



Manorfield Road,
Driffield,
East Yorkshire
YO25 5HR

6 November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Head's Round Up

Welcome back to the start of the second half term, I am excited to see the students again, refreshed and ready to learn following their October half term break. I hope you enjoyed your half term too with a fun filled Halloween and remained safe during Bonfire night. We have some exciting activities planned for the second half of the term and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Y7 settling in evening

On Thursday 19 October, Year 7 students and parents joined us for the settling in evening. The evening gave parents the opportunity to meet their child's form tutor and was very enjoyable.

Punctuality

Driffield School is concentrating on punctuality to lessons. All students have been fully prepared for the new system that we started towards the end of Term 1. We are encouraging students to move around site more quickly and attend lessons on time.

There are a number impacts of arriving late to form and lesson time, including a disruptive start to lesson and missing out on initial 'get thinking' tasks.

The process involves a system whereby if a student arrives late for form or lesson time, they are expected to make up the time at lunchtime the following day.

- 1 late mark = 10 mins
- 2 late marks = 15 mins
- 3 late marks = 20 mins
- 4 late marks = 25 mins
- 5 late marks = 30 mins

We recognise that students may have existing appointments at these times, therefore, we do allow students to make up this time the following day, via a second chance system.

Failure to attend the second chance results in a Thursday after school detention with a member of SLT.

We have already seen an improvement in punctuality to lessons since the start of this system and thank you for your support.

Head of School Surgery

As a school, we value feedback from parents/carers and we are holding the Head of School surgery on Thursday 9 November 2017. Surgeries allow dedicated time for parents/carers to meet with the Head of School and the senior leadership team regarding any enquiries about their son/daughter.

Please email Mrs Worthington (PA to the Head) worthington@driffieldschool.org.uk if you wish to make an appointment. Please outline what the issue is so you can be allocated an appointment with the most appropriate person.

AstroTurf

Following the decision to open the AstroTurf during lunch time, it is important to remind students that they must wear trainers whilst playing on the AstroTurf. Students wishing to spectate should stand outside the gates to the AstroTurf to ensure no injuries occur.

Duke of Edinburgh awards

On Thursday 16 November 2017 at 6.30pm, we are proud to be holding a celebration evening for those students and their families who have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Well done to everyone who have completed their bronze, silver or gold awards.

Interventions

This year we will be running two additional GCSE interventions, grammar club and quotation club. In these sessions, students working at grade 4/5 boys will be working on their spelling, punctuation and grammar skills with a male member of SLT, using one registration session a week. With accuracy of writing being allocated marks in English and other GCSE subjects, it's a great opportunity for these students to boost their marks.

Quotation club is being run by Mrs Harrison (Associate Trust Director for English) to help boys aiming for grades 7 and above to revise literature texts, securing the knowledge needed to attain the top score.

Both of these are running alongside the support we already offer, lunchtime drop-ins in E1, Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes. These are available to all students to go through anything they're struggling with, provide a quiet place to revise/complete homework or to get one-to-one feedback on exam responses completed as revision and homework.

Site

During the October half term, we have worked on the sixth form centre to provide a welcoming environment for the sixth form students. We have replaced furniture, offering new comfortable seating facilities and focused on repairing the roof. I hope the students enjoy the new facilities upon their return.

Vaccinations

We are organising the vaccinations for Year 8 and Year 9 students. Please note the dates below.

Y9 girls and boys school leaver booster and Men ACWY vaccinations will be held on Monday 27 November and Wednesday 29th November 2017.

Y8 Girls HPV vaccination will take place on Tuesday 10 April 2018 and for Y9 Girls HPV vaccinations on Thursday 12 April 2018.

Further information will be available nearer the time, along with a consent form for parents to complete.

New Season Menus

The new menus have proved a great success with many more staff and students enjoying the fresh food prepared on site. There are new menus for the second half term of the autumn term, please see the website for more details.

Uniform update

Having met with a student panel consisting of over 20 students, from the five different houses, the students have highlighted that they would like shirts and optional blazers with a tie to represent their house. They have also asked that these be cost effective, with blazers being machine washable. Meetings have taken place with a local provider and we are delighted to be working alongside them and the students to create a new and improved uniformed. We will hold an open evening so you can view the proposed changes.

I will write to you again in two weeks with more updates from around the school.

Yours faithfully

D Pickering

D Pickering
Head of School