



DRIFFIELD
SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM

Parent & Carer Bulletin

Wednesday 19 October 2022

Students have made a positive start to the new academic year; settling well into their new classes and looking extremely smart in their uniforms. We are delighted that our extra-curricular timetable has now been launched to students and we have a wide range of enrichment opportunities (both at lunchtimes and after school) that students can take part in. Our aim is to provide memorable experiences outside of the classroom that will enrich their school experience and support their personal development.

As we near the end of a long half term, we would like to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support and wish you a restful half term break. We are looking forward to welcoming Mr Holmes to the school on Monday 31 October, who will be taking over the role of Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum and Standards as Mrs Loftus moves into the role of Headteacher after the half term holiday.

Full School Information

- An [extra-curricular round up](#) has been shared which showcases the wonderful opportunities that are on offer at Driffield School. Our extra-curricular programme is designed to provide a wide range of experiences for our young people.
- We have [reminded](#) our existing parents/carers and advised all new Year 7 parents/carers that we have a number of students and staff who suffer from nut and peanut allergies. Foods that contain nuts and peanut products, even in trace amounts, can for some of our students result in a severe allergic reaction which can be fatal. We ask all parents and students that products containing nuts or peanuts are not brought onto or consumed on our site.
- We have reminded parents/carers of our policy on the [removal of jewellery](#) for PE and Games and thank you for your continued support with this. We want to ensure that the school and lesson environment is as safe as possible for our young people.
- A letter has been [shared](#) with parents/carers from the CEO of the trust with details of the 'top up' support from the trust for families eligible for free school meals. In addition, because of the extra costs associated with Christmas, eligible families will receive an additional £5 per week per child over the two week Christmas break.
- Last term we carried out parental surveys to gather feedback about progress evenings and how we conduct these moving forward. As a result of this feedback, we have produced a [hybrid model](#) to ensure you have the chance to visit the school every year. We will write prior to each event with full details.
- We have a number of [workshops and sessions](#) planned for parents and carers in our community. The first workshop is on 21 October at 1.15 pm and there will be sessions on 'supporting your child with [reading](#) for pleasure' and 'supporting your child with [numeracy](#)'. If any further information is needed, please contact Mrs Hogben at the school.
- There are lots of exciting [extra-curricular opportunities](#) for students this term and our Learning Resources Centre (LRC) is open to students at break and lunchtimes to give students a space to read or study independently. The LRC is also open until 5 pm on Mondays and Thursdays and all students in Years 7-9 have a fortnightly slot in their English lessons to exchange books and browse the titles available. This year we have also launched a homework club in IT1 each lunchtime which is a quiet space (with access to computers) for students to complete homework and receive support if needed. The twilight bus runs on Monday and Thursday evenings and full details can be accessed [here](#).

- We have been delighted to share with you our new style Cornerstones [newsletter](#) which contains information about personal development, behaviour for learning and health and well-being. It also shines the spotlight on one of our team members to enable you to get to know them better. Watch out for future editions!
- As part of the Whole School Approach Project to bring the whole school community together for improved mental health and wellbeing support, Mind are inviting all parents and carers to complete a short survey which can be accessed via this [link](#).
- The NHS School Nursing Team have shared their latest [newsletter](#) with lots of useful information on fitness as well as details of the school nurse drop-in sessions and chat health, a confidential texting service to support our young people.
- Lots of exciting Careers news is available in the latest newsletter, including details of Miss Robinson, our new Careers Guidance Lead. For full information of forthcoming events and apprenticeship information, click this [link](#).

Year 7 Information

- We have shared with you a [curriculum guide](#) to provide you with an outline of the knowledge and skills your child will be taught across their subjects this academic year. If there is anything more we can do to support your child, please contact Miss Axon (Head of Year) or your child's Head of House.
- We were delighted to hold a tutor evening in school on 6 October which provided you with the chance to discuss how your child has settled in school during their first weeks here. If you were not able to attend this, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Axon (Head of Year 7) or your child's Head of House.
- On 14 October, as part of [Restart a Heart Day](#), we welcomed volunteers from Yorkshire Air Ambulance. They delivered thirty minute training sessions to students as part of a national event to improve awareness of essential lifesaving skills.
- [CATS](#) (Cognitive Ability Tests) have been underway for our Year 7 students. These provide information about verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial abilities which allow us to further support your child's learning. If you have any questions about these assessments, please contact Mrs Warren (SENDCo and Assistant Headteacher).
- Individual [photographs](#) were taken by a professional photographer from The School Photography Company on 23 September. All students were issued with a QR card on the day which enables you to access a website link if you wish to purchase any photographs.

