



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



ONE DRIFFIELD

BE WELL



This half term we are pleased to welcome Lauren McKinlay into our Be Well team. Lauren will be in school every Tuesday and Friday to deliver a new intervention called Listen Loud. This intervention, for students from Year 7 to Year 14, provides support through group work, one to one support or through a drop-in service. It aims to support young people build their confidence, develop strong communications skills, build positive relationships and improve individual achievement.

Topics explored through this provision include:

- Apologising
- Boundaries
- Communication/conversation skills
- Resolving conflict
- Tolerance and acceptance
- Social Cues
- Personal space
- Manners
- Social skills
- Circle of control
- Negative thoughts

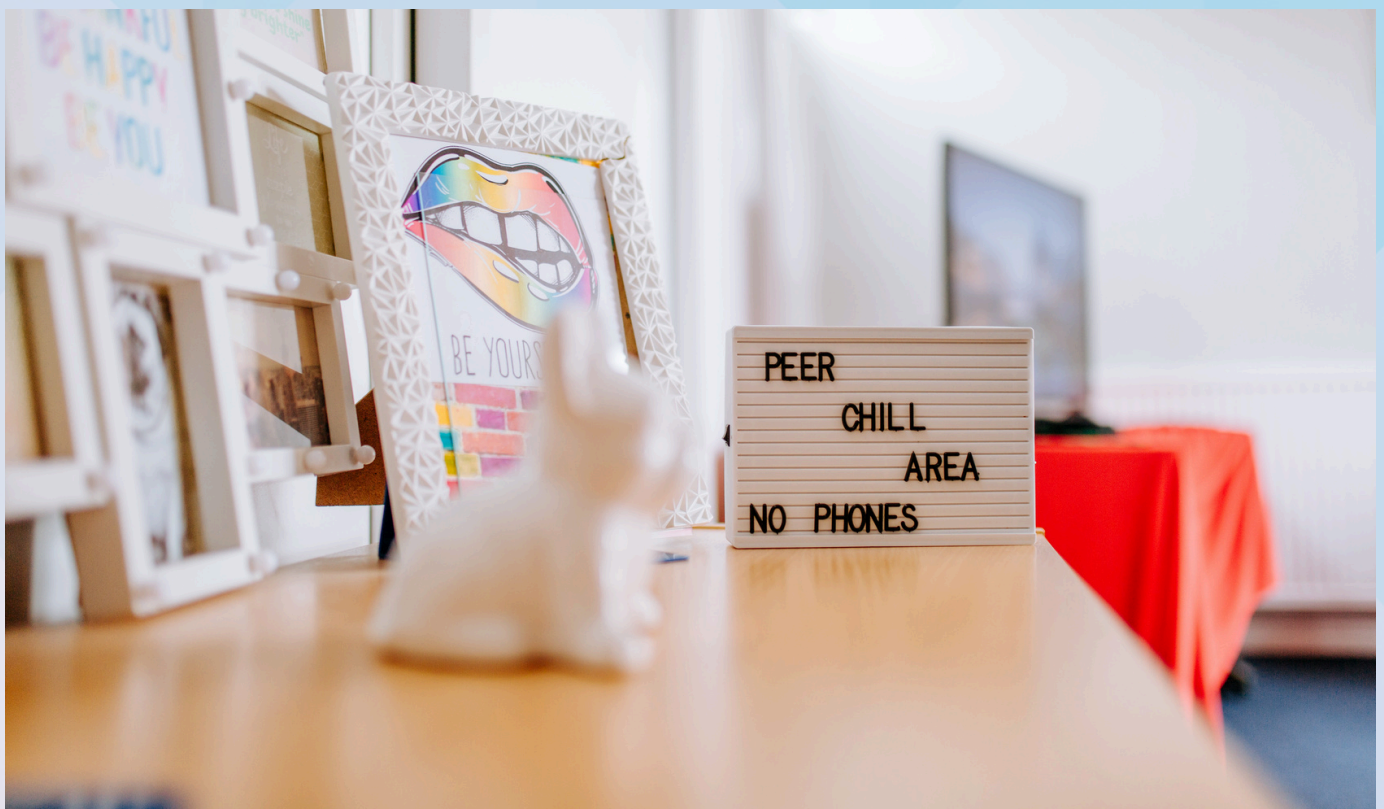
If you are interested in finding out more about this intervention, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.



