



Where every student is successful today and prepared for tomorrow
Aspire Believe Achieve

January 2022

Dear Parents /Carers

Time is flying by, it seems like only a few days since we returned after the Christmas holidays yet we are already nearly at half term. January signals the beginning of the last full term of Year 11 and Year 13 students' time at school; it is sobering to think that they now have approximately 12 weeks of school left before their exams begin. Year 11 sat their mock examinations before the Christmas holidays. Year 12 have just had their mock examinations and Year 13 will be starting theirs soon. Revision and coursework sessions have started for Year 11 and 13 at both lunchtimes and after school to support students in preparing for their exams.

The Autumn term felt like it was a step back to a more normal life in school and at times it really did feel that things were getting back to normal. Teachers were back in their classrooms and students were moving around the building. Extra-curricular activities started up again, with a varied programme including PE and Performing Arts. There were times when COVID did cause disruption to school life with students and staff absent due to the virus and through the reintroduction of face masks. We are very proud of how our students adapted to the disruption and followed the rules put in place to keep everyone safe. I am hopeful that Spring signals an end to most of the measures we have had to live with due to the pandemic and we will be back to normality soon. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support we have received throughout this time and I will keep you updated on any changes.

News

National Tutoring Programme & School Led Tuition:

We are using some of our Pupil Premium and Recovery Premium funding to access the National Tutoring Programme and School Led Tuition. The National Tutoring Programme gives schools access to subsidised tuition in blocks of 15 hours. We have around 175 students from Years 7 to 11 who are beginning their tuition blocks this week, studying a range of subjects in groups of up to three students, both during the school day and after school; some will be joining in from home whilst others will stay in school.

We are also delivering 15-hour blocks of School Led Tuition, working in small groups with 48 Year 9s on English and 48 Year 10s on Maths. This will take place over the Spring and Summer terms.

All of the tuition is carefully designed to address our students' needs, with our teachers using their assessments to identify the objectives for the tutors. The very small groups mean that the tutors can work closely with our students and ensure that they adapt the sessions to support and maximise students' progress.

If you received information about the National Tutoring Programme but did not complete the online consent form, please do, as further tuition opportunities can be arranged.

Miss Nordon

Sixth Form Open Evening

We had to postpone the Open Evening which was scheduled for Thursday 20 January due to the COVID situation. However, we have continued to work with students in school to support them in making decisions about what they are going to do at the end of Year 11. Presentations about the subjects that are on offer in the Sixth Form can be found on the school website using the following link:

[Sixth Form Open Evening - Caldew School](#)

On the evening of Thursday 10 February there will be an online Open Evening where you will be able to book appointments with subject staff to find about the Sixth Form courses. The Open Evening will be hosted on School Cloud; appointments will be open for booking from Thursday 3 February.

Parent Governor Vacancy

The Governing Body of Caldew School has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor please contact the Clerk to the Governing Body (sarah.connolly@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk) for further information and a nomination form. The deadline for returning the nomination form is Thursday 10 February.

Safeguarding Update

Following an Ofsted review published on Thursday 10 June 2021, we wanted to share with you some updates on what they have found. The report highlighted that young people nationally feel that sexual harassment, unwanted sexual behaviours and online sexual abuse, is so commonplace that they no longer think about reporting it. The problem extends beyond schools with most incidents occurring online or in social situations away from education settings.

The link below will allow to read OFSTED's report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>

Sexual harassment is defined as unwanted and unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature which can occur online and offline. The definitions used by the Department for Education (DfE) are as follows:

- Peer on peer sexual abuse: this includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, up-skirting and sexting.
- Sexual harassment: this includes sexual comments, sexual jokes or taunting, physical behaviours such as deliberately brushing against someone, displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature
- Online sexual harassment: this includes sharing of sexual images, sexual comments and messages, sexual exploitation, coercion and threats
- Sexual violence

We want to assure you that we take all concerns which may be raised involving sexual harassment and sexual violence, seriously. Any allegation will be dealt with in line with DfE guidance and Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021.

Staff at Caldew School are expected to challenge any form of derogatory or sexualised language or behaviour and have been trained to share any safeguarding concerns raised about a child by reporting this to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead. This is to ensure the child receives appropriate support. We are also continuing to actively encourage all students to "call-out" and report any incidents they may see or experience.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment (online or offline) will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This kind of behaviour is never acceptable and it is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support.

