

THE DRIFFIELD COLLEGIATE

DRIFFIELD SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER



Year 12 Settling In

We have been really pleased with how well the Year 12 students have settled into Sixth Form life. There is a lot to get used to when starting the Sixth Form. With students now focusing on their chosen three or four subjects the content covered becomes increasingly expansive. In addition to the four taught periods a week in each subject, the students have additional study time available on their timetable to carry out extended study for each subject. Through this the Sixth Form helps to prepare and equip students for the independent study needed if they choose to continue their studies further at university, or through an apprenticeship. The students are supported in getting to grips with this more mature form of study by the Sixth Form team and the personal development programme that is delivered through their “college” tutor.



All Year 12 students are placed into a college at the start of the year and are allocated a personal tutor who will work closely with them for both Year 12 and Year 13 to support their personal and academic development. Within each college there is a Year 12 and Year 13 tutor group providing the opportunity for the Year 13 students to provide academic support and guidance. The colleges also provide the chance for healthy competition with weekly quizzes or events.



Enrichment

At the start of Year 12 the students are presented with a range of enrichment opportunities that they can opt in to. The students are expected to complete a minimum of 10 hours of enrichment in Year 12 (although there is no limit) to complement their studies. The aim of this enrichment is to help the students develop personally and to make a positive impact on either the school, or wider community. Not only does this help to support future applications for university and apprenticeships, but it also helps to develop different skills and encounter new experiences.



The enrichment programme offers the chance for students to gain additional academic qualifications such as the EPQ (a research project that is equivalent in credit to half an A Level) and TEFL. In addition there is an opportunity to add breadth to their study through online courses such as British Sign Language and also MOOCs, which are university level short courses available in specific areas of interest. Other students have chosen to complete their enrichment by working with the school community and its partners in a range of activities, such as: supporting staff in Key Stage 3 lessons, delivering transition activities with Year 5 and 6 students and providing leadership in the Sixth form by getting actively involved with the Sixth Form Student Union. Some students are involved in the wider community, volunteering in local primary schools and liaising with residential homes. Additionally some of our Sixth Formers are employed by the school, working as lunchtime supervisors and also as learning mentors for students in Key Stage 3 and 4. We have a wonderful group of young people in the Sixth Form at Driffield and it is a pleasure to see them positively impact others, whilst developing their own skills.

