



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

November 2022

Dear Parents /Carers

It has been an extremely positive and busy start to the school year, it is hard to believe that eight weeks have flown by already. Year 7 have settled into the school really well and they are a wonderful addition to our school community. It is really encouraging to see how our students are applying themselves to their learning. Year 11 students are often found working after school on various pieces of coursework and Sixth Formers are industrious in their use of the library or in study areas around the school. The younger students are engaged and we hope all are being challenged and stretched to achieve their best. The next few months do bring challenges as the mornings get darker, it gets colder and students get tired. It is important to remember that time never comes back and we all need to keep focused on learning and to keep trying to be the best we can be. This half term is a busy one, especially for Year 11 who will be sitting their mock examinations in just a few weeks' time. It is important that students take these seriously and revise for them as these examinations will give us all a good indication of the progress they are making towards their target grades.

News

School Performance Tables

In August our students received their GCSE and A Level results and we were very proud and delighted with their achievements. The provisional 2022 school performance tables have now been published by the Department for Education and these confirm our continued track record of good exam results. The Performance Tables can be viewed at www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables

The Curriculum at Caldew School

The aim of the curriculum at Caldew School is designed to support our vision statement: *"To ensure every student has the knowledge, understanding and skills to be successful today and prepared for tomorrow."* Students follow a traditional curriculum, supplemented where appropriate with more vocational courses and wider learning experiences. It is our aim that the curriculum at Caldew:

- Has students at its heart.
- Is fit for purpose, ambitious, broad and balanced, offering differentiation and personalisation as required.
- Prepares all students for a successful working life in a 21st century, global society.
- Enables students firstly to achieve and then exceed national standards in achievement, attainment and progression.
- Promotes the development of students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural understanding, including fundamental British Values.

If you would like to know more about the curriculum here at Caldew, please visit our website at: <https://www.caldew.cumbria.sch.uk/students/curriculum/> where you will find information on each Key Stage and detailed descriptions on the subjects we offer.

Also, don't forget that the curriculum covers much more than just the subjects students study. The curriculum also includes:

- Learning for Life lessons
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education lessons
- Careers Guidance
- Teaching on fundamental British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development
- Assemblies
- The Tutor Programme
- Extra-curricular activities
- Trips and Visits

You can also find information on these elements at the above webpage.

Caldew the Musical

Caldew the Musical rehearsals are underway this term. This is the first big production we have been able to run since pre-Covid and Drama and Music staff and students are enjoying rehearsals.

Mr Ward who has joined us this year as a Drama teacher is working on a couple of drama scenes from *Billy Elliot*. He has been very impressed with both the talent and dedication of our students.

We also have a dance teacher, Jordyn Johnstone, who is coming in to support our students with this project and we look forward to working with her. You can look forward to seeing the final production on the 7th and 8th February 2023.

We also have our Christmas Concert booked for the 14th December at St Michael's Church in Dalston, again this is the first time we have been able to hold our traditional Christmas concert since the pandemic and we are already planning our programme.

Finally, we are looking forward to hosting regular open-mic, lunchtime gigs to allow students to build on their performance skills and share their talent and hard work with an invited audience. Our first gig was Thursday 20th October and featured performances from our Year 10 GCSE class amongst others.

Drama Trip

GCSE and BTEC Performing Arts students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 went to see 'Brief Encounter' at the Theatre by the Lake. The students really enjoyed the show which included a mix of acting and singing. They were very impressed by the talented cast who all played different musical instruments. The theatre in the round setting was used with real imagination and the students were captivated by the magical atmosphere created. This was the first theatre trip since pre-Covid, and the Drama teachers, Mrs Openshaw and Mr Ward were very happy to return to watch live theatre. The students were a credit to the school – an ex-member of staff, Miss Chalmers was there and complimented them on their good behaviour.

Hockey Success

The U16 girls' hockey team have qualified for the North of England finals where they will represent Cumbria along with Kirby Stephen Grammar School who have a couple of England players!! This is an outstanding achievement for the girls who have worked hard over the last few years. They are a great team and demonstrate all of Caldew School's values, both on and off the pitch - an absolute credit to the school.

Non-Fiction November: Science v Humanities

Oh dear, oh dear! There's been fighting talk between the teachers in the Science department and the Humanities department. Both think that their department is the most interesting. There can only be one way to settle this, and that's via the students. So, throughout the month of November a challenge has been issued; every student who borrows a book about Science or Humanities (History & Geography), will earn a point for that department. If they fill in a '*Did You Know Card*' featuring an interesting fact from that book, a further point will be awarded to the department, PLUS the student will get an achievement point on SIMS.

At the end of the month, the department with the most points gets a Big Cake!

