Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

Success with Care

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Ref: MJC/SDU

19th November 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and students,

We have recently been made aware of a planned protest in Sheffield on Friday 20th November 2026, organised primarily by university-age students as a protest against war and defence spending. This is planned to take place during the day with university students undertaking a 'walk out' at 11.30am and joining a city centre event.

Schools in the Sheffield area have been contacted by both the local authority and South Yorkshire Police, who have expressed concerns that school students may seek to join the protest. They are particularly concerned about the safety of younger participants. As these events can be difficult to supervise, may attract large crowds and can change significantly as they develop, there is a risk that students could find themselves in situations that are unsafe or inappropriate for their age. Our close proximity to Sheffield highlights the potential of Dronfield Henry Fanshawe students considering attending.

As a school, we recognise that many young people feel strongly about national and international issues and we encourage our students to engage thoughtfully with important topics. However, our priority must always be the safety, wellbeing and education of our students. We would strongly prefer students to remain in school on Friday and participate fully in their normal lessons. Students have worked extremely hard this year, and we want their learning, routines and attendance to continue uninterrupted.

We therefore ask families to discuss this matter carefully with their children if they are thinking of participating and support the school's expectation that students attend school as normal on Friday 20th November. Students should be in lessons as normal and any 'walk out' during the day will be treated as truancy. Any Sixth Form students who are considering not attending the school on Friday to participate in the event should take note of the school stance and speak with a member of the Sixth Form Team.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our students safe, engaged in their education and able to express their views in constructive and responsible ways.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M J Cooper
Headteacher