ONE DRIFFIELD

BE YOURSELF & BE YOUR BEST

At Driffield School and Sixth Form, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. 'Driffield School and Sixth Form is a friendly and happy place' (OFSTED) and we are committed to ensuring it remains so. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a telling school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the school, either by telling a member of staff, parent, friend or peer. As a school we take bullying seriously. Students and parents will be supported when bullying is reported. Bullying will not be tolerated.

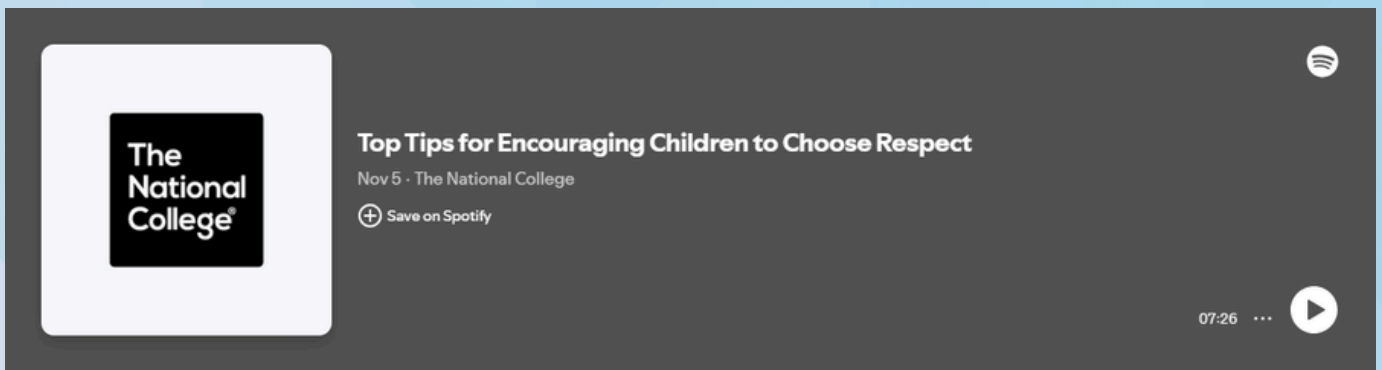


Our 'Chat and Chill' room is a provision operated by Mrs Jude on a daily basis. This provides a space for students to access whenever they wish, where they can speak to staff, peer mentors and visit with friends. The popularity of this room is evident throughout lunchtimes, when students visit in large numbers to play games, meet with friends and spend time in this bespoke, calm environment providing support and nurture.

ONE DRIFFIELD

BE YOUR BEST - RESPECT

Running alongside this year's antibullying theme of respect, the National College has produced some useful resources for parents, including the poster in this publication and the following podcast.



Respect is a key cornerstone and underpins our expectations.

BE SAFE

On Thursday 7 November we welcomed an external visitor into school to review our safeguarding procedures and processes. This included the work that we have completed around sexual abuse and harassment and antibullying. The review included a review of policies and record keeping, speaking to a variety of staff and students and spending time observing different aspects of the school day. Our written report of this review was very pleasing and highlighted the following areas:

- The school was warm, welcoming and friendly school
- There is a strong culture of safeguarding evident throughout everything
- A key strength is the highly effective and excellent quality preventative curriculum, teaching children how to keep themselves safe coupled with robust and consistently implemented safeguarding procedures
- Strong and consistent understanding amongst staff and students of safeguarding processes and procedures
- Our One Driffield ethos was evident throughout the day as we demonstrated working together as one community.

DIGITAL SAFETY - PARENTAL WORKSHOP (ADVANCE NOTICE)

Thanks to everyone who attended our amazing online parental workshop on Wednesday 20 November. Katherine, the trainer, is so knowledgeable and engaging.

