



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



SPOTLIGHT ON...

JULIE WEATHERILL - SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

I have worked at Driffield School and Sixth form just over 18 months, however, in my previous roles I have worked closely with school staff and many of our young people and families for over 10 years. This made the transition to working in school very smooth and I have enjoyed every minute of my time here.

My role as a safeguarding officer is very varied and it changes not just day to day but minute to minute as I never know what is coming in next or what support is required. I have to be very reactive, think on my feet and make decisions under pressure. I attend a range of different meetings involving students and their families with a view to keeping everyone safe. I work closely with a range of agencies, including children's social care, early help teams and the police. I also attend teams around the family meetings (TAFs), these meetings are less formal and involve the family and everyone that is involved with the family discussing what is working well, what we are worried about and what additional support is required.

On a daily basis, I support our vulnerable students, including those students in local authority care, alongside the pastoral team to ensure the students are receiving the right sort of support.

I have built some lovely relationships with students who have needed my support and have helped them get back on track. However, it's often nice when I don't see them because although I am always there for them, it means they are in lesson and doing ok.



APEX CURRICULUM

In APEX this half term, students are creating their own project or campaign relating to our new Sustainability Unit. Throughout this year, students have developed their understanding of many global issues from poverty in the world, climate action to economic growth. All of the work completed this year will contribute to this final project.

Throughout the sustainability project, Year 7 students will research and develop their understanding of no poverty, zero hunger and health and wellbeing. During Year 7, the students have completed work relating to human rights, keeping your mind and body healthy, as well as inequalities.

Year 8 will explore gender equality, reduced inequalities and peace, justice and strong institutions. These Sustainable Development Goals link to the prejudice and discrimination unit covered in September, as well as stereotypes and rights.

Year 9 will focus on recent work and economic growth, climate action and industry, innovation and infrastructure. In the autumn term we delivered a series of lessons that discussed the important work that the United Nations do around the world. During the World Cup held in Qatar, we also looked at the working and living conditions of the employees who were building the stadiums. This knowledge will support the students during their end of year project.

Earlier this half term, we were fortunate to be able to offer Year 8 a one hour session with the Mind Matters for Education team. The workshop gave students the opportunity to develop strategies which can support their mental health during difficult times. The practical nature of the workshop encouraged students to creatively explore their own feelings and coping skills.



SAFEGUARDING

KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE – MEET THE TEAM

At Driffield School and Sixth Form, student wellbeing is at the centre of everything we do. We work hard to ensure that our students are safe and feel safe, are cared for and supported well in school. We encourage students to tell us how they feel and listen carefully to their ideas, worries and concerns to ensure our school community is a better place for everyone.

All staff at Driffield School and Sixth form receive up to date training annually to ensure they are fully aware of any emerging issues locally and nationally, as well as being fully aware of all policies and procedures. Although keeping children safe is the responsibility of every member of staff in school, we do have a core team that are able to take a lead with specific child protection concerns.



Mrs Dalton
Designated Safeguarding Lead
deborah.dalton@driffieldschool.org.uk



Miss Weatherill
Safeguarding Officer
julie.weatherill@driffieldschool.org.uk



Mr Fisher
Deputy Safeguarding Lead
tom.fisher@driffieldschool.org.uk



Mr Andrews
Deputy Safeguarding Lead
darren.andrews@driffieldschool.org.uk



Mrs Warren
Designated Teach for P/LAC
faye.warren@driffieldschool.org.uk

Heads of House

Mrs James
Mr Davison
Mr Hunt
Mr McDonald



Mr Tulloch
Designated Safeguarding Governor
j.worthington@driffieldschool.org.uk

Heads of Year

Miss Blake
Mrs Potter
Miss Parsons
Mrs Frazer
Ms White

WHO CAN I TALK TO REGARDING RAISING A CONCERN?

A copy of our child protection policy can be found [here](#).

