



DRIFFIELD
SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM

CORNERSTONES

CARE - PERSEVERANCE
RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY

Personal Development at Driffield School

- To ensure students understand the benefits of looking after their mental and physical health
- To provide opportunities for students to access and remember for a lifetime
- To promote equality and diversity and respect difference
- To raise aspirations to achieve personal excellence



PASTORAL UPDATE

PEER MENTORS

As part of our Anti-Bullying work at Driffield, all students have the opportunity to become Peer Mentors. Our Peer Mentors play a high profile and visible role in the life of the school and are trained to support any students who may need it. Alongside our staff anti-bullying coordinator, Mrs Jude, they operate within our Chat and Chill room, a safe space for all students to access during break and lunchtimes and all Peer Mentors are allocated various roles. These include Chat and Chill Supervisors, Playground Peer Mentors, Activities Peer Mentors, Wellbeing Peer Mentors and some of our older students are designated as Senior Peer Mentors. Alongside the Chat and Chill room, the Peer Mentors have also recently requested that we provide allocated spaces outside for students to access, knowing that there are young people there who are happy to provide them with any support they may need or just be a friendly face! These 'Peer Mentor Points' will be clearly visible around site within the coming weeks. The Peer Mentors meet monthly and are always looking for more students to get involved, with a simple commitment to say 'No!' to any form of bullying and to help other students in any way they can. The Peer Mentors are a visible and clear example of our 'Care' Cornerstone, always looking to help each other and ensure that everyone feels welcome. If any students are interested in becoming Peer Mentors, they should speak to Mrs Jude or Mr Hunt in school.

In her role as Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Mrs Jude works closely with Heads of Year and follows up with all students who have been impacted by any bullying incidents in school. As part of a thorough monitoring process, Mrs Jude will meet with students, ensuring that any issues have now stopped and that students are happy, feel safe and are comfortable in school. Parental engagement is a vital part of our anti-bullying work and Mrs Jude makes contact with the families of any student impacted one week on from the incident being dealt with. She then does this again after three weeks and again at six weeks, providing support, reassurance and an opportunity for families to report any further issues.

If your child reports any issues or incidents that have upset them in school, please do not hesitate to contact their Head of Year in the first instance. We are here to help and are committed to dealing with bullying swiftly and thoroughly.



PASTORAL UPDATE

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We continue to remind students that attending school is vitally important. Our statistics show that students who attend school over 95% of the time achieve at least one grade higher across all subjects than students that attend school less than 90% of the time. This could make a huge difference to individual students' future choices.

We are aware that sometimes children are too unwell to attend school and understand this is unavoidable. We do our best to support them to catch up on missed learning when they are able to return to school. However, we have seen a change in the pattern of absence since the recent pandemic, whereby some children are demonstrating less resilience and are more likely to be absent with low level concerns than they were pre-pandemic. This is a pattern that we are keen to change.

We are encouraging all children to attend school when they are well enough and, as part of this students are rewarded weekly for meeting their individual attendance targets. Students who achieve these targets for a full term are entered into a prize draw to win £25 amazon vouchers. The autumn term winners were Eve Middlewood (Bronte), Billie-May Inman (Holtby), Matthew Wilson (Johnson) and Katie Botterill (Mortimer), pictured with Mr Johnson, Attendance Officer. Well done to all those students who achieved their targets. The next termly draw will take place in the week commencing 17 April 2023.

We continue to encourage you to book holidays during school holiday times to avoid your children missing learning during term time.

If you have any questions regarding school attendance, please contact your child's Head of Year or Mr Johnson.



BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

In the last edition of Cornerstones, we asked for your views and thoughts regarding the amendments we made to the Behaviour for Learning Policy in September. We were pleased with the feedback we received:

- The majority of parents felt that separating the expectations into our four Cornerstones, care, respect, perseverance and responsibility has made it easier for students to understand why they are important.
- An overwhelming majority of parents felt that the policy was very clear and students understood what was expected of them in school. They also felt that the planner was a good source of information on how their child was behaving in school.
- The majority of parents felt that school ensured its students were well behaved and felt happy and safe in school.
- This mirrors the feedback provided through parents' evening surveys and we are very grateful for the time you have taken to provide your views.

Staff and student views are similar to this. Students said that they like the Cornerstones routines as it helps them know how to behave and respond within lessons and they feel that teachers are more consistent because of them. They have also enjoyed being recognised and rewarded for meeting the Cornerstones expectations.

