to parents have been issued to all Year 9 students during PSHCEE lessons before Easter. As places were offered on a first come first served basis, names of students attending will be displayed after Easter in each of the building entrances. Students staying in school will attend lessons as normal.

For further information please contact Miss Woodman, 01377 253631 ext 267 ewoodman@driffield.e-riding.sch.uk

LRC News

Scholastic Book Fair

Many thanks for all the support you gave to the Scholastic Book Fair. We sold a tremendous amount of books, over £1,200 worth and with 60% commission on sales, topped up with 100% commission on sales over and above last year we received free books to the value of £874.83. These are Key Stage 3 fiction books and will allow me to spend my budget on non fiction books and fiction books for Key Stage 4 and 5.



Tesco Vouchers

Tesco Vouchers for schools are now in store. Please collect as many as possible and also please remember to send them into school quickly. The cut off date for us to count and submit the vouchers is 25 July. Last year we had over 2000 vouchers submitted after the cut off date and these were lost. Last year we bought a digital camera for students to borrow in lessons and also sports equipment and some food technology equipment.

Carnegie Shadowing

The Carnegie short list has been announced. The Carnegie Children's Book award run a shadowing scheme each year. Our shadowing group will read the shortlisted books and decide which we think should be the winner and then see if we agree with the final decision. Our group has our own area on the Carnegie Shadowing site and those that take part in the shadowing can post their own reviews online about the books they have read.

Author visit

In the summer term Sophia Bennett will visit the school. She will run a creative writing workshop followed by an after school talk on being an author. Sophia wrote 'Threads'. This is a story about three young girls that befriend a refugee. They are all interested in Fashion and Crow the refugee is brilliant at making clothes from rags. The friends manage to get Crow a professional show but discover that her brother back in Africa has been taken and forced to become a child soldier. The book connects to a charity that is trying to help 'The Invisible Children' that are child soldiers in the world. We expect to have a very enjoyable afternoon.

Ofsted Questionnaire

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	My child enjoys school	40.23%	52.4%	6.23%	1.13%
2	The school keeps my child safe	38.18%	58.04%	2.52%	1.27%
3	The school informs me about my child's progress	42.61%	49.43%	7.39%	0.57%
4	My child is making enough progress at this school	44.41%	50.43%	4.88%	0.29%
5	The teaching is good at this school	44.19%	53.49%	2.03%	0.29%
6	The school helps me to support my child's learning	32.06%	60.88%	7.06%	
7	The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	26.69%	65.98%	7.04%	0.29%
8	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (for example, changing year group, changing school, and children who are finishing school, entering further or higher education, or entering employment)	36.47%	61.40%	1.82%	0.30%
9	The school meets my child's particular needs	40.35%	56.49%	2.88%	0.29%
10	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	33.33%	59%	6.49%	1.18%
11	The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	27.95%	66.46%	4.35%	1.24%
12	The school is led and managed effectively	37.24%	58.65%	3.81%	0.29%
13	Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	46.11%	50.72%	3.17%	

THE DRIFFIELD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

*It's almost time to clear out the garage again 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 why not make this your first, it's good fun and refreshments are available too. Please use the main entrance and follow the signs.*

Check out our DSA link page at the school web-site or go direct to dsa@driffieldschool.e-riding.sch.uk

The
Driffield School Association
are hosting the annual

GIANT CAR BOOT AND PLANT SALE

SUNDAY 5th JUNE

9am – 12 Noon
(SETTING UP FROM 8AM)

at

Driffield School

£5 per pitch

No need to book in advance

Refreshments

Toilets

Mobile Phones Policy



We do not encourage students to bring a mobile phone to school but, reluctantly, we have had to accept that they are carried routinely by more and more people. If a mobile phone is brought to school it must be completely at the owner's risk, **be switched off during lessons and inside the buildings**. It may only be used outside. There are additional serious and legitimate concerns over the potential misuse of camera phones. Their use is strictly forbidden in all of our changing rooms and gymnasias. Phones which interrupt lessons or are used to photograph others without their consent will be confiscated until the end of the school day. We will write to the parents of any student whose phone is causing us problems to ask that it is not brought into school again.



Scarves

When scarves were predominantly an item of winter clothing the school policy was to treat them in the same way as hats, i.e. they should be removed upon entering a building. However, we are now faced with large numbers of students wearing a wide variety of fashion scarves and so we need to take a different approach. To simplify matters, we have decided that in the summer term **no scarves should be worn at school**. Therefore, after the Easter holidays they will be treated in the same way as other non-uniform items, i.e. students will be asked to remove them and they will be placed in the nearest building office to collect at the end of the day. This will also trigger a letter home and repeat offenders will be excluded from school if they refuse to follow the guidance.

We will be reviewing our policy again in time for the Autumn term and will provide further information nearer the time.