Second Hand Uniform

We now stock good-quality, second hand uniform including PE kit, blazers, ties, trousers and skirts, shirts and school jumpers. Items range from £1-£5.

Any second hand uniform sale proceeds go to the PTA and will therefore benefit all students.

Caldew PTA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place at Caldew School on Tuesday 18 October at 6pm. Any parents who would like to join the small team that plan and organise events and activities throughout the year would be very welcome. If you would like to hear about the work we do, please contact us via the school.

Year 11 Work Ready Day/Careers

Our Year 11 Work Ready Day will take place on Wednesday 23 November with over 30 local businesses giving up their time to support our event. Year 11s will take part in a range of activities during the morning including CV and application form writing, interview skills, team building and effective communication workshops. During the afternoon, they will all have a one-to-one mock interview and will receive feedback on how to improve their performance for future interviews.

We are very keen to engage with businesses and employers to help us inform and educate students about the local and national employment opportunities.

We provide many opportunities for businesses to interact with students: World of Work days, Career Carousels, Employability Skills workshops, Careers Fairs, presentations, work experience, small group work etc.

If you would like to get involved, or wish to advertise any apprenticeship vacancies through the school, then please contact our Careers Lead, Cheryl Eastburn on (01228) 710044 or email Cheryl.Eastburn@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Keeping in Touch

Apart from the Headteacher bulletin and the school website, we have a number of ways that parents can keep in touch with up-to-date news of what is going on in school. This includes our Learners of the Week, sports and performing arts news, extra-curricular success as well as general day-to-day information of what is happening in our busy school.

Our popular Twitter profile is @Caldew_School and we also have a Facebook page. Text messages are sent out regularly so please ensure that we have your most up to date mobile telephone number.

Safety at the Start and End of the School Day

Parking and access to the school is a continuing challenge. The road at the front of school gets very busy especially at the end of the school day and the safety of our students is obviously our priority. To that end I would like to remind you that:

- Students should not be picked up or dropped off in the Visitors Car Park (next to Reception)
- No cars should be parked in the bus bays along the front of the school at the end of the school day
- Cars should not stop or park on the footpath opposite the school. It is dangerous for students to cross the road and increases the volume of traffic.
- Parents should never park in the roadway leading to Nestlé. This is a private road and is extremely busy with lorries constantly needing access to the site.
- If parking is not available at school there is a car park a short walk away in Dalston village.

Students Cycling to School

Unfortunately, the cycle path along the river between Caldew and Denton Holme remains shut. The last information we had was that it will not reopen until into the New Year.

Holidays and Other Absences in Term Time

I would like to remind parents of the following extract from the school's Attendance Policy:

Parents should not book family holidays during term time as they will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances, such as a parent returning on leave from active military service.

Parents may request other leave of absence, however, authorisation of this will be at the discretion of the school, and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. This means that in the majority of cases, requests will not be authorised unless there are clear immediate family reasons or educational benefits.

Penalty Notices may be issued by the Headteacher against parents who take unauthorised holidays or leave of absence in term time. Each situation will be considered on an individual basis.

If leave is granted, parents must appreciate it is their responsibility to ensure their child catches up with any missed work upon their return.

Upcoming Events

23 November	Year 11 Work Ready Day
28 November – 09 December	Year 11 Mocks
30 November	Year 10 Parents' Evening
14 December	Christmas Concert @ St Michael's Church

As the remaining days of this half term pass may I thank you for your support for both the school and your children. It is through partnership and positive support that students will make the best progress they can and we readily acknowledge the influence that parents have in helping them achieve just that.

Yours faithfully

V Jackson

Ms Vicki Jackson
Headteacher

Vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Year Group Messages

Year 7

We have welcomed 174 students into Year 7 this year from 33 different primary schools! I have spoken to individual students about their first half term at Caldew and I am happy that our students have had such a positive experience so far. There were two main concerns for Year 6 students when we visited them at their primary school last term, they were worried about getting lost and making friends. There were many occasions in the first few weeks where we had students going to the wrong classroom or ending up at the wrong end of school but it didn't take them long to work things out – they also discovered how friendly the older students are and that they could ask anyone for help. When I asked Year 7 students about friendships, they were excited to list all of the new friends they had made.

Extracurricular activities at lunch time and after school have been popular – students have represented the school in rugby, netball and cross country and we look forward to the football and hockey fixtures starting. There are also art clubs, sewing club, wellbeing club, drama and music clubs – so many opportunities to learn new skills and make friends. Next term some of our students in Year 7 are performing in Caldew the Musical.

Each form in Year 7 have 2 representatives on our 'kindness committee' – their aim is to find ways in which we can be kinder to each other, our community and our environment. We look forward to seeing them put their plans into action.