Year 8 Information

- We have shared with you a [curriculum guide](#) to provide you with an outline of the knowledge and skills your child will be taught across their subjects this academic year. If there is anything more we can do to support your child, please contact Mrs Potter (Head of Year) or your child's Head of House.

Year 9 Information

- We have shared with you a [curriculum guide](#) to provide you with an outline of the knowledge and skills your child will be taught across their subjects this academic year. If there is anything more we can do to support your child, please contact Miss Parsons (Head of Year) or your child's Head of House.

Year 10 Information

- We have shared with you a [curriculum guide](#) to provide you with an outline of the knowledge and skills your child will be taught across their subjects this academic year. If there is anything more we can do to support your child, please contact Mrs Frazer (Head of Year) or your child's Head of House.
- Individual [photographs](#) were taken by a professional photographer from The School Photography Company on 23 September. All students were issued with a QR card on the day which enables you to access a website link if you wish to purchase any photographs.

- A Key Stage 4 Information [evening](#) will take place at 6.45 pm on Wednesday 2 November with lots of valuable information and dates relating to your child's GCSE courses. Please use this [link](#) to book your seats at the event and we hope to see you there.

Year 11 Information

- We have shared with you a [curriculum guide](#) to provide you with an outline of the knowledge and skills your child will be taught across their subjects this academic year. If there is anything more we can do to support your child, please contact Ms White (Head of Year) or your child's Head of House.
- A Sixth Form [Open Evening](#) is taking place on Thursday 20 October at the school from 6 pm to 8 pm. This gives you the opportunity to find out more about the specialist support programmes we offer and to see our amazing facilities. We are incredibly proud of our student destinations with 95% of students securing their first choice of university in 2022 and over 34% of students going on to study at prestigious Russell Group universities which is more than double the national average.
- A Key Stage 4 Information [evening](#) will take place at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 2 November with lots of valuable information and dates relating to your child's GCSE courses. Please use this [link](#) to book your seats at the event and we hope to see you there.

Trips and Visits Information

- Geography Fieldwork trips are underway for our GCSE and A Level Geography students. Full details have been shared and if there are any questions, please contact Mrs Vicary (Head of Geography).
- A Level English students are taking part in a theatre visit to see Othello at the York Theatre Royal on Friday 21 October. As well as an enjoyable experience, it will give students an enhanced understanding of the text. For further details, please contact Mrs Collins (Director of English).
- A Level Politics students have been given details of a proposed trip to London and this visit will include a visit to the NGO, tour of the Houses of Parliament and Supreme Court, visit to the Docklands Museum and Greenwich and an investigation of Spitalfields. For further details, please contact Mr Andrews (Assistant Headteacher/Head of Sixth Form).
- Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions have been taking part in September in the Yorkshire Wolds. Students have been a real credit to themselves and the school and if any new Year 9 and 10 students are interested in finding out more about the award, please contact Mr Osburn (Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Co-ordinator) at the school. Full [details](#) and an [application form](#) can be accessed.
- Some of our music students are taking part in a tour to Barcelona in 2023 and a short meeting will take place at 6 pm on Wednesday 19 October at the school to share up to date information about the trip. Please contact Mr Couper (Head of Music) for full details.
- Details have been shared with Year 11 and Year 12 students about the Botswana and Zambia Expedition facilitated by Outlook Expeditions. This opportunity gives students the opportunity to develop character, build resilience and improve wellbeing. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Bramley or Mr Whitworth, Expedition Leaders at the school.

Other Useful Information

- If you need a copy of your ParentPay activation code, please contact finance@driffieldschool.org.uk.
- The school can be contacted by telephone on 01377 253631 or emailed at office@driffieldschool.org.uk. If you have changed your contact details or wish to change your consent for photos/videos to be used by the school, please let us know so we can update your details.
- Some individuals in school have a very severe, anaphylactic reaction to trace of nuts. We kindly remind you that students are not to bring any items into school containing nuts. Thank you for your continued support with this.