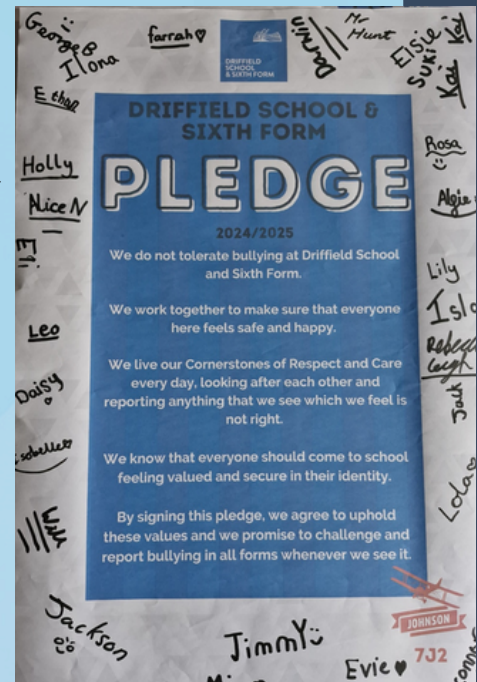
A date for diary. Katherine will be running a second workshop with different content on 29 January 2025 at the slightly earlier time of 6 – 7pm. More information will be shared closer to the time.

ONE DRIFFIELD

BE YOURSELF & BE YOUR BEST

As a whole school community, we are proactive and relentless in our anti-bullying work and discuss the issue regularly with students via assemblies, form time sessions and as part of our APEX (Achieving Personal Excellence) curriculum. We know that 'pupils are happy at the school and say that it feels safe', telling us that 'if bullying happens, it is quickly dealt with' (OFSTED), but we are never complacent regarding bullying and strongly urge students and parents to contact us should any concerns arise.

In 2023-24, Driffield School was recognised as a Silver School by the Anti Bullying Alliance. The Peer Mentors worked with the school to develop the 'Driffield School Pledge', a promise that we invite all of our students and staff to make demonstrating our shared commitment to eradicate bullying. All students in the school signed this pledge again in October 2024 for the year ahead, renewing our shared commitment.



BE HERE BE YOURSELF BE YOUR BEST

December attendance rewards

- Prize draw for great attendance in December
- 3 weeks left of term – 100% attendance aim
- Each week of full attendance will count...
 - w/c 2 Dec = 1 ticket
 - w/c 9 Dec = 2 tickets
 - w/c 16 Dec = 3 tickets
- Chance for each student to get up to 6 tickets into the draw
- Prize draw for each year group



ONE DRIFFIELD

BE YOURSELF & BE YOUR BEST

In late October, we were visited by an external partner who reviewed our anti bullying policies and procedures. The verbal feedback we received was very positive and recognised the effectiveness of our anti bullying work in school. The visitor spoke to a range of staff and students throughout the day and recognised our shared commitment to the prevention of any kind of bullying.



In November, we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week with the national theme of Choose Respect. This fit perfectly with one of our four Cornerstones and students really bought into the week. We enjoyed a range of activities, including Odd Socks Day, a series of activities in Form Time and a meeting of all our Peer Mentors in which we made plans for the remainder of this year.

ONE DRIFFIELD

BE HERE



Reporting Absences

Parents or carers must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 8.30 am, or as soon as practically possible.