Teachers have shared that the raised expectation regarding disruption free lessons has helped ensure that classrooms are calm, purposeful places, where students are able to focus fully on their learning.

HAVE YOUR SAY...

Following on from the behaviour for learning survey in the last edition, we are keen to hear your views about how well we communicate with you. We would be grateful if you could complete the short survey through this link:

CLICK HERE



BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

REWARDS

One of the key aims of our behaviour for learning policy is to ensure that the efforts of all our students are regularly and consistently recognised through praise and rewards. Each week, students on average achieve over forty stamps and these can be exchanged for items in our school shop. The shop list was recently updated following feedback from the student voice panels. As part of the reward programme, in the final week of term, there will be a number of activities students can sign up to providing they have met all expectations of our behaviour policy. One of the activities we look forward to welcoming back is "It's A Knockout" which went down well with students last year.

WRITTEN WARNING

If expectations are not met in classrooms and around the school site, then written warnings are issued in student planners. The average written warning per student across the whole school is below one which really highlights how well and engaged students are within school.

CORNERSTONE AWARDS

As part of our launch of Cornerstones this year, students are rewarded with cornerstone stamps if they show care, respect, responsibility or perseverance within school. Each week, a weekly prize draw selects a winner from each group and amazon vouchers are presented.

SUPER SIX AWARDS

Students are entered into a weekly prize draw if they have managed to meet all the following criteria: 30+ stamps a week, Zero written warnings, 100% attendance, planner, uniform and equipment.



CAREERS UPDATE

CAREERS FAIR SUCCESS

Driffield School and Sixth Form welcomed students, parents and carers to our Careers Fair on Wednesday 30th November. This was open to all students and all parents and carers from every year group throughout school. We feel as a school that all students should access excellent careers education and the sooner they are aware of the vast range of fantastic future opportunities available to them, then better economic and social outcomes are achieved. There were 55 businesses, apprenticeship providers, colleges, sixth form, universities, entrepreneurs and volunteering groups exhibiting in a dynamic, fun, informative evening.



We are aiming to make sure our students are 'work ready' and learn all the employability skills recommended by the Confederation of British Industry. Mrs Mortimer Co-ordinator of CEIAG would like to thank all the fantastic exhibitors. It was a wonderful, dynamic, informative and educational evening. All exhibitors gave excellent high quality careers advice and made the event fun and interactive. Our thanks goes to Great Driffield Radio for the radio coverage throughout the evening and to the Wolds Weekly in continually helping spread the word about the importance of great, accurate, up to date careers advice. Congratulations goes to Will Lacy who won the £50 Amazon voucher for completion of the Student Careers Fair card.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 24th January BBC Careers Roadshow
- 6th February National Apprenticeship Week
- 2nd March Period 5 Year 7 reward event for Mortimer and Johnson Students
- 6th March Period 5 Year 7 reward event for Bronte and Holtby Students
- 6th March National Careers Week
- 8th March Kathryn Burn (Apprentice Runner Up 2021) visit
- 30th June Y11 Prom

CAREERS UPDATE



UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Driffield Radio*

Our school student leadership team led by Mr McDonald will be working with John Harding from Great Driffield Radio this month. Together they will be working on articles ready for the air waves.

Royal Marines Team Visibility Visit*

We are fortunate that some of our year 10s will be working with the Royal Marines. They will be completing fitness practicals, learning about life in the Royal Marines and the Navy, and have the opportunity for a question and answer session about career opportunities, pay and conditions.



National Apprenticeship Week - 6th February*

We are celebrating National Apprenticeship Week in school with employer talks, apprenticeship videos, teacher input, on the form programme and NHS ambassador visits. Students, parents/carers need to be aware of the many varied apprenticeships on offer and the levels including degree apprenticeships. Across all Trust Sixth Forms, Sarah Barley has an apprenticeship group and has been running training on finding an apprenticeship, how to apply and interview preparation. Our Careers Guidance Lead, Holly Robinson has been running specific training on apprenticeships for our Sixth Form.

There will be live virtual talks all week shown on the website from national apprenticeship providers such as Bentley, National Grid, Network Rail, GCHQ, Tarmac, Ministry of Defence, BAE Systems, Construct, Zurich and many more. Please register for free before each talk.