We will discuss any concerns about a child with the child's parents/carers and will normally notify the parents of all the children involved, unless we believe that notifying the parents would increase the risk to the child.

We are aware that we also have a crucial role to play in teaching young people about sexual consent, healthy relationships and respect for others and we will continue to do this through our Learning for Life curriculum; form tutor time and year group assembly programme.

What to do if your son/daughter has been a victim.

Please contact our safeguarding team at Caldew School so that we can support you and your child:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead – Miss Helen Howson Helen.Howson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk
- Pastoral Manager – Safeguarding – Mrs Sheila Taylor Sheila.Taylor@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr. Paul Hammond Paul.Hammond@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Year 9 Futures Day

Unfortunately, the Year 9 Futures Day on the 25 January had to be postponed. We still hope to offer visits to further and higher Education venues free of charge, with the aim of equipping students with information and guidance about a variety of career choices. The visits would give Year 9 the opportunity to explore a wide variety of vocations, careers and qualifications open to them once they leave school. Each venue would focus on a different career area for example the students visiting Carlisle College will take part in activities in Mechanics, Construction, Catering, Music and Drama. We hope to visit Northumbria University where the focus will be on Business, Law, Accounting, Sport and Engineering and at the University of Cumbria, it is Criminology and the wide range of weird and wonderful courses they have to offer. We hope to re-arrange this for Year 9 as soon as the venues allow us to visit again.

Year 9 Options Process

The spring term promises to be an eventful one for Year 9 as we prepare students to choose their options for their GCSEs. We have planned a week of options assemblies where students will be introduced to our wide variety of GCSE subjects before our Options/Parents Evening on Thursday 24 February. The Options Evening will give you the opportunity to discuss the progress and attainment of your child and find out more about the subjects at GCSE. It is a very exciting time for students and the school is here to help and support students at this time. Miss Eastburn, our Careers Advisor, is available for anyone who needs any guidance in choosing their subjects.

What CEIAG have we provided to students so far this year?

- Year 12 and 13 have visited Northumbria University for a tour of the campus and participated in workshops. They also visited the Apprenticeship Careers Fair.
- Year 11 World of Work Day was delivered very successfully at the end of last year with positive student, staff and employer feedback. A variety of workshops took place, workshops included; CV Writing, Application Forms, Labour Market Information, Progression Routes, Team Building, Effective Communication, Career Action Plan and a NCS Presentation.
- Year 11 were invited to the Virtual Careers Fair in October which usually takes place at the Sands Centre. Large numbers of Cumbrian employers, apprenticeship organisations, sixth forms and colleges were present as well as some universities. Organisations ranged from large countywide employers such as the NHS, Cumbria County Council and United Utilities to key employers that recruit more locally in the different parts of Cumbria including Sellafield, Sellafield contractors/supply chain and BAE Systems as well as a host of small and medium sized employers who stepped forward to provide information about the opportunities they offer.
- Careers interviews have taken place with over 150 students from Year 11. These were one-to-one interviews with Miss Eastburn, our Careers Advisor. Each student was given a career progression plan and will have a follow up interview in due course.
- Students in Year 11 have had assemblies in October with Carlisle College and Hello Future to inform them about the pathways available to them in the future.
- Mr James, the Head of Sixth Form has also spoken to Year 11 to discuss the exciting courses Caldew has to offer here in our School Sixth Form.
- A careers' focus area has been set up in The Curve. The information here signposts students to further career information.
- Social Media is being used, with CEIAG information passed on to students via Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.
- Our school website and Firefly also have a "Careers" section where students can find advice and guidance about careers.
- Year 12 Dream Placement has begun and several of our students have been accepted onto the scheme.
- Our LfL (Learning for Life) team have been busy ensuring students are being taught all about careers in their lessons. Schemes of work for Years 7 -11 incorporate various topics that will be helpful in terms of deciding on the best career. Students will complete these topics throughout the year.

What are our next steps?