SUSTAINABILITY

ACTIVE TRAVEL AMBASSADORS SECURE FUNDING FOR CAMPAIGN

Since the 2022 autumn term, the Active Travel Ambassadors have been working hard to change the habits of students and teachers about how we all get to school and work. The Education Alliance had many plans in place since before the initial COVID lockdown to reduce the carbon footprint of the trust and make the day-to-day running of all its schools more sustainable.

The role of the ATA has been to conduct research, for example, into preferred and actual modes of transport to get to school. They found very few students coming to schools on bikes but that actually many students would like to cycle to school. This latter point gave the ATA the focus for their campaign, to get more people cycling to Driffield School.

The group took a daily average cycle count. They organised for R-evolution, a cycling charity based in and around Cottingham and Hull to visit the school to hand out free bikes from their bike library and organised for R-evolution to visit the school with their "Bike Doctor" so students and staff could have bikes serviced and fixed. The average cycle count rose from 1 to 11.

For the campaign presentation, £250 was up for grabs to follow through on campaign ideas to increase the number of cyclists to school. Four students from the group produced the presentation, wrote a witty script and presented to four members of a panel made up of cycling safety officers, Modeshift representatives and the CEO of R-evolution. The presentation was perfect, the delivery and the humour came across very well and it was a very mature presentation from all involved.

Feedback from the panel was given and the Driffield School ATA students were successful in their bid for the campaign funding...but the feedback didn't stop there. As the group were able to evidence the increase in cycling to school before the campaign had even started, their funding from East Riding was matched by R-evolution giving them a total of £500 to further their campaign to increase the number of cyclist commuters.

The group have worked really hard to get this far and secure the funding, but now the fun starts in following through on their campaign ideas.



PASTORAL

DANGERS OF VAPING

In a previous edition of Cornerstones we talked about the dangers of vaping. This is a topic that is frequently discussed in the media amid growing concerns about the numbers of young people that now use vapes. These links provide some useful information for parents and carers.

[Dangers of vaping around children](#)

[Vaping - information for parents/carers](#)

SUMMER SAFETY

In recent years we have enjoyed some lovely weather through the summer months. As part of our work to ensure our students stay safe we would like to share some hot weather advice:

Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. Staying hydrated helps us remain healthy, promotes positive mental health and improves energy levels. During warmer weather, the body's natural cooling systems means that we all sweat a little more. It is recommended that we should all drink 6-8 cups of water a day to replenish water lost and stay fully hydrated. During the school day we do encourage students to drink plenty and continue to encourage them to bring refillable water bottles in. Following recent a student voice opportunity, we are pleased to share that we have been able to install more water fountains in areas that are easily accessible during break and lunchtimes.

Always wear suncream/protector/block when going out for any period of time in the sun. Sunburn is painful and can potentially cause long term side effects. In addition to this, wearing a hat can help protect the scalp and ears. This advice is particularly important this half term when activities such as trips to Spiers, sports day and the sponsored walk mean that students may spend longer in the sun.

Take care near the sea or other large bodies of water during the warmer summer days. The temptation can be to go for a swim to cool down, but we remind students to be very careful and consider depth, strong currents and location. Students should only swim in designated areas supervised by an adult, ideally a lifeguard and should be very careful if jumping in from a height in case there is anything under the surface.



PASTORAL

YEAR 6 INDUCTION EVENTS

Throughout the school year, we have been running smaller Y6 induction events to support our new cohort of students. These have included a maths challenge day, an English and modern foreign languages day and there will be a science-focused day on Thursday 6 July. However, our main transition day was Thursday 29 June. This saw our entire Year 7 cohort for September invited to attend Driffield School. They attended a variety of lessons for the day and were given the opportunity to meet their teachers for September, including their head of year, head of house and form tutor. The aim of the day is to give the students a feel for what it will be like in September, ease any concerns or worries and let them ask many questions.

On the evening of 29 June, we invited parents to attend our induction evening. Mrs. Loftus, Mr. Fisher and Mr. Davison gave parents a brief welcome talk in our East Hall before a second presentation and Q&A with their child's head of house. There were also stalls on in the performing arts space where parents could find out about buses, school uniform, equipment and well-being support.

