

15 June 2017

Parent update

We have had a very busy term so far, staff from the school and Trust have delivered bespoke intervention and revision sessions to ensure that students in Year 11 and 13 have had access to the best possible support. The intervention sessions have included lunchtimes, afterschool sessions and Saturdays. All of the sessions have been very well attended and we would like to thank students, staff and parents. We hope that students will reap the benefits when they collect their results in the summer.

Staffing

This year, we have had our most successful recruitment of recent years and have a full complement of staff for September. Numbers of teaching staff applying for posts at Driffield School is high and there has been some strong competition to join the school.

This term, we have three new members of staff in post; Barry Evans joined us as Deputy Head of School, Faye Warren as SENCO and Erica Barker as Teacher of English. Further to these appointments, we have undertaken significant recruitment activity across all areas of the school as we are beginning to implement the curriculum for 2017-18. We are pleased to confirm that Tom Fisher will join us in September from an outstanding school in Bristol as Assistant Headteacher to lead on pastoral support and student welfare.

We have also had a significant number of internal promotions with the following staff appointed to key roles:

Rose Backhouse - Director of Science

Cathy Hogben - Director of Maths

Charlotte Martinson - Head of Geography

David Hudson - Head of Business and ICT.

Ady Colley - Head of Drama/Dance

Ben Couper - Head of Music

Alex Amers - Head of Maths.

Mike Evans and Ash Drury will be joining Rose on her leadership team as Head of Biology and Head of Physics. Congratulations to all of them.

Successful external applicants include Lorraine Pearce who will join us as Head of Modern Foreign Languages, a very experienced language specialist with a number of years of experience in MFL leadership.

We are also delighted that two experienced Trust leaders have decided that they wish to move to Driffield. Richard McDonald, Head of English at South Hunsley, has now been appointed as Director of English at Driffield and Nick Gresswell, a very experienced teacher

and leader in Maths, will be joining the Maths department at Driffield from Malet Lambert School as a School Improvement Leader. In addition to this Sandy Loynd, an experienced Physicist, will be working at both South Hunsley and Driffield as a School Improvement Leader for Physics.

I am also delighted to confirm that Alison Burnitt will be our new Head of History, after a number of successful years at South Hunsley School.

Driffield School and Sixth Form Local Governing Body

Following a rigorous selection and interview process, the new Local Governing Body are now in place and are active in and around school. They are very keen to be involved in all aspects of school life and are relishing the challenge. You can read their background information and pen portraits on the school website.

Sixth Form update

Darren Andrews has been working with the existing sixth form students and the current Year 11 students to shape the future of the sixth form.

This has increased the uptake from Year 11 students joining Year 12 and we are delighted that so many of Year 11 are expressing an interest to join us for Year 12.

Industry Mentoring

A new industry mentoring scheme was launched this academic year to help equip young people with the skills they need for the workplace. The new initiative is already seeing students in Year 12 and Year 13 being paired up with representatives from local businesses who will share their skills, knowledge and experience to give the young people the best possible preparation for the working world. Students are receiving one-to-one support in areas such as CV building, university and job applications, work experience placements and even more day-to-day skills such as time management and organisation.

Since it started, over 15 local employers have joined the initiative with many more registering their interest in the scheme. We have already had such a positive response from the local community and businesses really do want to get involved in the programme. The scheme will help bridge the gap between education and employment and give some local businesses the opportunity to attract local talent to future job roles. Through this scheme, businesses have the opportunity to get to know the school and what our young people have to offer and it is also very positive for the development of the students as it takes careers guidance beyond the classroom.

So far students, who are interested in certain industries have been paired with mentors operating within that sector. For example, we have accountants, engineers, health care managers etc. all working with young people looking for opportunities within that industry. We also have students who want to improve their general employability skills and explore a range of career paths before making a decision.

The impact of this programme is already clearly visible. Adam Storey was e-mentored by an employee at Rolls Royce during his apprenticeship application and was successful in gaining a place on their Higher Level Apprenticeship Programme which will start in September 2017.

Billy Elliott

Last term, the outstanding cast of Billy Elliott sold out five performances and demand was so high that extra seating had to be provided. Thank you to all staff and students involved as a lot of hard work, dedication and rehearsal time went in to ensuring that performances were

polished. The reviews from staff, students and parents have been fantastic and we are currently beginning to plan the show for next year.

Sporting achievements

The East Riding sports partnership held a level 2 Dodgeball tournament at Beverley Longcroft. The Year 8 girls went through to the level 3 Humber Sports finals later in the year. The Under 12 girls' cricket team achieved joint 3rd in the indoor cricket final. The Year 11 netball squad recently progressed through to the end of season netball championships winning all three games.

Earlier this month at Lake Windermere, students Mia and Ruben Syrett competed in a sponsored swim raising over £400 for Macmillan Cancer charity. Well done to both of you.

We wish Chris Senior, Teacher of PE and Ben Glover a Year 12 student, the very best of luck as they are both running the Hull 10k race this coming weekend.

The Education Alliance – Pupil Premium Awards finalists

We are delighted that our partner School, South Hunsley School and Sixth Form College have been shortlisted for the national Pupil Premium Awards again and could be chosen as the national winner, this is the second time in four years that the school has reached this stage. The awards ceremony will be held at the House of Commons on 29 June 2017. Driffield School continues to work closely with the Trust pupil premium teams to ensure an improved outcome for disadvantaged students at Driffield School and we aim to put in an application for this award in the future.

Results Days Reminder

A level results day is Thursday 17 August 2017

GCSE results day is Thursday 24 August 2017

School & Trust staff will be on hand to support students during these days.

Trust Surgeries

As a Trust, we value feedback from all stakeholders and we will be holding a Trust surgery at Driffield School and Sixth Form on Monday 26 June at 4pm until 6pm. This is an opportunity to meet with Chris Abbott, CEO or Jonny Uttley, Executive Principal should you have any queries regarding The Education Alliance or the school. A further communication will be sent to you shortly with further information.

Yours faithfully



D Pickering
Head of School