- Students in Years 7-11 will have CEIAG assemblies tailored to the needs of their Year Group in January 2022.
- Caldew's Sixth Form online Open Evening takes place on Thursday 10 February. The new prospectus is available soon with details of the range of courses on offer. Students will have the opportunity to chat to course teachers and the Head of Sixth Form.
- All Year 12 students will be offered a one-to-one careers interview.
- Year 10 will be visiting colleges and universities in June.
- We have a visit from the BBC in March which is linked to careers.
- There are workshops and activities running throughout the rest of the academic year so watch this space!

Applying for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

Cumbria County Council has an online application process for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants. This can be found via the Citizen's portal, at this link:

https://emsonline.cumbria.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal_LIVE

The online service has a number of benefits:

- Parents/guardians are able to check eligibility without waiting for a phone call/email from the Service Centre
- Reduces the risk of duplicate applications being submitted for the same child
- Reduces the risk of application forms and supporting documentation getting lost in the post
- Provides the Service Centre with an audit trail of applications
- Enables the Service Centre to issue vouchers in a more timely manner; a postal application takes twice as long to process as an online application

Free school meals and clothing vouchers are available if parents/guardians are receiving one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- An income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided parents/guardians are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that as of April 2012 does not exceed £16,190. Note: From 1st May 2009 where recipients are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after employment ceases, or after start to work less than 16 hours per week, your children are entitled to Free School Meals, this may be extended.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- Universal Credit
- Children who receive Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive Free School Meals.
- Children who receive "education suitable for children who have not attained compulsory school age" will still need to satisfy the additional requirement of "receiving education both before and after the lunch period", before being eligible to receive free school meals.

Procedure for School Closure

When we return to school in January we enter that part of winter where we are more likely to have inclement weather. We will only close the school as a very last resort and the default position will always be to stay open. At times some bus routes may be cancelled but the school remains open for those students who can make it. The reality is that there may be occasions when the site is deemed unsafe or we may have insufficient staff that can get into school and in this case we may need to close either fully or for some year groups. If this should happen then the closure will be announced via the school text system, the school website and through local media channels as early as is practical. If you changed your mobile or email contacts please let the School Office know so that we can update our records accordingly.

Free Period Products for Schools

You may have seen in the news about how the government is picking up the work of the 'Red Box Project' charity by providing free period products for schools. We have been part of the 'Red Box Project' for a while now and will be continuing to provide free period products through the new government scheme. This means that girls are able to access sanitary towels, tampons etc. whenever they need them in school.

Behaviour on the School Buses

As a school we have a high number of students who travel on buses to and from school on a daily basis and as a whole we are very pleased with student behaviour whilst on route. However, occasionally it comes to our attention that some students have not been meeting our basic expectations whilst on the buses. There is no doubt that this is the behaviour of a minority of students. I would like to remind all students and parents that under the general power of discipline in the 2012 Education Act, the journey home from school falls under the responsibility of the school, as such we will always follow up reports of unacceptable behaviour on buses when we become aware of issues, which may lead to loss of social time, ban from the bus, suspension or other school sanctions.

If you are aware of concerns on the buses please ask you son/daughter to speak to a member of staff at the school (Form Tutor, Pastoral Manager, Head of Year).

Yours faithfully

Ms Vicki Jackson
Headteacher

Vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Year Group Messages

Year 7

Year 7 students have made a successful transition from primary school. As a Year Group, they are polite and friendly, enthusiastic and hardworking. We are proud to have them as members of the Caldew School community. It has been great getting to know the individual characters in the Year Group and we are amazed every day by their talents in a range of different areas. Many of them are regularly taking part in the extra-curricular activities on offer; sport, music, drama, STEM club, animal club, equestrian club, origami and Japanese – there is so much on offer and Year 7 students have made the most of the opportunities available to them at Caldew. It is not too late to join any of these clubs, a timetable of activities is displayed in every form room.

In October, we finally got to offer a residential for students who missed out on their Year 6 trip. 100 students and 10 members of staff spent the weekend at Lockerbie Manor taking part in climbing, obstacle courses, mountain biking and paddle-boarding to name just a few of the activities. It was great to see the students demonstrating resilience when some of the activities were challenging. Mr Senior led by example on the paddle board showing the students that if at first you don't succeed, you should try, try and try again – he got wet a few times but he proved the point!

Year 7 students lead the way with the most achievement points and many students have been awarded their bronze certificate for 50 individual achievement points, some are well on their way to achieving their silver certificate.