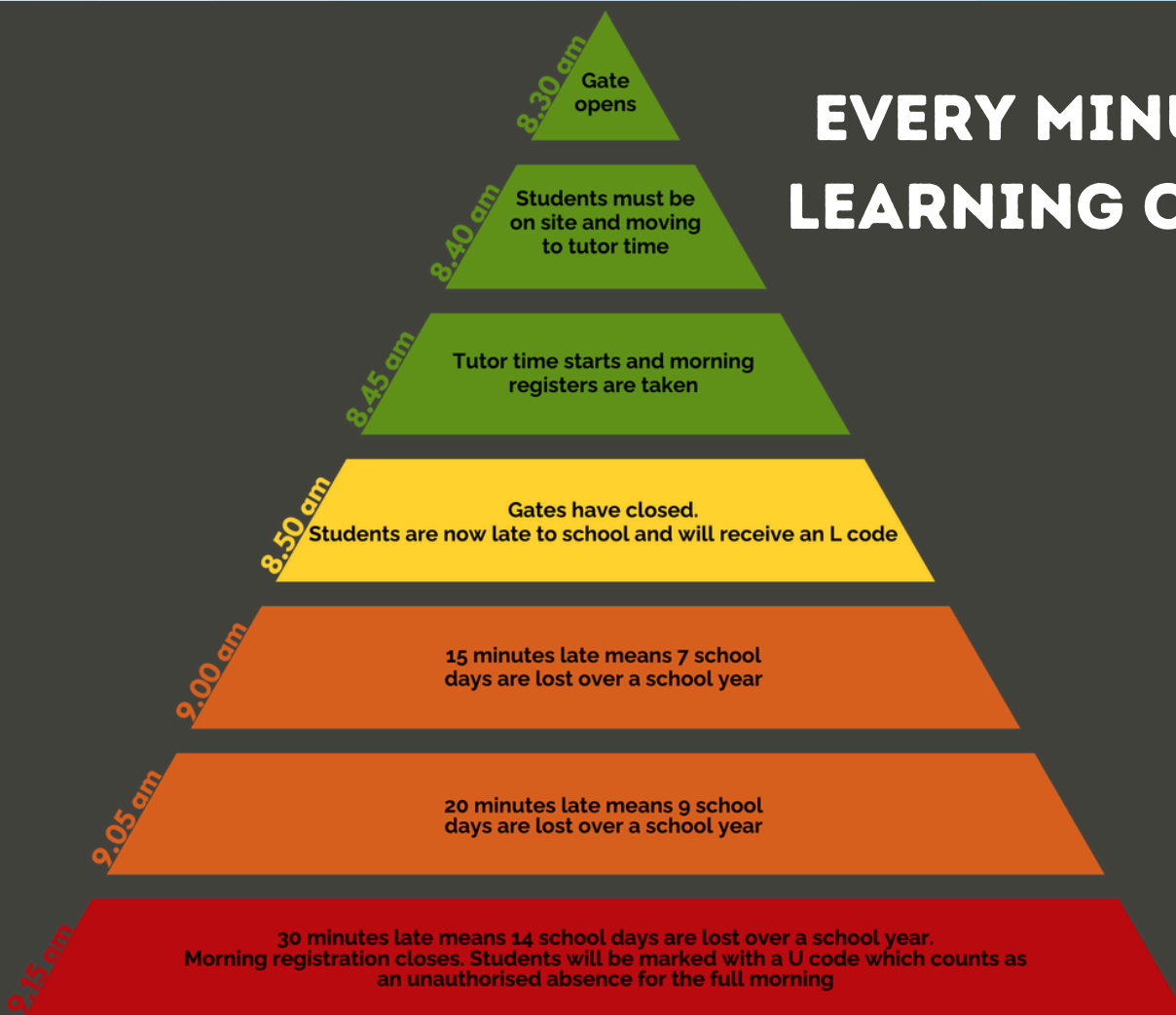
Student absence can be reported in the following ways:

Email: office@driffieldschool.org.uk

Telephone: 01377 253631

Full details can be found on the attendance page on the [school website](#)

