DRIFFIELD SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

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Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: School Attendance

As we move further into the winter months, I would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that our students attend school regularly and are ready to learn each day. 'Be Here' is a key aspect of our One Driffield values and reflects our commitment to resilience, belonging and making the most of every opportunity to learn.

Winter can present challenges for everyone. Seasonal illnesses become more common, mornings are darker, temperatures are colder and getting out of bed and into school can feel a little harder than it does during the warmer months. However, these are exactly the moments when one of our school cornerstones, **resilience**, becomes so important.

Resilience is about persevering when things feel difficult, developing positive habits and routines, and continuing to do the right thing even when it requires extra effort. Attending school regularly is one of the most important ways that students can demonstrate this quality. Every lesson matters and regular attendance helps students make strong academic progress, maintain friendships, participate fully in school life, and develop the routines that support future success. Regular attendance is essential because learning builds on previous lessons. Missing even a single day can create gaps in understanding, making it more difficult for students to keep up with their learning and achieve their full potential.

We recognise that illness is more prevalent during the winter period. While we encourage families to use sensible judgement, we ask that students attend school whenever they are well enough to do so. Minor coughs, colds and sniffles will often improve whilst students continue with their normal routines. If a child is genuinely too unwell to attend school, they should, of course, remain at home to rest and recover.

To help reduce the spread of illness, we are continuing to promote good hygiene practices across the school. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the site and staff regularly encourage students to wash their hands thoroughly, particularly before eating and after using the toilet. We would also encourage students to maintain good personal hygiene habits, such as carrying tissues and using the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach to help minimise the spread of winter bugs.

We would also appreciate your support regarding medical appointments. Wherever possible, please try to arrange appointments outside of school hours. We understand

that this is not always achievable and there will be occasions when appointments can only be offered during the school day. In these circumstances, we would expect students to attend school before and/or after their appointment so that the time missed from education is kept to an absolute minimum.

Please note that, in order for a medical appointment to be authorised using an M code, we will require evidence of the appointment. This can be provided in a number of ways, including:

- A screenshot of a text message confirming the appointment
- A photograph of an appointment card
- A copy of a hospital or clinic letter
- Other official appointment confirmation.

If there are any concerns or circumstances which may impact your child's attendance, please contact your child's Head of Year or Head of House. By working together, we can ensure that students receive the support they need to attend regularly and achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Evans
Assistant Headteacher