Mr Garbett is very proud of 7SLG who are leading the way with the most achievement points. The form with the best attendance is also 7SLG! For attendance, 7SMR are hot on their heels being only 0.1% behind.

Miss Atkinson

Year 8

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Year 8 back to school following the summer break. It was great to see them in the assembly at the beginning of the year arriving so smartly and ready for another successful year at Caldew School. Year 8 students are now no longer the 'new students' at school but students that the Year 7s will look up to as role models. I feel that the students in this year group certainly have the attributes to fulfil that role. As the year goes on, I'm certain that Year 8 students will be keen to represent the other students in their form by becoming School Council members; this gives the opportunity to work with staff and governors, promoting opinions and further developing Caldew School. I would encourage all Year 8 students to try to take part in some form of extracurricular activity this year; this could range from being on a sports team, dancing, being involved in the many music and drama clubs, the School Council or going on the ski trip to name just a few. Becoming involved and trying out new things will lead to having an enriching year ahead.

Mr McArdle

Year 9

It has been a busy first term for Year 9 and they have settled in well to their new timetable and classes. It has been great to see enthusiasm for learning in classes and also outside of the classroom by the number of students taking part in extra-curricular activities. Well done to students who have been nominated for Learner of the Week! It is also positive to note that, as a year group, the number of achievement logs is high, exceeding this time last year by far!

In tutor time, we are looking at a range of activities from literacy tasks and weekly quizzes 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. It is important for students to maintain high standards in all aspects of school life including the uniform dress code – can I please ask for your continued support in this.

Homework is an important part of students' learning. It is set to reinforce what has been learnt in lessons and to challenge students to work independently – please could parents support students at home to ensure the homework set by teachers is done on time. Every student has a planner where they record their homework and its due date.

A date for your diary is the Parents' and Options Evening which is on Thursday 16th February. This is very important as it will allow you to discuss your child's option choices for GCSE. Students will start to think about this process in school over the next few months.

Looking back to the end of Year 8 - I am sure that those who took part in our visit to Lockerbie Manor back in July would agree that it was a great way to finish off the term. The weather was very kind to us and all 85 students and 9 members of staff took part in a range of challenging outdoor activities. It was great to see students getting stuck in and cheering each other on as they overcome their fears on the high ropes and climbing wall. The students' behaviour was fantastic and a real credit to Caldew School.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of our students who are 'getting it right' every single day – arriving on time with the correct equipment, working to the best of their ability, completing their homework on time and being a good friend to others. I look forward to seeing what else our students can achieve this year.

Thank you for your parental 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 10

Well done to all Year 10 students for making a very positive start to the new term and to the start to their GCSE courses.

The Year 10 tutor team enjoyed meeting your parents and carers at the Tutor Evening; sharing your GCSE target grades and discussing how you've started your new courses. The hard work starts now so that you get the results you deserve in August 2024 which in turn will enable you to embark on the next stage of your life.

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.

Away from the classroom, the U16 girls' hockey team have qualified for the North of England finals where they will represent Cumbria along with Kirby Stephen Grammar School. This is an outstanding achievement for the Year 10 girls who are part of the team and have worked incredibly hard over the past few years to reach such a high standard. They are a credit to the school and demonstrate all of our school values, both on and off the pitch.

Year 10 GCSE Geography students have enjoyed their first field-trip to Mosedale. Over 60 students spent the day acquiring new fieldwork techniques and learning how these could be used to investigate river changes. Knowledge and understanding which will help further their progress towards their GCSE qualification. The Geography department would like to congratulate all students for their hard-work, enthusiasm and team-work throughout a very busy day.

Year 10 Parents Evening is on Wednesday 30th November. 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 and what support is on offer in school.

Please remember you can email or phone your son/daughter's form tutor or myself if you require any additional academic or pastoral support throughout the year.

Thank you and best wishes,

Miss Howson

Year 11

Year 11 have had a positive start to the academic year. I am pleased their focus is turning towards their GCSEs and post-16 Options. Now more than ever before, good and improving attendance will be key to making rapid progress in studying their GCSEs. This half term during tutor time, students have discussed their wellbeing, analysed Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and looked further into their post-16 options.

Year 11 participated well in the activities for the national event Black History Month 2022 in October. The theme this year is 'Time for Change: Action not Words.' Through their work with Form Tutors, students are having higher expectations of themselves and this is being demonstrated by their conduct at school and effort in the classroom.

It is important for students to maintain high standards in all aspects of the Caldew School Community including the uniform dress code. Year 11 mock exams start Monday 28th November 2022. We will be putting in place a revision programme at school and I will be writing to you about how you might support your child at home.

Thank you for your support

Mr Clarke