*Click title to follow link to relevant page

CAREERS UPDATE

BBC Bitesize Careers Tour*

Driffield School and Sixth Form welcomed the fabulous BBC Bitesize Careers Tour to school on Tuesday 24 January. It was a dynamic, informative, interactive day with Yr 7s, 8s, 9s and 10s fully engaged in the tour.

The day was hosted by Martin Dougan, the famous TV presenter and Paralympic wheelchair basketballer. Martin first came to prominence when he was talented spotted to be a commentator for the Paralympics and that was his route into journalism and presenting. He has been a torch bearer for the Olympic and Paralympics torch. He was the main presenter for Newsround and has worked in many roles since breaking into presenting for both the BBC and Channel 4. Martin is an inspiration as he is so determined to succeed. In his free time he is now playing wheelchair rugby league and still continues with his basketball.

We welcomed BBC researchers and BBC production management assistants Oliver Hill, Amelia Sierant and Amelia Smith who helped organise the student questioning. Oliver, lead researcher, described his job as his 'dream job'. He said he loved every moment of working for the BBC.



Theia Waits and Jake Rodgers completed the team of AV engineers and organised all the lighting, the set and the audio throughout all the performances.

The event was produced by Karl Taylor who is focused on ensuring students know about their future career opportunities and the 'soft skills' required in the workplace. Karl has worked in production for the BBC for eight years in all areas of children's TV.

Martin Dougan introduced three local representatives onto the question panel, who had been sourced by the researchers to talk about their careers, the qualifications needed and work experience required and what employability skills are desirable in their work sectors. We were fortunate the panel included; Aaron Cheeseman, who is a local photographer and videographer, Claire Williams, General Manager of the Grimsby Auditorium, and George Smith BBC Radio presenter at BBC Lincolnshire. They talked about their successes, overcoming their failures, why it is necessary to be resilient, determined and constantly work hard.

CAREERS UPDATE

BBC Bitesize Careers Tour cont...

The event also showcased the many varied careers available at the BBC and the need for outstanding communication, the ability to problem solve, to be creative and think differently, to be an active listener, to be effective as part of a team and at times be a leader. For more information about careers in the BBC follow [Make the moments that matter. Join the BBC.](#) - Careers and for more information about careers support follow [Careers - BBC Bitesize](#)

Ruth Mortimer, Co-ordinator of CEIAG, and Holly Robinson, Careers Guidance Lead, would like to thank the BBC for such an educational, fun, informative day. Our students benefitted by talking to experts in their field. Martin was an inspirational host and the event has made a positive lasting impact on students and teachers.

[Amazing Apprenticeships Parent/Carer Zone*](#)

We want all our students to know about all their future choices so they are well prepared for a bright future. The Amazing Apprenticeship website Parent Zone - Amazing Apprenticeships has some fantastic resources that you can go through with your child together. This includes hints and tips for parents/carers, free podcasts, resources for you child such as a step by step application guide, free apprenticeship films of many different sectors, apprenticeship fact sheets.

[Talking Futures*](#)

Talking Futures have produced some excellent conversation cards, which can support parent and carers in having productive career conversations with their child about their career plans

Year 11 'Your Choice' Post 16 Option Book

Every child in Year 11 will receive a free 'Your Choice' book to help them make decision about their post 16 options. This book gives tips on the final year of school, if university will be a future option, advice for exams and revision, sector profile and labour market information. These will be given out in the Yr 11 assembly.

WELLBEING



BE WELL

As part of The Education Alliance (TEAL), we are extremely fortunate to benefit from the TEAL Be Well programme. This programme provides emotional and wellbeing support for students, parents and staff in addition to what schools are normally able to offer.

In a climate where we are experiencing an increasing need and reduced access to external services, this programme has been extremely valuable and has provided much needed support for many of our school users. TEAL originally committed to investing £250 000 a year to support a four year programme and we are delighted to confirm that it has recently been agreed that further investment will be made to continue the provision for a further three years from September 2023.

Driffield School users benefit from the following:

Hull and East Yorkshire (HEY) Mind Whole School Approach

Sally Mulligan from HEY Mind is based at Driffield School for two days per week (Monday and Tuesday). Students are supported through a range of activities, including a listening service, pupil resilience training, student Well-Being Ambassador training and more intensive support through the Big Umbrella programme. During the academic year 2021-22, 356 students were supported through these activities.

The Mind Whole School Approach supports school staff to effectively support students within the school by providing a high quality training programme. As part of this programme, fifty members of staff volunteered to undertake training to become Youth Mental Health First Aiders. These members of staff wear green lanyards, so they are easily identifiable for students.



