



# Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

Green Lane, Dronfield, Derbyshire, S18 2FZ

Tel: 01246 412372 Fax: 01246 412885

[admin@dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk)

[www.dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Twitter: @DHFSupdate

*Success with Care*

Headteacher: Mr M. J. Cooper

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

## Term 3 – End of Week 6 Update

As we approach half-term, we find ourselves reflecting as a school over the past few weeks and the many achievements within a busy school environment. As ever, there are so many students that step up to the plate, work hard, demonstrate the 3Rs, show an outstanding ATL and achieve a great many things. Analysing the achievement point data, for example, is remarkable as we see so many students that are unlocking the various levels with such speed and skill. In addition, seeing how many students attend the wider curriculum provision or represent the school in some way is brilliant. We are proud of you.

We are also proud of the vast majority of students in our community as well. Indeed, we get regular feedback from members of the public, local businesses and community organisations who comment on how polite, positive and responsible our students are. This is so important, as we talk regularly in school about the importance of living up to our responsibility of being positive citizens and contributing in the right way to society, as demonstrated by our support for local individuals and groups.

Unfortunately, there are a small number of individuals who are not making positive choices in the community. This is not acceptable and will not be tolerated, whether they attend this school or someone from outside the area who has travelled in to use our local community. There have been some instances of late of anti-social behaviour, which as a community, we need to stand against. As a school, we work with all students, and target individuals when needed, to ensure responsibilities and expectations are known and consequences are in place should they not be followed. In addition, we work with the Police and other bodies to collectively support a positive response. Our work together as a community, with upstanders taking positive actions, will make a big difference.

If there are concerns or incidents, then we encourage contact with the Police so that reports can be made, incident numbers created and actions taken. We will work with the Police to offer our support. If there are queries that parents and carers have that could be related to school then please get in touch. The use of social media is not always the best platform, indeed, there has been a significant amount of misinformation, disinformation and misquotes that circulate, which does not help the situation nor create an accurate picture of events, which is important for all community groups and members to respond to situations.

By standing together and working together effectively in a relationship of mutual respect enables us to be stronger as a community and ensure we are providing life experiences for our children that will make them have happy and successful lives.

Given below are some additional messages related to school, including information about the next national strike day for the NEU, which will again **close the school on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support for the school and the actions that you take to ensure we can provide the educational experience that makes a real positive difference to the



important youngsters in our life. We hope you have a wonderful half-term break and look forward to seeing the students again when school returns on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Yours sincerely



Mr M J Cooper  
**Headteacher**

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – Strike Day Provision for Students**

Due to national strike action by the NEU and the impact on school staffing, **the school will close for Years 7-13 on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023** and move to a remote learning model using Teams, as was in place on the last strike day in February. The overview is given below.

- Learning will take place on Teams. Students will again be reminded of our processes before the day
- Students who have examinations or other scheduled events with staff, such a PE moderation, should attend as normal and follow the instructions given to them by staff on the arrangements
- A live assembly will take place during Mentor Time. Students will be sent an email to their school account with a link for this event, which they should access at 9.00am
- For lessons, students will be sent an email by their teacher, if they are not absent on the day, with a link for the live lesson. Students should access this at the start of the normal lesson time, be ready to learn with equipment and exercise book/paper and be reading as normal waiting for the start of the lesson. Cameras should be on. Students do not have to wear uniform but should be appropriately dressed in a suitable setting. Screen breaks are built into the times of the lesson to ensure the time is managed carefully and students are not sat staring at screens all day. For this reason, live lessons will be for 45 minutes
- If students do not receive an email link from a teacher this means there will not be a live lesson for that period. In this situation, students should access the emailed link to 'Alternative Curriculum Content', where a number of standalone lessons are available centred on important topical issues and themes linked to the school's social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) curriculum. In addition, other links to useful resources and materials will be shared. Although the National Curriculum can be disapplied during a strike, the school believes it is important to ensure that learning links strongly to our curriculum. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have the additional option that they may choose independent revision and learning consolidation instead of the Alternative Curriculum Content if they do not have a live lesson
- Some staff may be absent for non-strike reasons. Therefore, live lessons will not take place for these staff. In these cases, staff may email subject specific work to the students to complete instead of the Alternative Curriculum Content

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 Strike Day - Provision for Students – Vulnerable and Critical Worker Children**

The school will open some facilities on site for vulnerable children, and critical worker children whose families cannot keep them at home, by opening a Priority School, as we did on the last strike day. To access this service, parents and carers need to book their child into the Priority School by completing the form that will be sent by Mr Pickles via email. A response by the deadline set in this communication is helpful to support preparation of provision.

- Priority School students should attend school as normal in full uniform, with full equipment
- Students should use the Chesterfield Road entrance. All other entrances will be closed
- They should arrive on site for 8.50am and report to Phoenix Hall for an assembly at 9.00am
- From assembly, students will be directed to a computer room, where they will be able to access live lesson and online content under the supervision of staff
- The normal school times will run

- The school will operate break and lunch as normal and food will be available

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 Strike Day - Provision for Students – Free School Meals**

Free school meal students who attend the Priority School will be able to access food as normal. Students who are not on site can book a free school meal via [emartins@dhfs.uk](mailto:emartins@dhfs.uk), which can be collected on the morning from school. Orders should be placed by 11.00am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 Strike Day - Live lessons and Alternative Curriculum Content**

If your child's teacher has not sent your child a live lesson invite or any learning activities by email, then they should assume they are on strike. Your child should continue to check for live lesson links and emails for all five lessons on the strike day. If they do not have a live lesson or emailed activities from your teacher, then there are five alternative curriculum lessons via the link below.

