



Where every student is successful today and prepared for tomorrow

Aspire Believe Achieve

March 2019

Dear Parents /Carers

Time is flying by; it does not seem that long ago that we were returning after the Christmas holidays and yet we are already half way through the Spring Term. Now we really can see our older students' minds focussing and many of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students are already working hard, revising and preparing for their exams. It is sobering to think that they now have approximately nine weeks of school left before their exams begin. The thing for all students to remember is how important it is to manage their time effectively. Revision timetables are being written in school and students need to make sure they have started their revision to ensure they have enough time to cover all their subjects.

When we think about summer exams our thoughts are on GCSEs, AS and A levels. However, it is also important to remember that students in Years 7, 8 and 10 also have exams in the summer. Thorough preparation for these helps students consolidate their learning and ensure they have secured the knowledge and skills they need to make progress next year.

News

Careers Information Advice and Guidance

Kudos is the school's online career platform. It helps explore and develop student's career options. It has the most up-to-date apprenticeship, post-16 and college information as well as university course data. It is packed with information and has a handy tool to let you know what employers are looking for.

We are encouraging all students to start accessing the website: www.Kudos.cascaid.co.uk
Each student has a log-in which is their Caldew email login for example: 15Smithj and the password is caldew2018

It was good to see so many Year 11s at the Carlisle Skills Fair at the Sands Centre at the end of January. We also held a careers fair in school before half-term. The event was primarily for Year 9s prior to them choosing their GCSE Options. With over 20 organisations participating, we took the opportunity to include all our year groups during break and lunchtime. It was very well attended and the students gained invaluable advice.

In school we have a new careers and apprenticeship board (located outside Mrs Atkinson's Office). This is full of information about open days, events, apprenticeships and careers talks. We are encouraging all students to view all the opportunities on offer.

We held our Year 9 Futures Day before half-term. Small groups had the opportunity to visit Carlisle College and Northumbria University. The majority of students rotated around a carousel of activities including a workshop on Kudos, a HelloFuture workshop and the careers fair. The students all took away valuable advice in advance of them choosing their options. We would like to thank all the employers, training, further and higher education providers who took part making the event a huge success.

Inspira interviews with students continue again next week. We have had so many lovely comments about our students. The interviewers have mentioned that they have been a pleasure to meet and are very polite. Our students are switched on, have all thought about future career plans but are receptive to other career ideas.

For any student thinking of becoming a paramedic, the North West Ambulance Service will be in school on Tuesday 5th March at 2.10pm. Students must sign up with Miss Eastburn.

On a final note, any up-to-date careers events and apprenticeship opportunities we hear of are posted on our Twitter account – follow us on @Caldew_School.

Caldew Friends and Family

The Caldew Friends and Family Association (CFFA) continue to fundraise for the school. We are a small group of parents who raise money to support the school in providing extra-curricular facilities. In the last few months we have awarded the Performing Arts Department with “sets” for school plays and donated £500 to the Music department for new keyboards.

If you have a Co-op Membership card you can support us by simply logging in to coop.co.uk/membership and choosing Caldew Friends and Family as your chosen charity. 1% of Co-op branded products and services are donated to local causes.

Having a Spring clear-out or fancy a bargain? We are holding a Table Top Sale on Sunday 28th April 9:00am-1:00pm (set up from 8.30am). Our indoor event in the Sports Hall is only £8 per table with all proceeds going to the CFFA to support students in school.

To book a table, please email Cheryl.Eastburn@Caldew.cumbria.sch.uk for a booking form.

Young Enterprise

This year's Year 12 Young Enterprise Team have been working very hard on their business idea. The team called Atmos have designed and produced a reusable and environmentally friendly bamboo coffee cup. Atmos' mission is “Small Changes for Future Generations” and their stylish mug has certainly been a hit, with 100 of the cups sold in the first few weeks on sale. A second cup in a different colour is currently in production. The team have given presentations to businesses with Nestlé offering free sachets of hot drinks to go with the cups. H&H Print who visited the school recently have also been very impressed with their work ethic and have printed their marketing material. The team have developed a strong online presence on social media and The Bear Kitchen, based in DW Fitness have offered to stock them.

The team are supported by Karen McDonald of Link Recruitment, Carlisle.

We wish them all the success they deserve at the County Young Enterprise finals in March.

Procedure for School Closure

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 have changed your mobile or email contacts please let the School Office know so that we can update our records accordingly.

Attendance

Whole school attendance at the end of the Autumn Term was 94.81%. Attendance Week 2019 was a success with whole school attendance being 94.78% and we would like to thank you for your support with this. Year 9 had the highest attendance for the week at 95.73%.

There is a clear link between attendance and attainment; students with high attendance make greater progress than those with low attendance. To ensure that no student is left behind, teachers are using strategies to help students catch-up on missed learning but the main responsibility to catch-up lies with the student.

This half term we are launching an after-school Attendance Club. The focus of the work will be catch-up in English, Maths and Science. Students can attend voluntarily or they might be invited. If you have any queries about attendance please contact our Attendance Officer. Thank you for your continued support in improving attendance.

Head Lice

We have had a small number of cases of head lice reported over the last couple of weeks. Please can I ask parents to keep a regular check on their child's hair and if any evidence of head lice is found, treat it accordingly.

