



Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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Success with Care

Headteacher: Mr M. J. Cooper

20th July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Headteacher Update Letter – Term 6 2025-2026

Term 6 has again proven to be one of jam-packed activities and events at DHFS as we come to the end of one academic year and prepare for the next one. Transition events, for example, have been in full swing with House Teams visiting Primary Schools, teaching groups and Houses being allocated, additional visits arranged for those who would benefit from them, Induction Evening providing important information, Transition Week timetables being established and the Year 6 Disco running, that showed the new cohort have some superb attitudes, not to mention dance moves, to welcome into our DHFS family.

Away from the transition programme, the school ran its first ever CEA Summer Festival, which showcased the amazing talent that is prevalent amongst our student body. Theatrical pieces, art and photography work and musical performances were all on display in abundance. It was a memorable evening, and one enjoyed by so many. We are so proud of our students and look forward to their continued success in the school.

In addition to these large-scale events, and the day-to-day learning and teaching, the school has been busy with a number of other events, such as Sixth Form trips to Cambridge and Oxford Universities, field trips to Hornsea, The Crucible Sheffield, Mill Adventure Centre and Porter Brook, to name but a few. Throw in the Sponsored Walk Day, which again ran with great success, and the school expedition to Peru which departed last week, it really has been a very active and tiring Term 6.

All of the above, and much more besides, makes me extremely proud of the school, its students and staff and the community we serve. It is therefore with sadness, that I notify you that I will be taking a leave of absence for Term 1 next academic year. The illness suffered by a close family member in early 2025 has returned and I will be absent to support the care and recovery through procedures and treatment. I intend to return to the school for the start of Term 2. In the meantime, Mrs Davies, Deputy Headteacher, who ran the school in early 2025, will be Acting Headteacher for Term 1 until my return. Mrs Davies is an excellent servant of the school and will continue the hard work every day to sustain the success at DHFS.

We wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M J Cooper
Headteacher

Last Day of Term

The school closes on Thursday 23rd July 2026 at 12.30pm. Students who are entitled to a free school meal can collect this from the diners before leaving site. The final day is our Summer Term Extravaganza where students participate in House activities through their Mentor Group. It is a charity non-uniform day, with contributions via ParentPay or with £1 in the bucket on arrival.

Start of the 2026-2027 Academic Year

The first day of term for Y7-11 and Y13 is Monday 7th September 2026. All students should be on site for the 8.50am warning bell and be moving to Mentor Time for a prompt 9.00am start. New Year 12 arrive in the afternoon of Monday 7th September 2026 for an induction assembly and programme, as outlined in the separate communication to this cohort.

Staffing Changes for 2025-2026

Each year there is staff movement with the school celebrating the service of some staff and wishing them well, as well as welcoming new staff to the DHFS family.

A heartfelt goodbye and thank you to:

- Mrs Milowiz, Teacher of SEN
- Mr Hardy, Assistant Curriculum Leader Mathematics
- Ms Gavin, Assistant Curriculum Leader English
- Mr Scrupps, Teacher of English
- Mrs Devonshire, Teaching Assistant
- Mr Gilbert, Budget Manager
- Mrs Rumney, Website and Marketing Administrator
- Mr White, Technology Technician

We wish all the staff the very best for the future and are grateful for all that they have contributed to the school over the years.

In September we are welcoming some new staff, as well as looking forward to working with some existing staff in new roles:

- Dr Keyes, Teacher of English
- Mr Cutting, Teacher of English
- Miss Anderson, Teacher of English
- Ms Evans, Teacher of Religious Education
- Miss Bick, Teacher of Mathematics
- Mr Bentley, Teacher of Mathematics
- Mr Owczarek, Assistant SENDCo
- Miss Machin, Assistant SENDCo
- Mrs Hardcastle, House Support Manager (Job Share)
- Mr Turner, Caretaker

Sports Day

Years 7 to 9 took part in some amazing Sports Days on our field. The commitment, effort and atmosphere were fantastic and it was great to see so much encouragement for all competitors from everyone. It was a truly special day. Well done to all involved! The final Year group results were:

Year 7 Winners – Millican

Year 8 Winners – Baggaley

Year 9 Winners – Buxton

The overall top 3 Houses for all Year groups combined were:

1st – Buxton

2nd – Millican

3rd – Spaven

Dronfield Train Station

As a community we are extremely lucky that we have some very hard-working and caring community groups. One such group is the wonderful Friends of Dronfield Station (FODS) who do an amazing job in making our train station smart, attractive, safe and an enjoyable space to use. As a community we have a collective responsibility to use this space appropriately for the good of all users. The vast majority of our students do this, but there have been some examples of anti-social behaviour on the train station and in the car park outside of school hours. We have spoken to the students about this, responding directly to anyone involved, and would ask that parents and carers do the same.

Free Breakfast Clubs at Morrisons

Morrisons have teamed up with Kellogg's again to rerun their free breakfast club at Morrison Cafes across the country. These can be an excellent way of spreading the cost of expensive summer holidays. See Morrisons and Kellogg's advertising material for further details.