Personal Development

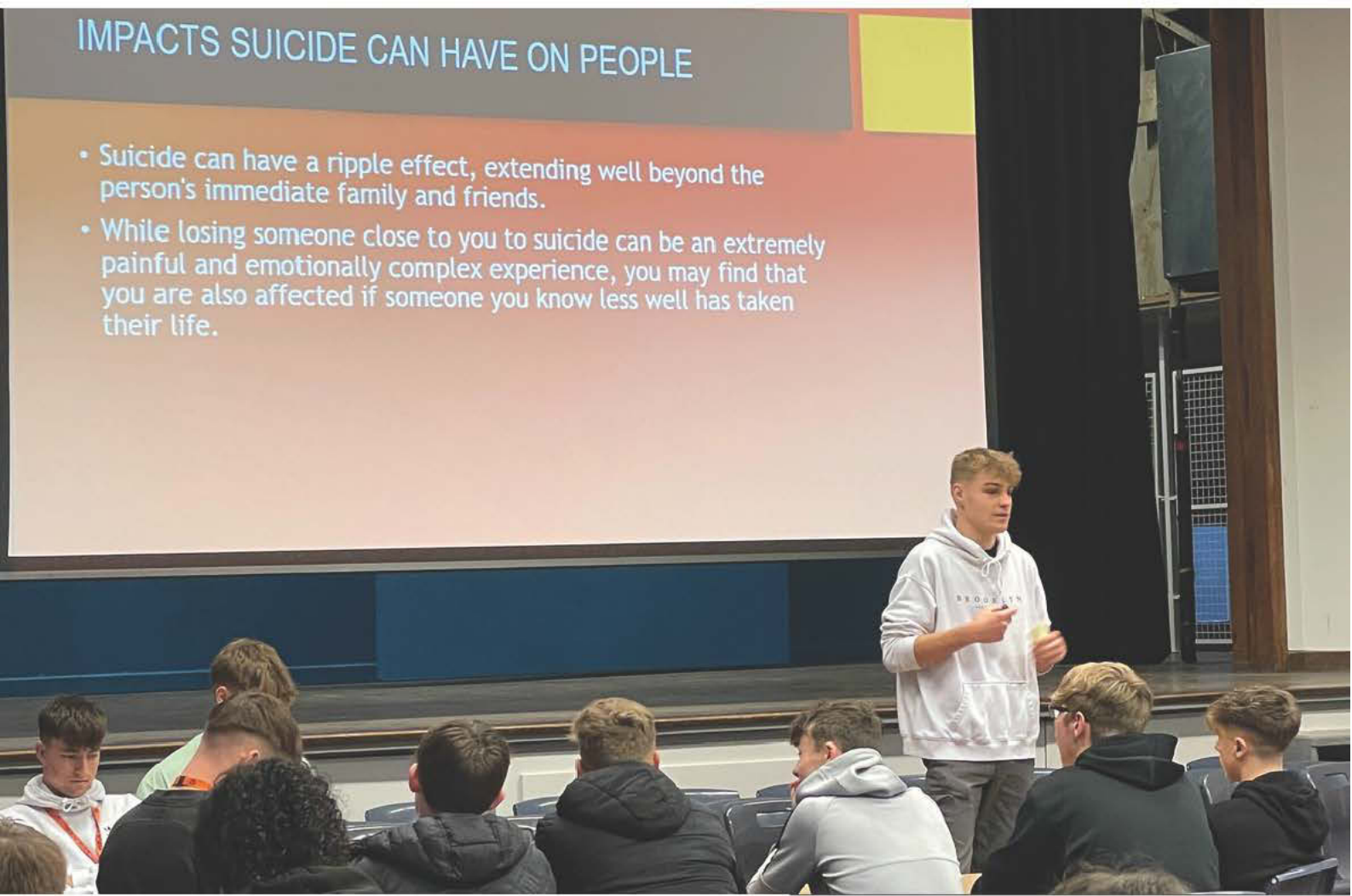
The Sixth Form students have really embraced the new Personal Development curriculum that has been running since September. We've introduced the curriculum to provide a greater level of emphasis on preparing our students for everyday life, while still providing an excellent academic experience. By creating this holistic approach, we hope students leave us not only with a fantastic set of A level results, but the tools to help them prepare for the wider world beyond the sixth form.

Over the last term through the form programme our students have covered topics relating to Careers and Finance, Relationships, Sex and Education and this term they have begun working through Risk and Safety. The Risk and Safety module considers many aspects of life beyond the Sixth Form, including staying safe online, gambling awareness and the risks of spiking. Over the autumn term there have been some brilliant discussions taking place particularly with regards to what makes a healthy relationship. We've also introduced the 'sixth form ask it basket' which has produced a plethora of interesting questions for the Sixth Form team to answer.

We've had some great external speakers too over the last term; for example the charity Oddballs came in to discuss testicular cancer and we also had a fantastic speaker who was one of our own. Ewan Johnson in Year 13 planned and delivered an amazing and thought provoking assembly on Men's Mental Health.

IMPACTS SUICIDE CAN HAVE ON PEOPLE

- Suicide can have a ripple effect, extending well beyond the person's immediate family and friends.
- While losing someone close to you to suicide can be an extremely painful and emotionally complex experience, you may find that you are also affected if someone you know less well has taken their life.



Sixth Form Events

The Sixth Form has a thriving and active Student Union that aims to ensure that there are a range of events that the 6th form students can get involved with throughout the year. Already this year the Student Union have organised the annual ice skating visit to “Yorkshire’s Winter Wonderland” which is always a lovely visit.



The students, as always, have been heavily involved in fundraising. Making the use of spin bikes, the students cycled the equivalent distance from Driffield to Paris in one day. It was a huge challenge that they successfully completed, with a tremendous amount of effort, raising funds for Martin House Children’s Hospice. Other fundraising activities have seen the Student union organising “Staff versus Student” football and netball events, for the rest of the school to spectate, raising funds for the Jack Stabler Memorial Fund.



