



Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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Success with Care

Headteacher: Mr M. J. Cooper

Wednesday 21st December 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Term 2 – End of Week 8 Update

December is always a special month at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School (DHFS). Throughout the last few weeks, there are numerous events, activities and opportunities for students to take part in that enables them to be part of the school family, try something. As ever, the students have not disappointed with their engagement, commitment and enjoyment of school life and it has been great to see so many smiling faces.

The Christmas songs have been playing in the diners during lunch, and last week the students tucked into Christmas dinners whilst singing along, enjoying the absolutely lovely atmosphere. They have wrapped up warm whilst socialising in the backdrop of Christmas trees, decorations and lights. Christmas jumpers have been worn, Year 7s have attended the Christmas Carol concert and competitions have been entered. The students are now gearing up for the final day and the Mentor Group challenge of the Big Quiz, which has become our end of year House Team challenge which is eagerly awaited by so many. Yes, school is about learning and qualifications, but it is so much more than that and this time of year lends itself perfectly to coming together as a community. The students and staff of our school have truly stepped up to the plate.

One of the traditions of the school is the Creative and Expressive Arts faculty performance. Following last year's epic pantomime, this year turned to a more traditional choice of play with the students delivering a stunning version of Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol. The adaptation was written by our very own Mr Parker, who brought a stunning modern twist to the classic tale. The script, costumes, props and staging were incredible and the huge cast delivered with real quality and class. There are so many talented students who commit with such passion that it is a joy to watch, whether they be actors, singers, musicians, dancers or the numerous back stage and front of house students who work tirelessly off stage. Simply brilliant.

Away from the celebrations and activities, this time of year also brings home the importance of thinking of, and supporting those, in need, particularly through the cold months of winter. As with every year, DHFS supports local food banks through donating Mentor Group parcels full of produce to help top up supplies. Once more, the school community stepped up and made a real difference, with a phenomenal number of donations, which is even more amazing than normal given the current challenges that we all face as families with the cost of living crisis. The donations were gratefully received and will make a positive impact on the local community. Real success with care in action.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Please find below a number of messages for your information.

Yours sincerely

Mr M J Cooper

Headteacher



Last Day of Term 2

Thursday 22nd December 2022 is the last day of term. As per previous year's there will be a Big Mentor Quiz in the morning followed by normal lessons and lunch. Students will return to Mentor Time for a final assembly and the quiz results before being dismissed at 1.45pm for the Christmas break.

No 16 Bus Service from Dronfield to Holmesfield, Barlow, Cutthorpe, Chesterfield

The No 16 bus service will not visit the school site on the last day of term. Students can still catch the bus at its usual service point at The Civic Centre, leaving at 2.45pm. Students who catch the No 16 service have also been given a letter explaining the changes.

Start of Term 3

School restarts on Tuesday 10th January 2023 and students should be on site for 8.50am as usual, moving to their Mentor Time rooms.

Winter Safety

As stated in a previous communication, the importance of staying safe in wintry conditions was brought home after the tragic loss of life recently in a frozen lake. We encourage families to talk through the importance of taking precautions and being extra careful in winter conditions. A useful resource link can be found by following <https://staywise.co.uk/public/resource/the-dangers-of-frozen-water-factsheet>. We have done work on safety with the students and will continue to do so moving forward, whether this be season specific or generally, with areas such as road and rail safety.

Wider Curriculum Update

In Term 2, students have been thinking about 'Life Beyond School' in the Wider Curriculum, including discussions on careers, the benefits of STEAM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) and what is important to them in their futures. We've celebrated Anti-bullying Week and Human Rights Day with special assemblies, and have enjoyed weekly, interesting Votes for Schools topics, including questions about strike action, food banks and British Sign Language.

In Term 3, we're looking forward to focussing on our next Big Idea: 'Celebrating Differences, Diversity and Equality', where we will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day and LGBTQ+ History Month with special assemblies and celebrations. We'll round up Term 3 by joining in with Safer Internet Day and this year's theme of 'together for a better internet'.

Clubs and enrichment

Half of our DHFS students have already tried a club this year - is your child one of them? Please have a look at the vast array of opportunities on offer and encourage your child to take part, try something new and broaden their experiences: <https://dhfs.uk/clubs-extra-curricular/>.

The North Star Science School Event

On Wednesday 23rd November 2022, Mrs Walshaw and Miss Birch from the Design & Technology faculty, took nine Year 8 and Year 9 students to Gulliver's Valley Theme Park for the North Star Science School one-day live STEAM event. This event, created by Professor Brian Cox CBE and Lord Andrew Mawson OBE, was designed around the STEAM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Its aim is to 'make Britain the best place to do science, by inspiring the UK's next generation of young scientists, engineers and inventors' Please visit www.northstarscienceschool.co.uk for more information.

The students that represented DHFS at this fantastic event were a credit to the school. They actively participated in workshops led by: United Cast Bar where they did aluminium casting; Ibstock Brick where each of them made a moulded brick; Barratt Homes where they investigated the development of sustainable homes and LAND Ametek where they looked at how thermal imaging is used. We also listened to a number of talks from a variety of companies and how some of their employees progressed into their role from school. All of this helping our students to understand how STEAM subjects link with real world careers and pathways they could choose.

Food Labelling Study in Schools

There has been a lot of media attention of late regarding the use of food labels on produce. Consequently, there are a number of studies being undertaken on food labelling in schools. DHFS is helping Loughborough University with one of these and information regarding this can be found at <https://bit.ly/3NL6UGW>.

Careers Education and Guidance

We are immensely proud that our QinCE CareerMark Gold award has been reaccredited for a further two years. The external assessor described our students, staff and the provision as exemplary. This ratifies our COMPASS+ report for the Careers & Enterprise Company and The Department for Education, and identifies that we meet all of the eight Gatsby Benchmarks for careers education.

Following our reassessment, we were proud to welcome the Deputy Director for Careers from the Department of Education, the Deputy CEO of the Careers and Enterprise Company, Mrs Wilkins from D2N2 and Mr Moroney from Lightmain PLC into our school on December 19th. It was our pleasure to showcase the careers provision and our curriculum to them.

Class Charts

The new parent and carer app, Class Charts, is now becoming embedded within school practice. Thank you for the feedback and comments regarding this app, which is proving to be more effective and user friendly than its predecessor. Can I encourage any families that do not have this yet to download it and register their student. If you need assistance with this then please contact kpickles@dhfs.uk.

Reading

With Christmas just around the corner you may be contemplating some last-minute gift buying for your children. Please consider including books as gifts. Reading is a vital skill for life and has such a positive impact on wellbeing. Here's the link to Mrs Compai's recent video message in case you haven't yet seen it: [Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School - Reading at DHFS](#).