



# Parent & Carer Bulletin

Friday 11 February 2021

Although this half term has been full of challenges, we are really proud of how our school community has worked together throughout this latest 'lockdown'. We are so grateful to everyone involved, whether it be teachers delivering online lessons, students working hard on their tasks at home and in school, staff supervising and supporting students in the school building, or yourselves for the hard work you've put into helping students in accessing and completing their online learning.

Thank you for your ongoing support and feedback; we hope that you have a good half term break.

## Full School Information

- An [update](#) from the CEO and Executive Principal has been shared on 5 February 2021 in relation to online learning; we thank you for the feedback we received via our student and parent surveys. In response to this, we have introduced more frequent breaks to give students the chance to work at their own pace or take a break from their computer. We are so proud of the way our students have adapted and thank you for your continued support.
- Packages have been posted home to all our students with some supplies and messages to support on-line learning. Thank you for the positive feedback; we really value this and share these kind messages with the staff team.
- The current situation has most likely impacted on us all in some way or another and, now more than ever, looking after our mental health and wellbeing is vital. The Whole School Approach team from Mind have shared ideas for parents and caregivers in their latest [newsletter](#) and [resources](#) have also been shared with our students. Remember: if a parent/caregiver or student would like to book a wellbeing slot about ANY worries or concerns, please email [wholeschoolapproach@heywind.org.uk](mailto:wholeschoolapproach@heywind.org.uk).
- Many departments have been finding innovative ways to get creative in lockdown and the work of our Year 12 psychology [students](#) and science [students](#) has been amazing, with online learning leading to new and innovative ways of learning and sharing.
- We have been delighted to set a [Pancake Challenge competition](#) for any student at the school or our feeder primary schools. Success criteria includes even thickness and colour, visual appeal and creative design. Photo entries should be emailed to [office@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@driffieldschool.org.uk) by 22 February.
- Students have embraced learning about apprenticeships for National Apprenticeship Week. Apprenticeship information has been included in all form programmes and all students now have a much better understanding of apprenticeships, the levels available and the fantastic opportunities including degree apprenticeships. Mrs Mortimer, Co-ordinator of CEIAG is now preparing for National Careers Week from 1 to 6 March. A [Parental Guide](#) to Careers has been produced for this week and it includes a range of information about careers, apprenticeships, future options, routes after GCSEs and vocational routes after Sixth Form.

- As part of the government's response to the fight against Coronavirus, schools have been asked to begin a programme of testing in schools. We have shared details of the lateral flow testing with parents/carers of those children who are currently attending school (children of critical workers or those children considered 'vulnerable'). We have been testing students from 1 February where consent has been given; further details can be viewed at this [link](#).
- If you have changed your contact details, please contact [office@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@driffieldschool.org.uk) or ring the school on 01377 253631 so we can update your details.

### Year 11 Information

- We are delighted to be able to offer the sale of [Year 11 leavers' hoodies](#) through Leavershoodies.com, a reliable organisation we have used in previous years when they have certainly proved to be very popular. The design will have all students' names printed on the back where consent has been given; the form to give consent can be accessed [here](#).
- It is the time of year when we invite applications from Year 11 students to secure a place on two of the specialist programmes we offer when in Year 12 (the Employer Led scheme and Medsoc). Details have been [shared](#) and more detailed information about the Sixth Form can be accessed via our [virtual](#) open event, or by contacting Mr Andrews, Head of Sixth Form.

### Year 9 Information

- Personalised Options Pathways forms have been posted home recently with a SAE and are due to be returned by 22 February. If you have any questions about the options process or about a specific subject, please email [options@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:options@driffieldschool.org.uk).

### Year 8 Information

- The Year 8 Progress Evening will take place on 24 February (for X half students) and 4 March (for Y half students) via video appointments. Telephone appointments can be made for anyone who does not have access to video capabilities. Virtual appointments can be made by accessing this [link](#); if you need any assistance at all, please call the school reception on 01377 253631 or email [office@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@driffieldschool.org.uk).

### Other Useful Information

To access our website:

[driffieldschool.net](http://driffieldschool.net)

To purchase school items, including revision guides:

[shop.driffieldschool.net](http://shop.driffieldschool.net)

To follow us on Facebook:

[@DriffieldSchool](#)

To follow us on Twitter:

[@driffieldsch](#)

- If you need a copy of your ParentPay activation code, please contact [finance@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:finance@driffieldschool.org.uk)
- The school can be contacted by telephone on 01377 253631 or emailed at [office@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@driffieldschool.org.uk)