Sixth Form Events

The Sixth Form also aim to impact the local community and this year, as part of their community outreach programme, they organised an afternoon tea for some residents from The Limes. The students arranged the event to take place on Remembrance Day as part of the school's celebration and the residents, students and staff enjoyed a feast of cake and tea and activities like bingo.



SPOTLIGHT

MEET THE TEAM

The Sixth Form Team consists of four members of staff who carry out a range of roles in order to provide holistic support for all aspects of our students' progress and preparation for life beyond the Sixth Form.



Darren Andrews

[EMAIL](#) 

I have worked as the Head of Sixth Form for the last 10 years, after previously working as a Head of House. I have worked at Driffield School and Sixth Form for the last 21 years, teaching mostly in the Geography department over that time, alongside my leadership role. Currently I teach three subjects in the Sixth Form; Geography, Criminology and more recently Politics.

I have always passionately believed that the students at Driffield School and Sixth Form are as good as any students found nationally and as such should be seeking to aspire to the best jobs, apprenticeships and university courses.

I am so proud of the achievement of our students, who year on year prove this aspiration to be true. I always feel that students are most likely to achieve when they feel part of a community that challenges and encourages them to be the best that they can be, through personalised support and guidance, and that is what I strive to create here.

Alexandra Amers

[EMAIL](#) 

I have been working at Driffield School and Sixth Form for the past 13 years and in the last year I have picked up the role of Personal Development Coordinator within the Sixth Form.

I have always enjoyed working with the students in key stage 5 and I've been fortunate enough to teach them academically, as a Maths and Psychology teacher, as well as having the chance to be a form tutor for 12 and 13H.

My new role allows me to get even more involved, both on a pastoral and academic level and I am loving the varied opportunities this presents. The students in year 12 and 13 really are a credit to the school and I feel really proud to be working with them on a daily basis.



SPOTLIGHT

MEET THE TEAM



Julie Bateman

EMAIL 

Hello I am Miss Bateman, Sixth Form Professional Tutor. I have worked at Driffield Sixth Form for 18 years in a pastoral capacity supporting young people with the challenges they face inside & outside of the classroom during this often worrying but exciting time in their education.

I particularly enjoy working with our young people who face mental health or emotional wellbeing challenges & seeing them overcome these to continue on their journey after sixth form.

Pip Warcup

EMAIL 

I've had the absolute pleasure of working within the Sixth Form at Driffield School for 5 years.

My role sees me wearing many hats, but students will know me mostly for being the face of the Study Area and Assessment Centre.

I have a background in the creative arts which enables me to assist students with their own projects, both musically and artistically. There is no idea too wild when it comes to encouraging Driffield students to realise their potential.




Academic Trips and Visits

Where possible at Key Stage 5 we look to add enrichment and breadth to the experience of the students by organising trips and visits. This offers the opportunity for the students to apply theoretical knowledge and understanding to real life situations and to see first-hand some of the aspects studied as part of their courses. Last term saw the Year 13 Politics students visit London on a residential trip. The visit included a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, followed by an opportunity to watch a debate in the House of Commons. The group gained further insight into another area of the course covered by visiting the Supreme Court and discovering how they implement the rule of law in the UK. During our visit we the class also visited One.org, who are a major international NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) to look at how political issues, such as poverty and conflict are tackled on a global scale. On the third day in London the students explored area around Spitalfields and Brick Lane, with a tour focused on the impact of multiculturalism and how this has been managed. There was also plenty of time for sight seeing too as we made the most of our time in the capital.




YEAR 13 AND BEYOND...



Currently our Year 13 students have just completed their mock exams as they begin to prepare for their final examinations in summer. All Year 13 students were given a £50 voucher by the school with which to buy revision guides and materials, as we aim to help them get ready for the summer.

Already a number of intervention sessions happen during the day and after school to support our students and the availability and range these will increase in the coming weeks.



Those students who are applying for University have completed and submitted their applications by the January deadline, with the medicine, veterinary and Oxbridge students needing to complete theirs by October.

As always the students have worked with their tutors to produce outstanding applications and consequently many are already in receipt of offers from their chosen courses. Those students who have applied to courses like, medicine, nursing and primary education are currently attending interviews at their chosen institutions, supported by interview practice from the Sixth Form team.