[Alternative Curriculum Content](#)

#### **Lesson 1: Revision techniques video**

One of the lessons is a short video (link below) explaining seven effective strategies for revising and preparing for tests, assessments or exams, regardless of the year your child is in. They can spend one or more periods watching this short video clip (10 minutes) and applying one or more of these strategies to revision of a subject or topic of your child's choice. If you or they have any queries about this session, please email Mr James ([ajames@dhfs.uk](mailto:ajames@dhfs.uk)). [https://dronfieldderbyshiresch-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/ajames\\_dhfs\\_uk/EX0VXNw8Vb9DrPIfnyGBf0QBepsyOX23YNqpm2RvD6pNHA](https://dronfieldderbyshiresch-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/ajames_dhfs_uk/EX0VXNw8Vb9DrPIfnyGBf0QBepsyOX23YNqpm2RvD6pNHA)

#### **Lesson 2-5: Alternative curriculum content**

Your child will also find four other sessions (link above) focussing on a range of important SMSC topics. We know students didn't access all of these lessons on the previous strike day, so please encourage them to access whichever lessons they have not yet tackled. Your child should choose the ones they feel they most need to work on and complete them in their own priority order, only where your child does not have live lessons or other emailed specific work. We recommend that you as parents and carer look at these resources to ensure that you are comfortable with your child engaging with these themes, particularly if younger siblings are at home.

#### **School Microsoft Accounts**

From 1<sup>st</sup> March onwards, we require students to use their school Microsoft accounts for live lessons. Students will no longer be able to access these as guests from any other account. We recommend that you and your child check that your child can access their school Microsoft account and email from home, in advance of the day, so that they do not have issues getting into live lessons. If there are any technical difficulties, please email: [helpdesk@dhfs.uk](mailto:helpdesk@dhfs.uk)

#### **Deleting old recurring live lessons in calendars**

We also recommend that students delete any old live lesson events in their Microsoft Teams calendar (e.g. from last year) so that they do not get confused with the new live lessons.

#### **Equipment – A Reminder**

The biggest cause of behaviour points is due to some students not being 'Ready to Learn'. Here is a reminder of what each student is expected to have every school day to be able to learn effectively:

<b>The basic equipment</b>	<b>KS3, KS4 and KS5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black or blue pen, glue stick, green pen, pencil, eraser, sharpener, colouring pencil crayons (at least 8), ruler, protractor, pair of compasses and 3 highlighters all stored in a pencil case</li> <li>• DHFS safety scissors (purchased from school via ParentPay)</li> <li>• Reading book</li> <li>• Planner</li> <li>• A full PE kit</li> <li>• Headphones (to use in live lessons when necessary)</li> <li>• Water bottles</li> <li>• Books, folders, portfolios and sketchbooks needed for that lesson</li> </ul>	
<b>Maths equipment</b>	<b>KS3 and KS4 Mathematics</b> Scientific calculator (we recommend Casio brand calculators).	<b>KS5 Mathematics</b> Separate information will be provided for you directly.

Equipment can always be purchased at break time and lunchtime every school day from our Learning Resource Centre (LRC).

### Homework – A Reminder

The second greatest cause of behaviour points is homework not being completed to the child’s best and handed in late. We want all students to develop good organisation skills and produce work to their best standard. This means ensuring that all questions are completed with their best guess – no questions or sections left blank – just as we would want in their final examinations. When students are unsure they should go through the following steps:

- **Step one:** see if there are any clues in their books or folders
- **Step two:** undertake some internet research
- **Step three:** speak to a classmate
- **Step four:** speak to your class teacher well in advance of the lesson – not leaving homework until the night before!

### Sixth Form Applications

The deadline for Sixth Form applications has now passed. We have had record numbers and there will be a period of time where we work through the applications and then communicate outcomes to the students.

### PE Uniform - Leggings

Following student voice there has been a review of the uniform in PE related to leggings. The school policy has been for leggings to be navy blue. Following the review, students are now also able to wear black leggings. The policy and documentation will be changed in due course.

### Eyebrow Shaving

There has been a recent trend of students shaving lines into eyebrows. This is a similar situation to the ‘tiger scratches’ that are shaved into hairstyles. Both are not part of school expectations and therefore are discouraged.

### School Site Pick-up

Unless parents and carers have prior permission due to personal arrangements with their individual children, they should not drive on to the school site to drop off or pick up students. Students should be dropped off in the local area and walk the rest of the way to school. This reduces congestion and issues within our car parking and drive areas.

### Email Communication

A reminder that it is school policy that staff will respond to emails within 3 working days. Staff are not always able to access emails when discharging their other duties and therefore there should not be the expectation that there will be an immediate response, or a response the same day. If

the matter is urgent and requires attention in a short time frame then contact should be made with the school via telephone. Within the school policy, there is also no expectation for staff to respond to email outside of working hours.

### **MFL GCSE speaking examinations**

Please note that our French, German and Spanish speaking examinations will take place from **18<sup>th</sup> of April to the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2023**. More details will be shared with each student in the near future alongside tips on how to revise effectively for this examination.

### **Vaping**

As you will have seen through the media, there is increasing concern with the rise of vaping amongst school-aged children, for whom it is illegal. All schools are facing the challenges of students choosing to vape and are working with their student bodies to highlight the law and concerns regarding this. Please see a previous letter in relation to this [Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School \(dhfs.uk\)](https://www.dhfs.uk).