EVERY MINUTE OF LEARNING COUNTS



ONE DRIFFIELD

BE HERE

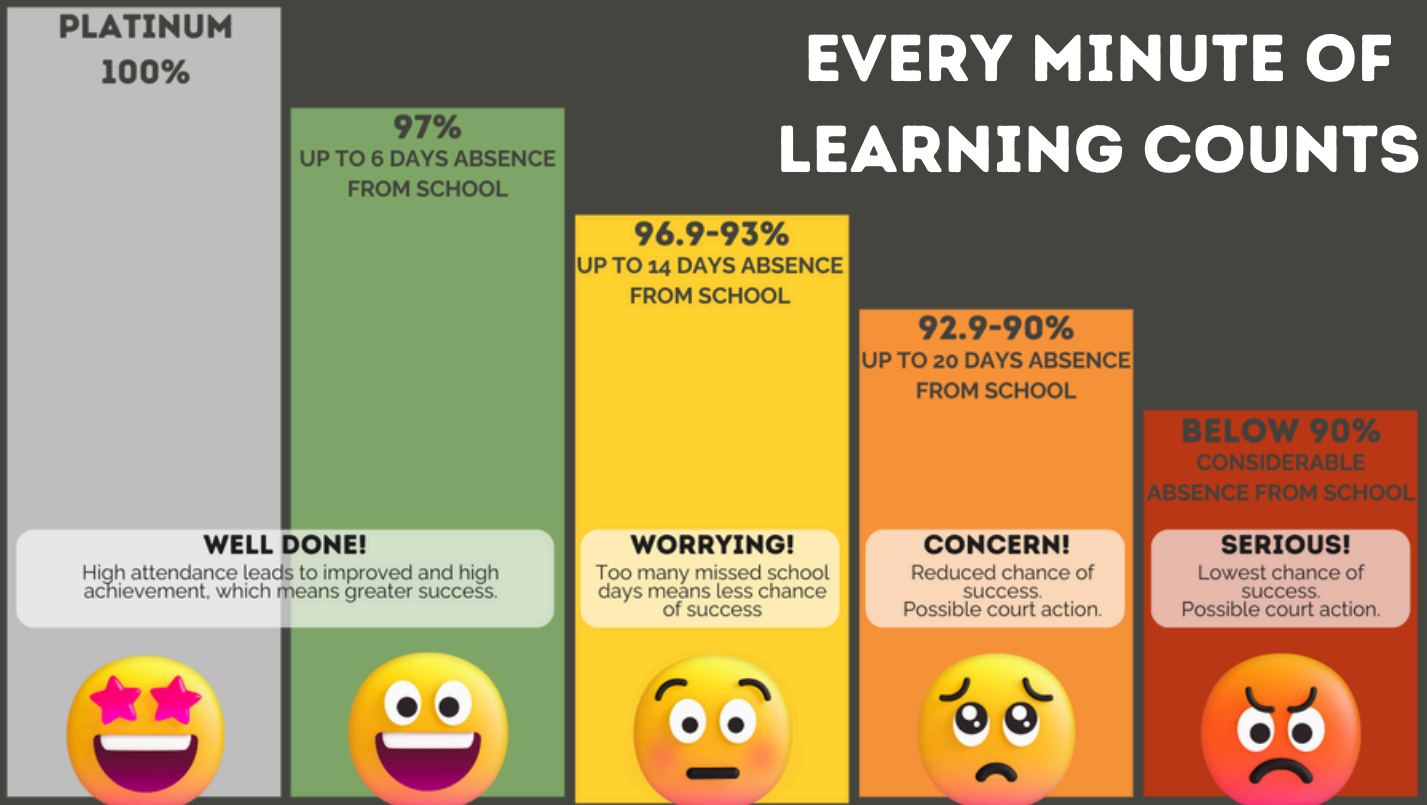


Did you know...

Being late after the register has closed means your child/ren will be recorded as an unauthorised absence - U code

Unauthorised absences can lead to the following:

- A meeting with an Education Welfare Officer
- A fixed penalty notice can be issued - £60 per parent per child



There are 175 non school days a year.

That's plenty of time to go on visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel..." or "I think..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at:



DRIFFIELD SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

NEWSLETTER

HALF TERM 4

What will pupils be studying in APEX this half term?

Year 7:

Finance & Careers

Students will learn about enterprise with a particular focus on the following areas making money, budgeting, career paths and making decisions and how they can have a longer term impact on their future prospects.

Year 8:

Finance & Careers

Students will learn about job expectations, what is tax, how to avoid debt as well as stereotypes within employment. They will explore their own skills as well as understanding the value of money and budgeting.

Year 9:

Finance & Careers

Students will learn about their potential next steps after school. Students will develop an understanding of various career paths through studying the local Labour Market Information, the importance of transferable skills, networking and relationships with others. They will also look at what it means to take out a mortgage and how to make great financial decisions

Year 10:

How do I take care of my own health and wellbeing?

Students will learn how to take care of their own health and well-being. This unit will focus on alcohol and binge drinking, drug abuse and self-harm.

Year 11:

How do I take care of my own health and wellbeing?

Students will learn how to take care of their own health through lessons on cancer prevention and screening as well as learning about blood, stem cell and organ donation.



Upcoming Events in APEX this half term

This half term students from across different year groups attended knife crime workshops with Circle North and PCSO's. Circle North is a company that creates interactive video resources produced with young people and subject specialists for use in secondary schools. These sessions focused on the facts surrounding knives and weapons, why people carry them, what the law says and the risks associated with carrying these.

Last week, we also welcomed a member of staff from the NHS to discuss their job role and the different opportunities available in the NHS. The session gave students the opportunity to see some specialist equipment used within theatres as well as discussing day to day life of a medical professional.

Next week, The Road Safety team from Humberside Fire and Rescue will be coming into school to discuss the impact of phones, alcohol and driving in a dangerous manner when behind the wheel. These assemblies will give students practical tips on how to stay safe on the roads as a passenger in a vehicle or as a pedestrian.

