

11 January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer and student

I hope that you are all keeping well despite the difficult current circumstances and that you are getting on OK with remote learning; I know it is challenging for you.

Obviously, the government announcements regarding the most recent lock down and the cancellation of a full series of summer examinations will be a disappointment to you. We are awaiting the full details of how grades will be awarded this year, but we will continue to support you to the best of our ability to ensure that you can complete the full and rigorous coverage of the remaining aspects of your specifications.

It is also important that we continue to prepare students for their next steps after their GCSEs and the end of Year 11. The majority of students received their initial interview prior to Christmas, where we started to explore possible options, completing applications where necessary. I am keen to continue to offer support for all students, but also to ensure that the usual transition activities (for students moving into our Sixth Form) take place. I do not want you to miss any of the opportunities that Year 11 usually have, despite the current circumstances.

At this point of the year, I would be preparing to run a Sixth Form Information Evening, where I provide more in depth information about sixth form life, the opportunities offered, how we help to prepare students for university and apprenticeships, student finance and also take any questions from students and parents. I would like to run the evening as usual, but of course it will need to be an online event. As a "live" event could be fraught with technical difficulties for all parties, I will record everything and will send the link to all students and parents. Despite this, I would like to still include a question and answer session. Therefore, if you have any specific questions about the Sixth Form (subjects, good subject combinations, the support available, or anything else), please email them to darren.andrews@driffieldschool.org.uk and I will ensure that I cover the answers in the event. I will send out further information regarding when the event link will be live in the next couple of weeks. Obviously, if a follow telephone call would be easier then please let me know via the same email address and I will make contact.

I was also planning on offering some period 4 subject taster sessions in January, so students could experience a flavour of the qualifications they were considering taking. These will still go ahead over the spring term, but depending on circumstance may need to be "live" online sessions for students. Additionally, interested Year 11 students would have had the opportunity this term to visit the Sixth Form centre for specific presentations on our bespoke support programmes, such as MEDSOC (our incredibly successful pre-med programme for those considering careers in medicine or veterinary science), the Employer Led scheme (our partnership scheme with local businesses to develop employability skills) and HE+ (which works with students considering applications to the most competitive universities such as Oxford and Cambridge). These will still take place in the coming weeks and months, be that online or in person, depending on the circumstances.

The Driffield Sixth Form Open Event remains live at <https://www.driffieldschool.net/> with videos that highlight what our Sixth Form offers and what specific programmes are in place to support students. There are videos that cover each subject area and also an opportunity to hear from some

of our wonderful alumni students about the exciting futures that Drifffield Sixth Form has helped them to reach. Just scroll down on the home page and click on the Sixth Form logo.

I am delighted with the superb quality and number of applications from the current cohort of Year 11 students and external students, but if you have yet to apply, or missed your interview opportunity and would like me to contact you, please email me on darren.andrews@drifffieldschool.org.uk and I will contact you. Alternatively, if you have already had your interview, but would like a further conversation regarding the Sixth Form, let me know using the email above and I will get in touch.

I continue to look forward to working with you and your child in the future as we look to secure them the best possible outcomes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Andrews', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren Andrews
Head of Sixth Form