Where students are considering pursuing employment and apprenticeships they receive bespoke support for the process, as and when these opportunities become available. Increasingly our students are applying for some fantastic apprenticeship opportunities, both locally and nationally, in areas such as engineering, finance and law.

ALUMNI

We are incredibly proud of all our students who graduate from the Sixth Form and it is a real pleasure to hear how many of them are getting on as part of our alumni network. Our alumni students can be found all over the world in a tremendous range of exciting roles, offering aspiration and often advice to our existing sixth formers.

LEAH PALMER

Leah graduated from Driffield Sixth Form in 2019 and has recently gained a First in Linguistics after completing her Undergraduate degree at the University of Cambridge. Currently she is pursuing a Masters degree in Polar Studies, a course run by the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. This will focus on language preservation efforts in the Arctic.

Hopefully Leah will also be able to keep an eye out for Ben Johnson, who is entering his first year at the University of Cambridge, studying Natural Sciences!



HANNAH MOORE

Hannah graduated from Driffield Sixth Form in 2013 and now works as a Senior Epidemiologist at the UK Health Security Agency. By completing a degree in biomedical science at the University of Hull and a subsequent Masters degree in Public Health and International Development at the University of Sheffield and qualifying as an epidemiologist, Hannah has been able to work globally.

This has included carrying out research on mental health issues in Nepal and the impact of HIV in South Africa and being deployed to West Africa to help mitigate against disease outbreaks. Subsequent work with the World Health Organisation has seen Hannah working in Slovakia, carrying out a mid-long term health needs assessments for Ukrainian refugees.

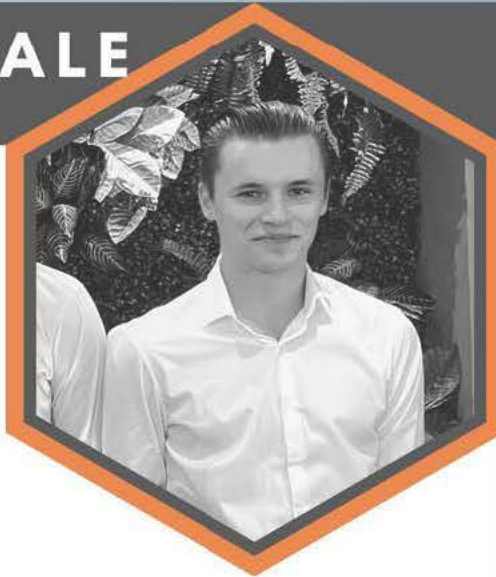


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GEORGE MARTINDALE

After graduating from Driffield Sixth Form in 2020 George secured a prestigious degree apprenticeship working for Dentons, which is the world's largest law firm. With the firm being placed a stones throw away from St Paul's Cathedral, George has found himself living and working in Central London. He has adapted well to this new lifestyle and is enjoying the challenge of working and earning, whilst completing his qualifications.



JAMES GLOVER

James completed his A Level qualifications in the summer of 2022, gaining A*AA and securing a place to study medicine at the University of Newcastle (The exact same course that his older brother Ben is nearing the completion of). Working as a doctor was always an aspiration for James and we are thrilled that he will be able to make this dream a reality.

We know he is working hard at university, but that he is also willing to support Driffield Sixth Form students who want to follow in his path.



Reflection on 2022

We recently hosted a celebration event for the students who graduated from Driffield Sixth form in summer 2022, where they were able to come and collect their A level certificates. It was wonderful to see all of the students and to hear about how they are getting on in their apprenticeships, jobs and at university. Already they are having an impact on their new surroundings and so many already have exciting plans for the future.

The evening offered the opportunity to reflect again upon the extraordinary results that these students gained last year, which were record breaking in every sense. With all measures being above the national average and well beyond the average for the East Riding of Yorkshire the students excelled across the board. With 39% of all grades at A*-A and 50% of students gaining at least one grade A, the students were in a position to be able to access their destinations of choice, with 95% of students gaining their first choice destination (compared to a national average of 66%).

However, we hope that through their time in the Sixth form, the students gain so much more than just exceptional qualifications. We want them to gain an expertise that will prepare them for success in life. This cohort certainly became an outstanding group of kind, compassionate and talented young people and we look forward to hearing further of their success.