Rotary Club of Dronfield – Trauma Kits

Following the success of community placed defibrillators, more resources are being secured to support communities have easy access to important medical resources should there be an emergency. The Rotary Club of Dronfield have secured trauma kits that are located around the town to enable first responders to tackle medical emergencies, such as traffic accidents. Alongside defibrillators, we have trauma kits strategically placed around the inside of the school. We are now lucky, through the Rotary Club, to have a community available one on the outside of the school gates by the Green Lane crossing.

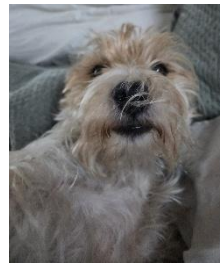
Road Safety

The school regularly educates the students on road safety. Your support on this, by providing key messages is important. There have been a number of concerns recently with road users around the school site, so being vigilant, and modelling careful driving ourselves, is important.

School Therapy Dog

Many of you will be aware of our beloved Therapy Dog Max who sadly passed away shortly after his retirement. As we honour his memory, we would like to introduce you to Archie who has recently joined us as our Therapy Dog within school.

While no-one could ever replace Max, Archie is beginning his own journey with us and is looking forward to extending his role to work with more students. Archie is a 5-year-old long haired Jack Russell Terrier, and he is based within the Student Support area of the House with his owner/ handler Mrs Hulley. We're sure the students will continue to benefit from his presence in school. We look forward to seeing the positive impact he has as he continues to settle into his new role and follow in Max's pawsteps.



Year 9 Enterprise Days

Year 9 students recently undertook an Enterprise Day, as part of our careers and work-related learning programme, in which they undertook various business-related activities in groups during a day run by external providers. The students were superb and engaged strongly with the event, receiving excellent feedback in the process.

Year 10 Casting Event

The school has a number of links with our community where we engage in projects together. A group of Y10 students recently engaged with United Cast Bar to participate in a hands-on casting activity, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We thank our many business and community organisations who engage so brilliantly with the school.

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

A group of Year 12 students recently attended a Chemistry challenge event in Cambridge, carrying themselves with great distinction and enjoying the day immensely. We thank them for their representation of the school.

German Exchange

The school has been working with the Goldberg Gymnasium in our twinned town of Sindelfingen for over 20 years and it was great to see students and staff from Germany enjoying the school and local area recently. Thank you to all the families that hosted visitors and enable this very valuable experience to take place. There was a great buzz again amongst the students as they sampled school life at DHFS and got to visit local places and attractions to sample a little of life in England.

Year 11 and Year 13 Proms

Always one of the highlights of the year, these events, yet again, did not disappoint. Stunning dresses, elegant suits and lots of smiles and wonderful memories created. Well done to all those students finishing these years. We were delighted to celebrate your time in the school in such a wonderful way. All the best for the future.

Year 10 and 12 Work Experience

Both year groups are to be commended, once more, for a superb work experience week. An abundance of knowledge, understanding and skills were developed and the feedback from employers engaged with the process was excellent yet again.

Returning Resources

During the year, many books and equipment are borrowed by students to support them in their learning. This is especially the case with Y11 and Y13. These are not always returned, therefore could you please check with your children if any schoolbooks or equipment are still in the family home, and if this is the case then please return them to reception.

Pre-Love Uniform Recycling - UNIFORMD SCHEME

In order to tackle the rapidly growing global environmental challenges for a sustainable future, we aim to normalise the reusing of pre-loved school uniform to reduce our carbon footprint whilst helping our families in need of support.

We need your help! In the first term of next academic year we will be asking for donations of near to new or gently used ties, blazers, jumpers and PE kit from current and past DHFS families. Money raised from resale will go back into the school, donations will be sold back into our community via our Uniformd shop ([Uniformd](#)).

Parents/Carers simply browse for what they need, purchase and receive their pickup information – no sign up required, no banks broken. In turn, when parents/carers are ready to donate, they'll be adding to a wonderful ecosystem that keeps funds coming in for the school and makes the environment a little greener too.

If you are in a position to donate any of the above, rather than disposing of it to landfill, we ask that your child brings any of the above items to main Reception in a bag, clean and labelled 'UNIFORMD SCHEME'.

Safeguarding Information from Last Year's Final Letter

As we move into the summer holidays, it is as important as ever for us all to be focused on keeping our children safe. Therefore, please remember that the Safeguarding sections of our website have useful advice and guidance on keeping children safe, including online safety. If, during the summer, you have any concerns for the welfare of a child then please use the information below to raise your concerns.

For non-emergency concerns and general advice, call Derbyshire Starting Point on **01629 533190** 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and between 9.30am and 4pm on Saturdays. Outside these times contact the out of hours service **01629 532600**. A school line is also monitored intermittently out of school hours and can be reached on **07885 817860**. If a child is at risk of immediate harm, then please contact the Police on 999.