

DRIFFIELD SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Valuing learning • Valuing each other

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's been a hectic but very productive first half term and I'm pleased to report that the students have made an excellent start to the year. The tightening and streamlining of our Positive Behaviour for Learning System has been well received and students have responded impressively to the further raising of expectations. Despite the higher 'bar' the total number of exclusion days has fallen compared to the equivalent period in 2010 and we have only had 1 incident logged at our most serious level, as opposed to 4 in the previous year.

We've also relaunched our whole school Anti-bullying Policy with 46 trained student mentors working alongside staff to provide appropriate support and help to ensure a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. The work of the Anti-bullying Mentors is being led by some of our Sixth Form students who have devised a programme of activities with help from Ms Woodcock and Mrs Towse.

One area we are keen to improve further is punctuality in the morning. We already have a system in place where duty staff record the names of students who arrive after 8.40 am and persistent offenders serve a lunchtime in the Seclusion Room. However, despite this, I feel there are still too many students who are late without any good reason. We will continue to monitor the situation over the next few weeks and if necessary introduce a same day sanction in the spring term. As ever, your parental support in reinforcing this message is much appreciated.

The run up to Christmas this year is likely to be exceptionally busy. In addition to the usual business the Governing Body will be seeking to appoint a replacement for Mr Green and I am expecting a phone call from Ofsted at any time (we have now gone beyond the maximum 5 year window for whole school inspections). Furthermore, we will also be undertaking the significant logistical task of moving into the new ACE Centre (named by the Student Council and representing Art, Community and Enterprise), with students gaining access to the fantastic facilities towards the end of November. I will keep you updated on any developments as and when they happen.

I would also like to draw your attention to the change in the school name to Driffield School and Sixth Form. Governors formally agreed to the proposal earlier on this term in recognition of the value in which we hold our post-16 provision. The Local Authority have been informed and we will be moving to the new logos, badges, letterheads and signage as opportunities arise over the next few weeks.

I hope you find the information contained in the newsletter useful. I'd like to finish by wishing all readers the very best over the remainder of this half term.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Jones
Acting Headteacher

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EXAM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012

Monday 30 January	- Y10/Y11 Geography Unit 3 (Resits charged) Unconfirmed if Y10 will complete at this time
Tuesday 31 January w/c 6 February	- Y11 GCSE Dance Practical Mock Exam - Y10 French / Spanish Orals
Thursday 1 March	- Y10/Y11 GCSE Modular Science Exams (resits charged per unit)
Friday 2 March	- Y10/Y11 GCSE Modular Maths Exam (resits charged per unit)
Monday 5 March	- Y10/Y11 GCSE Modular Maths Exam (resits charged per unit)
Tuesday 6 March	- Y11 Childcare Exam
Wednesday 7 March	- Y10/Y11 GCSE Modular Maths Exam (resits charged per unit)
Thursday 8 March	- Performance Review Day
w/c 12 March	- Y11 French / Spanish Orals
Thursday 22 March	- Y11 English Language Mock Exam
March/April/May 2012	- KS5 French / Spanish Orals
Monday 14 May until the end of June	- Summer external exams: (AS/A2/GCSE)

There may also be a number of other Y10 exams in a variety of subjects in the summer series

Monday 21 May	- Y10 Triple Science GCSE Biology Exam
Thursday 24 May	- Y10 Triple Science GCSE Chemistry Exam
Wednesday 30 May	- Y10 Triple Science GCSE Physics Exam
Monday 11 June	- Y10 GCSE Modular Maths Exam
Tuesday 12 June	- Y10 GCSE Science Exam
Wednesday 13 June	- Y10 GCSE Modular Maths Exam
Friday 15 June	- Y10 GCSE Science Exam
w/c Monday 18 June	- Work Experience/Enterprise Week 1
Monday 18 June	- Y10 Geography Unit 2 Exam
Tuesday 19 June	- Y10 GCSE Modular Maths Exam
Wednesday 20 June	- Y10 GCSE Science Exam



LRC NEWS



BOOKED UP

The free books that each Year 7 chose from Booked Up have now arrived in school. We are pleased that this year only 9 year seven pupils decided not to order a book. The books are now being sorted and Mrs Mills will deliver them to the pupils who did order books, in their Year 7 English class after half term.

LRC SALE

The LRC is holding its annual fundraising sale of Buns, books, bookmarks and 'lots of stuff' on Wednesday 2, Thursday 3 and Friday 4 November. The sale will be held in the LRC at lunchtimes and proceeds are for Book Aid International. Last year we raised £130 for this charity and requested our money went to the Book Aid International project in the Gaza strip, in Palestine. Book Aid International provides books to communities in Africa and other parts of the world, where women and children have little access to such resources.

BOOK DONATIONS

We have recently received some book donations of children's literature, that have been in good condition and a welcome addition to our stock. We have many avid readers at Driffield School and our books soon wear out! Please if you are thinking of passing any books on that you think pupils of Driffield School may enjoy, think of us and send them to the LRC.

Mrs Harrison

Learning Resources Centre Manager

Community Choir

There will be a community choir this next half term preparing some items for a Christmas Concert. The Choir will meet on Monday 7 November at 6.45 pm until 7.45 pm in room 240 of the Performing Arts building at Driffield School. It will meet for six rehearsals and then a concert on Thursday 15 December. All welcome!



J Watson
Performing Arts



Vaccinations

The programme of vaccinations being delivered in school in the coming year will include the HPV vaccine being offered to all girls in Years 8.

This will be given in 3 doses spread across a period of 6 months. The first dose will be given on 22 November, the second on 7 February and the third dose on 29 May 2012.