Our uniform standards continue to be high and we are very grateful to parents and carers for their support. Please could you also continue to check and sign your child's planner every week.

At the celebration assembly at the end of the first term, prizes were awarded to the forms with the best attendance and the most achievement points. Individual prizes were given to Alfie L and Phoebe F for having the most achievement points and there was a raffle for students who were awarded 'Christmas stars' from their teachers as well as an opportunity for students to compete in the 12 Days of Christmas Form Challenge.

In our second term, we look forward to seeing our Year 7 students flourish.

Miss Atkinson

Year 8

I have really enjoyed getting to know the Year 8 students since I started at Caldew in September. I am impressed with how well they have settled back into school life and have coped well with the changes in school routine post-lockdown. The Autumn term seemed to go in a flash and it was great to be able to end on the last day of term with a Tutor Period where we played some games and students got rewards for how well they have done. The attendance prizes for Autumn term were won in October by Mr Burns/Mrs Vaudrey's form along with Miss Armstrong's form. In December the most improved attendance form was Mr Brown's. I have been blown away daily by the number of achievement points Year 8 receive – well done and keep it up! Miss Armstrong's form won the achievement prize in October and December and I know the other forms are keen to beat them this term! Learner of the Week will continue to run this term and I look forward to reading again all the teacher nominations.

In Tutor time we are looking at a range of activities from Literacy Tasks, Weekly Quizzes to linking to our Learning for Life Lessons. Tutors also use the time to check Achievement Points with students, discuss the importance of attendance and check uniform.

I am also pleased we are able to be organising an adventure activity trip to Lockerbie Manor in July and look forward to a weekend of fun and challenges.

It is important for students to maintain high standards in all aspects of Caldew School Community including the uniform dress code – can I please ask for your continued support in this.

Thank you for your support and don't forget you can always contact the team of form tutors by email either direct, or by the school office email address.

Miss Fraser

Year 9

Life in Year 9 is slowly getting back to normal. The Autumn term saw the end of class bubbles and we are able to move round the school and have lessons in specialist classrooms. The Autumn term was really positive with lots of achievement points awarded and lots of children being nominated for our Learner of the Week. Year 9 have already made a fantastic start to 2022 by doing their very best in their exams. Several members of staff came to tell me how impressed they were with their behaviour and attitude, and as always, they have made us very proud. I look forward to celebrating their successes with them over the coming weeks.

The easing of restrictions has also brought the opportunity to have sporting fixtures against other schools, our rugby and hockey teams have had tremendous success against other schools so far, with more to come from them and other teams. Games Night on Tuesdays has started up again and I would encourage everyone to get involved regardless of ability, there is also lots of opportunity for other extra-curricular activities which weren't available last year.

Thank you for your continued support with uniform, the majority of the students look really smart, can I remind you that nose piercings are not allowed so any that have been hidden behind masks need to be removed for school.

The spring term promises to be an eventful one as we prepare pupils to choose their options for their GCSEs. We have a week of Options' Assemblies where pupils will be introduced to our wide variety of GCSE subjects before our Parents'/Options Evening on Thursday 24 February. This evening will give you the opportunity to discuss the progress and attainment of your child and find out more about the subjects at GCSE. It is an exciting term for Year 9 and we have a lot to look forward to!

Mr McArdle

Year 10

Congratulations once again to our prize winners from the Year 10 Autumn Term Celebration Assembly. Many students won prizes but the biggest prizes went to the three winners of the Year 10 December BINGO Challenges who each won a fantastic hamper.

The focus for Year 10 during the Spring Term is to prepare for the Year 10 exams scheduled for the 18 to 29 of April 2022. We appreciate the current challenges, but the biggest way parents/carers can support preparation is by ensuring their child is in school every day. Exam preparation is the focus for Form Tutors in registration this term.

Students continue to update me with how they are progressing with the optional challenge, '50 things to do in Year 10 at Caldew School'. It would be a fantastic achievement to complete all 50.

I am aware Year 10 students take part in a range of extracurricular activities. Please do let me know about your child's achievements outside of school.