Parents are also able to seek support from Mind by either speaking to Sally during parents' evenings or contacting her directly:

SMulligan@heymind.org.uk

She can provide a listening ear or signpost a particular service depending on individual need. Last academic year, 134 parents benefited from Sally's support.

WELLBEING

Social Mediation and Self-Help (SMASH)

The SMASH programme supports young people that have emotional and mental health difficulties and is an evidence based intervention that offers 1:1 support, therapeutic group work and family outreach. Last academic year, 55 students benefited from SMASH support by either attending group intervention (KS3) or individual sessions (usually KS4). At Driffild School we are supported by two SMASH practitioners, who between them provide cover for the full week.

The unique provision due to the Be Well programme complements the work that we already do through our APEX curriculum and in-school pastoral interventions. However, without the Be Well support it is very likely that students at Driffild School would have had to wait a considerable time for the specialist support they require from external services.

In a recent survey, students have told us the school encourages an open conversation about mental health and wellbeing and feel that school staff have a good understanding of mental health. The majority of young people who completed the survey felt that they would be confident speaking to someone in school about mental health. In the same survey, the majority of parents who completed the survey felt that the school helped their child achieve good mental health and wellbeing.

If you would like to find out more about the interventions available in school or the Be Well programme specifically, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

Children and Young People

1 in 4 young people will experience poor mental health.



APEX CURRICULUM

APEX is designed to develop our students into thoughtful, responsible and informed members of the community who are prepared for life beyond school. Students will explore how they can keep themselves safe and make considered choices about their personal development and wellbeing.

In Key Stage 3 lessons this term, students will be exploring topics around relationships and sex education. Students will get to explore what is a healthy relationship and how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations. In Key Stage 4 lessons this term, students will be exploring units linked to health and wellbeing and living in the wider world. Topics include sexting, fake news, social media validation and sexual health.

To ensure all our lessons are delivered safely and effectively, our Head of APEX liaises very closely with the pastoral team. If you have any concerns about the content delivered, please do contact your child's Head of Year.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

MATT HOLMES - DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

I joined Driffield School as Deputy Headteacher in October 2022 having previously worked as Assistant Principal for The Education Alliance trust senior leadership team. I consider myself to be hugely fortunate to have had the experience of working as part of the senior leadership team in all four of our trust secondary schools over recent years.

Before joining Driffield, whenever visiting, I was always impressed by the strong sense of togetherness and community spirit that exists across the student body, the staff and the wider community. This was one of a number of factors that attracted me to the school, and I have been made to feel incredibly welcome in my first couple of months. Although, I've only been here for just over half a term, I already feel like I am part of the furniture.

My main responsibility as Deputy Headteacher is to oversee quality of education. This includes all manner of things, including curriculum and teaching and learning, both of which are areas that I have a particular passion for. I will be working closely with subject leaders and teaching staff to ensure that as a school, we deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that allows our students to achieve their full potential and work towards fulfilling their own personal ambitions and aspirations.

Maths is my subject specialism and I have many years of experience of teaching GCSE and A-level Maths and Further Maths. It has been my favourite subject from a very young age and the best part of my job now is having the opportunity to share my passion for my subject with the students I teach.

Outside of work I am a lover of most sports with football, boxing and darts being my favourites. However, I would have to admit that I am very much an armchair sports fan rather than active participant these days.

I am absolutely thrilled to have joined the Driffield School community and I am looking forward to contributing to the continuation of the amazing journey the school has been on over the last few years.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

GEORGIA BLAKE - HEAD OF YEAR 7

Working as the Head of Year 7 is an extremely rewarding job and I have already seen the support shown by both staff and students at Driffield School to be outstanding.

Speaking to the students in year 7, I think it's highly important in my role to emphasize the four cornerstones of the school: Care, Respect, Perseverance and Responsibility. This sets out the foundations the students will need in order to overcome obstacles not just in a learning environment but in life. I strongly believe that students engaging with these cornerstones will thrive academically and emotionally.

Throughout my career as Head of Year I have used both my personal and professional experiences to help students to break down barriers. I think the most rewarding part of this job is to inspire students to achieve fantastic things both in school and in the wider community.

I have been made to feel so welcome into Driffield School and look forward to supporting my year group and witnessing the amazing achievements and successes in the years to come.