The school leaver booster vaccination for tetanus, diphtheria and polio will be offered to all Year 10 students on 7 February 2012 following the HPV vaccinations. Consent forms will be issued in school approximately 3 weeks before the day and to allow for them to be processed they should be returned to Health Point within one week.

For more information regarding vaccinations in school please contact Health Point on extension 247 or the School Nurse, Sue Collier on 01377 208749

Spiers Bank House

As part of an on-going conservation project at Spiers Bank House the Trust Committee is still in need of a supply of large bamboo canes, the sort that carpets are rolled around prior to delivery i.e. approx. 10 foot long or longer.



If you are able to provide us with some or suggest a contact who may be able to do so the Trust Committee would be very grateful.

We have a small sum of money to pay for such canes should anyone be able to find a supply for us.

A Corscadden

Vomiting Illnesses

Vomiting illnesses can affect many of our students, particularly during the winter months. The NHS advises that children should not return to school until 48 hours after vomiting and/or diarrhoea has settled.

In order to minimise the risk of transferring the infection to others, please can we request that you do not send your child back to school until they have been free from symptoms for at least 48 hours and are well enough recovered to cope with the physical and mental demands of the school day.



CALLING ALL PARENTS - "The exam years"

Many parents feel at a loss when their children enter Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), the examination years. It is easy to feel confused by complicated systems and structures that enable students to choose subjects and courses; GCSE's, Vocational Courses, Diplomas and Level 2 are just some of the choices that are available. This is further compounded by the introduction of controlled assessments, tiers of entry, linear or modular examinations, practical assignments and fieldwork. The structure and nature of examinations has changed greatly over the years and is continuing to evolve. It is quite natural to feel that it is best to let the "experts" at your child's school simply get on with it.

However, research has shown that parental support is *eight times* more significant in influencing a child's educational success than social class. The campaign for learning found that parental involvement in a child's education can mean the difference between an A* and an "also-ran" at GCSE.

In short; your involvement during these crucial years can and does make a huge difference. This could be the difference between a D and E passes or A's and B's.

The Good News

Don't feel that you have to be an expert in any of the subjects that your child is studying and you don't have to sacrifice your own life and responsibilities.

What you can do.

The hardest demand on year 10 and 11 students is that of understanding the long-term importance of doing the best they can. This will involve from time-to-time putting off short term activities, usually fun things, in the interest of long-term benefits. This is hard for adults. Teenagers interest in education and its long-term benefits appear at the wrong end of their priorities, way behind friendships, football, hockey computer games, social networking, internet chat rooms, romantic liaisons, computer games etc. etc. etc. In addition, not all children have the same level of maturity, ability and levels of motivation.

You are an expert in your own child and have been his or her most important teacher. Your support, encouragement and interest can and does make a significant contribution to your child's motivation and ability to cope with the demands of the exam year.

Sometimes you may have to

- *Be tough about social activities*
- *Limit their freedom to stay out late & up late*
- *Get them into good habits quickly*
- *Ensure all deadlines are met before examination pressure kicks in*

Finally, when the partnership of parents, students and school all work together it is certain that children will achieve their best possible results and give them the opportunity to play a full and prominent role in society.

New 120 school bus service on the A166 corridor and Kelleythorpe

We are pleased to inform parents that **Sixth Form** students living in the following places will now be able to purchase a bus pass on the new 120 (formerly the 435) school bus service:

Fridaythorpe, Fimber, Wetwang, Garton, Little Driffield, Southwood Park/Auchinleck Close, Ramsden Close and Kelleythorpe.

Students in **Y7 to Y11** who live in Little Driffield, Southwood Park/Auchinleck Close, Ramsden Close and Kelleythorpe may also purchase a bus pass.

The timetable for the route is as follows:

Fridaythorpe	07:55		Driffield Cross Hill Infants	15:20
Fimber, Pond	08:00		Driffield School	15:30
Wetwang	08:10		Driffield Junior School	15:40
Garton on the Wolds	08:15		Auchinleck Close	15:50
Little Driffield	08:20		Little Driffield	15:55
Auchinleck Close	08:25		Garton on the Wolds	16:00
Driffield School	08:35		Wetwang	16:05
Driffield Junior School	08:45		Fimber, Pond	16:10
Driffield Cross Hill Infants	08:50		Fridaythorpe	16:15

The cost for a bus pass for the remainder of this academic year is £210, which works out at £1.33 per day for a return journey. The bus pass must be paid for in advance by cheque, or the cost can be spread across six monthly instalments of £35 payable by direct debit. To pay by direct debit you need to complete an on-line form by following the link below:

<https://east-riding.firmstep.com/default.aspx/RenderForm/?HideToolbar=1&F.Name=UEEcyrJ2YkM>

Students will also have the option to buy a daily "walk-on" single fare at £1.50 or a return fare at £3. However, should all the seats be sold to bus pass holders, students without a bus pass will not be able to travel. We therefore strongly recommend the purchase of a bus pass, which will be issued on a "first come, first served" basis.

Please note: The new 120 service will be operated and managed by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council using an ERYC vehicle without seatbelts fitted. Any issues or complaints regarding the

service should be directed to their Buswise Hotline on 08456 445949. It is the parent's responsibility to check the suitability and safety of this service for their child.

To apply for a bus pass you can either:

- Ask your child to collect an application form from any of the school's offices
- Download a printable version from the school's website (www.driffieldschool.net)
- Complete the on-line form using the link above if you wish to pay by direct debit
- Contact ERYC Passenger Services on 01482 395544



For further information about the new 120 service please contact Mrs E Collinson on 01377 253631 ext 210.



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