It is important for students to maintain high standards in all aspects of Caldew School community including the uniform dress code.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Clarke

Year 11

Year 11 worked really hard in the Autumn term. The December mocks will have given the students a taste of what the 'real' GCSEs will be like. What went well? What do they need to improve on? There are many students who should be commended for their efforts as they have now seen that by consistently working hard during lessons, acting on the advice given to them by their teachers and revising thoroughly at home, they have experienced success and should feel very proud of themselves. For students who are disappointed with their mock results, it has been a time for reflection. Your teachers will be able to help you understand where you went wrong and support you with what you need to do differently to answer questions successfully and maximise your marks. There is still time to make a difference to your grades.

To support the work that students are doing in lessons, we have encouraged students to use the online revision site, Seneca (www.senecalearning.com). Seneca is a free online revision platform. It presents subject content, organised by a helpful checklist, and uses self-marking questions to check understanding along the way. It is based on the evidence from research into effective revision, working on the principle that a sequence of revision and testing helps students to retain what they've learnt. Students and parents can set up accounts and then create personalised online dashboards for the courses that are studied. Students are also very welcome to use the facilities in school to support their revision. Students can work in school from 3.10 to 4.10pm each afternoon. They can attend a revision session offered by a department or they are welcome to use the IT facilities in the curve.

We are now only twelve school weeks from the start of the GCSE exams. Every school day attended, maximises an opportunity to learn and make progress towards achieving the final goal of securing the grades a student wants in order to progress to the next level of learning and life-long opportunities. It is going to take lots of hard work, focus and determination over the next few months but you can do it, Year 11. Aspire – Believe – Achieve!

Mock exam week commences 8 February. Students will be completing key assessment tasks which will be suitable to support Teacher Assessed Grades if Ofqual's contingency plan is needed in the unlikely event that the exams don't go ahead. These are not additional assessments, but key assessment tasks used diagnostically to prepare for the Summer exams.

Year 11 Parents' Evening is on 3 February. This will allow you and your son/daughter to speak to each subject teacher and find out what needs to be done to help secure academic success; what revision should be in place and what support is on offer in school. Post-16 options are also continuing to be discussed with students during this term. Every Year 11 will have had a careers interview with Miss Eastburn to help support them to make informed choices with the next stages of their education or training, whether that will be at Caldew School or with another post-16 provider. The Caldew 6th form Open evening is on Thursday 10 February and is an excellent opportunity to talk to subject teachers and find out more about the post-16 courses that will be on offer.

Please remember you can email or phone your son/daughter's form tutor or myself if you require any additional academic or pastoral support and advice during these last few months.

Miss Howson

Year 12

The Autumn term has been a positive time for Year 12. Students have settled into their chosen subjects and they have engaged well with the content covered. It has been nice to see so many students develop their interest in their chosen disciplines and they have started to see how their newly gained knowledge could be used in the future. To further help with this, Year 12 participated in their first University and Apprenticeship Fair at Newcastle United in November. This gave them some insight into what options are available after Sixth Form and helped to raise their aspirations. Students also had the opportunity to tour Northumbria University and see what student life could be like.

December was spent preparing students for January's mock exams. The importance of exam techniques and time management were emphasised and students were guided on how they should revise. We finished the term with a celebration assembly where over half of Year 12 were given recognition for contributing to the school community by going above and beyond.

Year 12 sat mock and external exams almost as soon as they returned from the Christmas holidays. Teachers are in the process of marking mock papers and giving feedback. Tutors will be on hand to support students as they work towards improving their grades and reports will be out this half term to share our findings.

As we look forward to the Summer, it is encouraging to see extra-curricular opportunities are becoming more available to Year 12. Duke of Edinburgh expeditions are going into the diary, University open days are being scheduled and social events are in the pipeline too. I hope that every student gets involved with something over this term.

Mr Gaunt

Year 13

Year 13 students wanting to go to university have now completed their applications. This has been a big task which started last May and has involved many hours of discussions about choices, writing and re-writing personal statements, making sure application forms are filled in correctly and writing references for each student. The students have had to spend a considerable amount of time themselves completing their applications as well as subject teachers spending time providing subject information to help tutors and the Sixth Form Leadership Team to complete these references. So far there have been lots of offers of places from universities showing how successful this whole task has been.

We wish every student the best when they eventually go to university next year. Those students not applying to university will be helped and supported in a similar way with their applications for apprenticeships, employment and FE courses.

Mr James