



Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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Success with Care

Headteacher: Mr M. J. Cooper

Ref: TDA/SDU

14th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and settling into the new school term. As you know, effective two-way communication between families and schools is vital for a child's success and research shows that the more parents/carers and staff share relevant information with each other about a student, the better equipped both will be to help that student achieve academically. This letter sets out the several ways in which we will communicate with you during the year, how you can communicate with us and how you will receive information on progress and achievement.

During the year we will provide information to parents/carers and students through:

- 1) Virtual Parents/Carers Consultation Evenings (PCCE)
- 2) Verbal Student Progress Reviews (VSPR)
- 3) Student Progress Reviews (SPR)
- 4) Planners
- 5) Internal/External Examinations
- 6) Feedback in exercise books and ongoing formative assessment
- 7) Reading Tests (Y7, Y9 and Y10)
- 8) Class Charts App

1) **Virtual Parents/Carers Consultation Evenings PCCE:**

Direct communication between staff, students and parent/carers is one of the most effective way of improving a student's outcomes. The dates for the PCCEs are outlined below (Fig.1). We will once again operate an online booking system through the website, and details will be sent out to parents/carers, two weeks before the event. Appointments are 5 minutes long and we do prioritise appointments with students in receipt of the Pupil Premium Funding or those at risk of underachievement. This along with the numbers of students taught by certain staff does lead to not all parent/carers being able to make appointments. In circumstances where this causes concern, please email the teacher directly for feedback.

	PCCE Evenings	VSPRs	SPR 1 Term 2	SPR 2 Term 4	SPR 3 Term 6	Internal Examinations	External Examinations		
Y7	Term 5 25 April 2024	Term 1 27 November - 8 December 2023	Published by 22 December 2023	Published by 28 March 2024	Published by 12 July 2024				
Y8	Term 4 20 March 2024	Term 5 29 April - 10 May 2024							
Y9	Term 2 5 December 2023	Term 4 22 January - 2 February 2024				Term 6 English/Maths and Science only 17 June - 27 June 2024			
Y10	Term 2 9 November 2023	Term 3 5 February - 16 February 2024				Term 6 17 June - 27 June 2024			
Y11	Term 3 17 January 2024	Term 2 18 March - 28 March 2024			Term 2 20 November -1 December 2023	Published by 12 July 2024		Term 3 English and Maths 29 February -1 March 2024	GCSE AS/A Level 9 May - 25 June 2024
Y12	Term 4 6 March 2024	Term 3 16 October - 27 October 2023			Term 3 22 January - 2 February 2024				
Y13	Term 3 3 February 2024	Term 2 11 December - 22 December 2023			Term 5/6 Y12 Selected Subjects not sitting AS external exams				

Fig 1: Communication with parents/carers

2) Verbal Student Progress Reviews (VSPRs)

Please use the timetable to see the two-week window when parents/carers can expect to receive a phone call from your child's mentor. The purpose of the phone call is to discuss general well-being and progress. We have found this system to be more effective than written reports as the system allows two-way communication.

If you have any concerns in the meantime, please contact the house team.

House	Progress Leader	Support Manager
Baggaley	Mr D. Sanderson dsanderson@dhfs.uk	Mrs V. Hardwick vhardwick@dhfs.uk
Buxton	Mr D. Shephard dshephard@dhfs.uk	Mrs L. Coles lcoles@dhfs.uk
Fanshawe	Mr B. Swales bswales@dhfs.uk	Mrs A. Goodison agoodison@dhfs.uk
Gosforth	Mrs S. Molloy smolloy@dhfs.uk	Mrs C. Asbury casbury@dhfs.uk
Millican	Mr P. Varley pvarley@dhfs.uk	Mr D. Wileman dwileman@dhfs.uk
Spaven	Mr A. Hibbert ahibbert@dhfs.uk	Mrs M. Backhouse mbackhouse@dhfs.uk

3) **Student Progress Reviews (SPRs)**

These will be emailed out to parent/carers (see timetable) and students will receive an A5 paper copy to stick into their planners which they will be directed to reflect upon during Mentor Time and subsequently set targets against.

The SPRs will show a target 9-1 grade and progress against this target. For Y7-Y9 students, the 9-1 grade reflects the age-related work that the student has understood and accessed during that year, **it is not a GCSE grade**. In Y10 and Y11 the 9-1 grade reflects GCSE gradings. This target should not be seen as a ceiling on what a student can achieve or the be all and end all. It merely acts as indication of what students nationally have managed to achieve from the same starting point in Y7.

Attitude to Learning	
1	<p>Outstanding attitude</p> <p>You consistently display a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning in independent, group and whole class work, which has a very strong impact on your progress in lessons.</p>
2	<p>Good attitude</p> <p>Your attitude to all aspects of learning, including in independent, group and whole class work, is consistently good, and has a positive impact on your progress in lessons.</p>
3	<p>Attitude requires improvement</p> <p>Your approach to learning in this subject is not yet resulting in good progress. You need to ask your teacher how to improve.</p>
4	<p>Unacceptable attitude</p> <p>Your lack of engagement or persistent low-level disruption of learning has a negative impact on your progress and the progress of others in lessons.</p>

3Rs@dhfs

Responsible, Resilient, Reflective

The SPRs will also report back on ATL (Attitude to Learning), ATH (Attitude to Homework), and where necessary, areas to improve. ATLs of 1 (Outstanding) and 2 (Good) lead to success and are coloured green in the SPRs. ATLs of 3 (Requires Improvement) and 4 (Unacceptable Attitude) mean that the student needs to improve on something in order to fully progress.

4) **Planners**

All students are issued with planners in which they record their homework (alongside using the Class Charts App) and important information. The expectation is that parents/carers sign the planner each

week. There is a space for parents/carers to communicate messages to the mentor and for school to communicate with home when necessary.

5) Internal/External Examinations

The timetable for internal examinations is shown in **Fig 1: Communication with parents/carers**.

Y9 students will sit end of year examinations in maths, English and science. All of these afore mentioned assessments will be sat in classrooms. The Y10 examinations will be sat in the Sports Hall to reflect the external exam experience approaching in Y11.

The results from the Y11, Y12 and Y13 Trial Examinations will feed into the March SPR, and once again staff will use these results to project what students can expect to achieve in the Summer Examinations.

Information about external examinations for students in Y11, Y12 and Y13 will be sent out separately by Mrs S Gill (Examinations Officer sgill@dhfs.uk).

6. Feedback in exercise books, folders, portfolios and ongoing formative assessment

Students will receive written feedback and then complete DIRT work (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) during the year in line with the 'Feedback and Improvement Policy' (<https://dhfs.uk/school-policies/>)

They will also complete subject formative assessments during the year, which will inform teachers' planning moving forward and give students areas upon which to improve. We encourage you to look at the standard of work your child is producing and the comments being made by the member of staff.

6) Reading Tests (Y7, Y9 and Y10)

Students in Y7, Y9 and Y10 sit NGRT tests (National Group Reading Tests) during Term 1. We send these results home to the parents/carers of Y7.

7) Class Charts App

Please use this phone application to access to attendance data, conduct data (achievement and behaviour points), homework set, your child's timetable and any text messages from school. If you have any issues with this app, please contact Mr K. Pickles classcharts@dhfs.uk

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school and I look forward to a year free from the disruption we have experienced recently! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mrs T. Davies
Deputy Headteacher