If you have any further questions about Year 6 transition please email transition@driffieldschool.org.uk

DRESS SMART, THINK SMART

As we are moving towards the end of the school year and the summer holidays are almost upon us, it won't be long before back to school adverts are all around us. This is the time that many parents and carers start to think about purchasing new school uniform. Before buying any new items of uniform, it is advisable to check our uniform policy first. Unfortunately, just because a high street store may advise clothing as 'back to school' it does not mean it will meet our expectations. Further information on our dress code can be found [here](#).

I would urge parents and carers to please take note on the expectations around piercings, alongside the actual uniform requirements. For health and safety reasons, students are not permitted facial piercings and are required to remove all ear piercings for activities such as PE.



PASTORAL

ONLINE SAFETY HUB

Ensuring children are safe online can be a constant worry for parents, particularly with the rapid pace in which technology improves and changes. With this in mind, we have purchased a supportive resource for parents called Qustodio. This resource will provide you the information and support you need to ensure your children are safe online by providing easy to use advice, tips and tools. This resource can be accessed via the school web page (click on 'Online Safety Hub' at the top right hand side of the web home page) or this [link](#).

BE WELL



Our Be Well strategy continues to go from strength to strength, with students, parents and staff able to access well being support without having to endure the very long waiting lists that external agencies often have. All students from Year 7 to Year 11 have had a one hour workshop with our very own mind practitioner, Sally Mulligan, throughout the year to cover areas such as transitions, 5 ways to wellbeing and exam stress. These workshops are intended to provide students with the skills they will need to face the normal challenges of daily life. Similar opportunities have been provided for parents through workshops or an information stall at some of our parental events.

More bespoke support can be provided for students, parents and staff where needed through one to one support or programmes such as pupil resilience or Big Umbrella. Parents requiring this kind of support can contact Sally directly via the email:

smulligan@heymin.org.uk

During the spring term, 647 students, 30 parents and 3 members of staff benefited from Mind support. Of the students that engaged with this support, 73% said they felt that their mental health had improved since receiving the support. Most students said they had enjoyed the work they had completed and all students said they would recommend the service to others. 87% of students that completed the workshops felt more confident in looking after their own mental health.

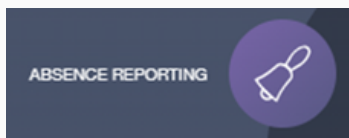
In addition to the support from Mind, our students are also able to access more specialist support from our two SMASH (Social Mediation and Self Help) practitioners. SMASH is an NHS intervention and provides more specialist mental health support. Students in KS3 engage in group work for one day a week for 10/12 weeks, where KS4 students receive one to one support to avoid missing too much curriculum time in the run up to external exams. During the spring term, up to 30 students received this more in depth support.

PASTORAL

RECORDING SCHOOL ABSENCE VIA EDULINK

We are always looking at ways to make systems easier for parents and we are aware that our phone system can sometimes be a barrier for parents trying to inform us of a student absence from school. With this in mind, we have developed a new and hopefully easier system for alerting us when your child is absent from school. Parents and carers are now encouraged to log student absences via EduLink. This can be done as follows:

1. Log in to EduLink
2. Click on Absence Reporting



3. Complete the form as below:

A screenshot of a web form for reporting an absence. The form has a white background and is contained within a light grey border. It features three main input fields: 'From *' with a placeholder 'Select start date and time' and a calendar icon; 'To *' with a placeholder 'Select end date and time' and a calendar icon; and 'Reason for Absence *' with a large text area. Below these fields is a paperclip icon for attachments. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: a green 'SEND' button and a grey 'CANCEL' button.