During December we have students involved in a workshop led by Barclays Bank, which will focus on financial literacy and the importance of money management. They will also be looking at their own aspirations and how aiming high will have a positive impact on their future. The workshop will also address the evolving world of digital finance, teaching students how to stay safe when using online banking, protecting their personal information and identifying common financial scams.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

LAUREN MCKINLAY – LISTEN LOUD PRACTITIONER

Hello, I'm Lauren and I cannot wait to start 'Listen Loud' at Driffield School! I have worked in educational settings for many years and I am passionate about providing young people with pastoral support. School can be a tough place to fit in and it's not always easy to navigate... This is why I am so excited to start running the Listen Loud program to help build confidence and positivity in young people who need that bit of extra support, a voice and safe space. The groups will be a judge free zone full of laughter and joy with the hope that I can help give students the boost that they need to get through the school week and enhance their educational journey. The door is open to all for lunch time drop in sessions also and I will be available for 1:1 talking sessions.

I am caring, bubbly and fun-loving and not a lot embarrasses me. I am a massive dog person and have a very goofy Labrador at home so be prepared to talk about dogs... or any animal for that matter... I love them all! I look forward to seeing you soon...



My name is Mike Evans, I am Assistant Headteacher and have been in this role since 2019, and have been teaching at Driffield School for over twelve years. My role as Assistant Headteacher includes oversight of data, achievement and exams as well as educational visits.

I am really excited that from September this year, one of my whole school responsibilities is Attendance Champion. In this role I lead the strategic work for improving school attendance and it is a role that I am really thrilled to have as I am very passionate about school attendance.

Attendance to school is crucial. This is not just to give our students the best chance of gaining great outcomes. It is about the benefits to health and wellbeing and students' social skills, developing friendships to last a lifetime and accessing the many exciting opportunities available to them in school.

Good school attendance is underpinned in our ONE DRIFFIELD ethos, specifically the 'BE HERE' strand. I look forward to working with many students and families in my attendance role.

MIKE EVANS - ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

CAREERS

At Driffield School, we are proud to prioritise careers education and guidance for all our students, from Year 7 through to Year 13. Our aim is to provide comprehensive support and opportunities to help students explore their potential and confidently take the next steps in their educational and professional journeys.

Dedicated Careers Support

We are fortunate to have Mrs Robinson, our dedicated Careers Officer, available daily during break and lunchtimes. This open-door policy gives students the chance to drop in for advice and discuss career options in an informal and supportive setting.

For our Year 11 students, we are currently conducting one-to-one careers appointments with Mrs Robinson to help them plan their next steps. These sessions are being followed up with additional meetings with members of the Senior Leadership Team, ensuring tailored advice and guidance for each student as they navigate the important decisions ahead.

Careers Fair – Thursday 21st November

One of the highlights of our careers provision this term was the Careers Fair on Thursday 21 November. With over 65 exhibitors representing local, regional, and national industries. This event offered an incredible opportunity for students, parents, and carers to engage directly with businesses, apprenticeship providers, colleges, and other career pathways.

Introducing Unifrog

We are excited to announce the rollout of our new partnership with Unifrog, a cutting-edge careers platform available to all students. This platform will help students and their families explore potential career options, pathways, and educational opportunities. Unifrog provides personalized guidance, making it easier for students to identify and plan their future steps.

WHAT DOES THE UNIFROG COMMUNITY THINK?

Over 3,700 schools say...

97.5%

of our schools describe Unifrog as 'very' intuitive and easy to use.

99.5%

of our schools rate our customer service as 'very good' or 'fantastic'.

98.5%

of our schools say they would recommend us to other schools.



CAREERS

Ongoing Partnerships and Events

Our partnerships with local and national organisations continue to enrich our careers provision. Recent highlights include:

- Red10 delivering assemblies to inspire students and highlight exciting career paths.
- Coventry University, which are presenting to all year groups over next few weeks to promote a range of courses available within university settings.

On Wednesday 29 November, Driffield School will also be working toward renewing the Quality in Careers Standard Award, a prestigious recognition of our commitment to providing excellent careers education. Having achieved this award three years ago, we are confident in showcasing the outstanding work we continue to do in this area.

Supporting Every Student

If you have any questions about your child's next steps in education or their future career aspirations, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Robinson. Further details about our careers provision can be found on the Careers section of our school website.

At Driffield School, we are dedicated to helping our students build bright futures. By providing high-quality careers education, we ensure they are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to pursue their dreams.







BELIEVE · ACHIEVE
ONE DRIFFIELD