



# Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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Success with Care

Headteacher: Mr M. J. Cooper

Ref: TDA/SDU

29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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) CATS Tests and Reading Tests (Y7 only)
- 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 26 April 2023	Term 1 10 - 21 October 2022	Published by 22 December 2022	Published by 31 March 2023	Published by 14 July 2023	Term 5 15 May - 26 May 2023		
Y8	Term 4 23 March 2023	Term 5 15 - 26 May 2023						
Y9	Term 2 6 December 2022	Term 4 20 - 31 March 2023						
Y10	Term 2 1 November 2022	Term 3 23 January - 3 February 2023				Term 6 12 June -23 June 2023		
Y11	Term 3 25 January 2023	Term 2 21 November - 2 December 2022			Term 2 21 November -2 December 2022	Term 3 16 -17 February 2023		GCSE AS/A Level  15 May - 30 June 2023
Y12	Term 4 8 March 2023	Term 3 6 - 17 February 2023			Published by 14 July 2023	Term 3 23 January - 3 February 2023		
Y13	Term 3 9 February 2023	Term 2 5 - 16 December 2022		Term 5/6 Y12 Selected Subjects				

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 the 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 <a href="mailto:dsanderson@dhfs.uk">dsanderson@dhfs.uk</a>	Mrs V. Hardwick <a href="mailto:vhardwick@dhfs.uk">vhardwick@dhfs.uk</a>
Buxton	Mr E. Jeffcock <a href="mailto:ejeffcock@dhfs.uk">ejeffcock@dhfs.uk</a>	Miss L. Coles <a href="mailto:lcoles@dhfs.uk">lcoles@dhfs.uk</a>
Fanshawe	Mr B. Swales <a href="mailto:bswales@dhfs.uk">bswales@dhfs.uk</a>	Mrs A. Goodison <a href="mailto:agoodison@dhfs.uk">agoodison@dhfs.uk</a>
Gosforth	Mrs S. Molloy <a href="mailto:smolloy@dhfs.uk">smolloy@dhfs.uk</a>	Miss C. Wall <a href="mailto:cwall@dhfs.uk">cwall@dhfs.uk</a>
Millican	Mr P. Varley <a href="mailto:pvarley@dhfs.uk">pvarley@dhfs.uk</a>	Mr D. Wileman <a href="mailto:dwileman@dhfs.uk">dwileman@dhfs.uk</a>
Spaven	Mr A. Hibbert <a href="mailto:ahibbert@dhfs.uk">ahibbert@dhfs.uk</a>	Mrs M. Backhouse <a href="mailto:mbackhouse@dhfs.uk">mbackhouse@dhfs.uk</a>

### **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.

The SPRs will also report back on ATL (Attitude to Learning), ATH (Attitude to Homework), and where necessary, areas to improve.

### **4) Planners**

All students are issued with planners in which they record their homework (alongside using the Class Charts App). 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**. These examinations will test knowledge acquired through the year and will give students practice at recalling deep knowledge, across many different subjects. The Y7-Y9 examinations will be sat in classrooms, whilst the Y10 examinations will be sat in the Sports Hall to reflect the external exam experience in Y11. 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**. It is entirely possible that a student in Y7 gains a 6 in a subject in the Y7 examinations, and then gains a 6 in the same subject in the Y8 examinations. This does not mean that they have made no progress, on the contrary they have understood and accessed the Y7 and Y8 work at a level that would be expected of a student who achieves a 6 in their final GCSE.

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](mailto: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/wp-content/uploads/policies/feedback--improvement-policy-july-2022.pdf>

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.

### **7) CATS Tests and Reading Tests (Y7 only)**

Students in Y7 have sat CATS and NGRT tests (National Group Reading Tests) in the same week. We have sent these results home to parents/carers of Y7 with guidance on what they mean. They give an understanding of how a student's academic ability compares nationally with students of the same age. The national mean Standard Assessed Score (SAS) is 100.

**8) 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](mailto: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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tindie Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Mrs T. Davies  
Deputy Headteacher