4. Select date of absence.
5. Select time of absence (e.g. all day in illness, 8.45 if am appointment or select time if student needs to leave during the day to attend an appointment).
6. Add absence reason. Please give full details, for example:
 - If sickness absence please state details e.g. headache and sore throat rather than 'illness'.
 - If absent for an appointment, please state details of the appointment and signing out information where applicable e.g. Hospital appointment at 2pm at Hull Royal Infirmary. Student to sign out at 1pm and meet mum in the car park.
7. Attach evidence where applicable e.g. hospital letter, dental appointment card.
8. Press send.

Please note, absences can be recorded up to 5 days in advance for medical appointments. We hope you find this a helpful and efficient way of communicating with us.

PASTORAL

ANTI-BULLYING

Our anti-bullying work with students at Driffield continues and we were delighted to welcome Dave Brown from East Riding Voluntary Service to the school to talk about bullying issues with some of our Peer Mentors. The session sought the views of students and provided an open forum to discuss any ideas or thoughts they have regarding this important school wide work. We are looking forward to working closely with ERVAS and with the East Riding of Yorkshire local authority as we continue to work against bullying in all forms.

We are delighted to have over 200 students acting as Peer Mentors in school, actively supporting one another and providing a network of support for any students who may need it alongside our anti-bullying coordinator, Mrs Jude. We have recently introduced 'Peer Mentor Points' around the school site, which are manned by our Peer Mentors, so that students know where they can go should they want a chat or just a friendly face! These students are also working hard on an event which will take place on Sports Day, providing some alternative fun activities for students who may not want to take part in track and field events,



Finally, Driffield School and Sixth Form are proud to be a member of the Anti Bullying Alliance. The ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve our vision to: stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. Over the next year, we will be working closely with the ABA to ensure that our anti-bullying practice continues to thrive and that we effectively tackle any form of bullying head on.



PASTORAL

YEAR 8 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENING

On Wednesday 14 June, we held our first Personal Development evening for Year 8 parents. The evening was designed to inform all parents of the work that goes into support the personal development of our students. The night started with a presentation delivered by Mr Fisher around the use of form time and assemblies, APEX lessons, careers, and extra-curricular. Following the presentation, parents had the opportunity to have a tour of the school to see all the recent developments followed by meeting staff and students on stalls linked to personal development. It was a lovely atmosphere and great to meet Year 8 parents in a face-to-face opportunity. If you would like to learn more about the work that goes on around personal development school, please click [here](#).



PASTORAL

CELEBRATION EVENING 15 JUNE 2023

Thursday 15 June 2023 was the first celebration evening we have held since 2019. Over sixty students were celebrated on the evening. Each form tutor was able to nominate a student from their tutor group, heads of year nominated one student from their year group and heads of house nominated four students based on our cornerstones; care, respect, perseverance and responsibility.

It was wonderful to be able to, once again, celebrate those students at Driffield School and Sixth Form who have gone beyond what we expect. We would also like to give special thanks to Jess Middlewood who provided a moving reading from Shakespeare and Ava Lawton who gave beautiful musical performance during the evening.

We are extremely proud of all the students involved in the evening.



PASTORAL

GOODBYE TO YEAR 11

Thursday 15 July saw Year 11 attend their Leavers Assembly. Mr McDonald led them through a reflection of their time at Driffield, thinking about the milestones that have occurred both in and out of school during their journey from Year 7 to Year 11. We were also delighted to be joined by representatives from our partner primary schools, who taught our Year 11s when they were in Year 6!

Our Heads of House took great pleasure in rewarding 5 students from each of our houses, Bronte, Holtby, Johnson and Mortimer, with rewards based on our four Cornerstones of Care, Respect, Responsibility and Perseverance. The fifth student from each House was the overall House Champion, a student who has displayed all four cornerstones consistently throughout their time at the school. We congratulate all of the students on these awards and every student in Year 11 on completing their formal examinations.

The afternoon ended with students and staff on the field, in the sunshine, carrying out the tradition of signing school shirts and offering the chance to say goodbye!

The Year 11 Leavers Prom is taking place on 30 June at Beverley Racecourse; we are looking forward to celebrating with them, before seeing them again for GCSE Results Day on 24 August.