Behaviour on the School Buses

We have a high number of students that travel on buses to and from school on a daily basis and as a whole we are very pleased with student behaviour while en route. However occasionally it comes to our attention that 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 but 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, exclusions or other school sanctions. If you are aware of concerns on the buses, please ask your son/daughter to speak to a member of school staff - Form Tutor, Student Services or Head of Year.

Upcoming Events

Year 9 Options and Parents Evening

This takes place on Thursday 14th March and is an important evening for both students and parents to attend. Options choices are important decisions and you will be able to find out about the process and discuss your child's possible choices with subject teachers. Students will receive their Options Booklets on Friday 8th March and it is recommended that you read and discuss the information in them with your child.

School finishes for Easter at 3:10pm on Friday 29th March and students start back on Monday 15th April.

Yours faithfully

Ms Vicki Jackson
Headteacher

Vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Year Group Messages

Year 7

Year 7 students are now partway through their second term at Caldew and are proving themselves to be a wonderful year group. Achievement points are now in excess of 10,000 and this is due to the focus and commitment displayed by students towards their learning.

Our uniform standards continue to be high and I am very grateful to parents and carers for their support.

Teachers have just completed writing Year 7 reports and these will be given to students shortly. I look forward to reading about all the wonderful work that the students are producing in lessons. Please contact your child's form tutor if you have any queries or concerns about the report. Year 7 parents' evening, which is when we invite you to come into school with your child to meet their subject teachers, will be held from 5.30pm on Wednesday 24th April.

Recently, Year 7 have been taking part in Read for Good which is a sponsored event to encourage children to read for fun and raise money to buy books for children in hospital. Well done to all students who took part.

Congratulations to all students who have taken part in extracurricular and sporting activities. There are so many successes and I urge all students to get involved. Please encourage your child to ask their form tutor for further details – there are numerous clubs to choose from!

Mrs McGuiness

Year 8

Mid way through the Spring term, Year 8 are settled in to their classes and have been working well with teachers to demonstrate their drive to make progress this year. There have been some outstanding Learners of the Week nominated for their passion in palaeontology, helping others in Maths and there are some budding linguists in the year group.

Outside lessons there have been a number of successes for Year 8 in sports fixtures, gymnastics North of England group competitions, music and drama performances and a number are involved in the school play Home After Dark. We also have a number of students actively involved in fundraising with the School Council as well as working to increase the profile of the school's vision and values and developing the school's green agenda.

It was great to read so many positive comments and results in the student survey – to have an overwhelmingly positive response about their enjoyment of school and learning is fantastic to see.

Throughout the rest of the term, we really want to focus on Year 8's homework and attendance. It's important that students are in school as much as possible in order to progress in their education. We would also like to highlight how essential it is to have good routines surrounding homework; this will help extend their knowledge further in their subjects as well as develop good practice to carry throughout their school careers.

We are really enjoying working with the students as we navigate through the academic year. Please remember that there is a superb pastoral team on hand to help support – do get in touch when needed.

Mrs Macfarland and Miss Capstick

Year 9

We are very proud to be 2019's winning year group for attendance week! It was fantastic to see 98% of students in school at the beginning of the week and although this did dip by the end of the week, we still managed to win overall! Great effort team! Remember though - good attendance is for every day not just Attendance Week!

Exciting times lie ahead for Year 9 demonstrated in the Futures Day organised by Mrs Atkinson. Some students travelled over to Newcastle University to get a taste of university life, another group attended Carlisle College to look at the courses on offer there and in school, students had an opportunity to speak to employers about different employment opportunities and apprenticeships.

Year 9 students recently took their annual exams and it was great to hear positive reports from exam invigilators who were very impressed with our students. We know some students have put a lot of time and effort into revision and we look forward to seeing positive results when papers are marked.

On 14th March we have Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening, this is an important time for students who will soon be choosing the subjects they will be studying at GCSE. I look forward to seeing you there.

Miss Atkinson

Year 10

It was a pleasure to welcome Year 10 students back to 2019. We ended last term with a great celebration event and a group of students were able to visit Edinburgh Christmas Market as a reward for their good behaviour. More celebration and reward events are planned this year.

Attendance is still a focus for the year group and although we saw an improvement during Attendance Week, some of our students' attendance is still below where we would like it to be. Statistics show that there is a link between attendance and GCSE results and we want all of our students to fully achieve their potential; good attendance is key to that happening.

The year group continues to achieve well in lessons, last term there were 3042 achievements for excellent effort, 1852 for positive attitude and 374 for outstanding work.

There is a lot going on outside the classroom. A large number of Year 10 students were involved in the Christmas service in St Michael's church, there are Drama and Music groups rehearsing for performances and it has been a pleasure to watch our boys win on the football and rugby pitches. If your child is involved in anything outside school that you are proud of, I would love to hear about it. Thank you for your continued support, if you have any concerns do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or myself.

Mr McArdle

Year 11

The class of 2019... Spring Term is the last full term for Year 11 and it is set to be a busy one. In this final part of the GCSE journey there is still plenty of time for students to make progress. The biggest progress can be made in the classroom so it is vital students are focused on their learning in every lesson. Year 11 students need to ensure they are meeting behaviour and uniform expectations as they are role models to younger students. The second week of mock exams take place 25th February – 1st of March. Students should act on feedback given in the first week of mock exams and at Parents' Evening. Teachers are providing revision sessions during lunch and after-school and students should take full advantage of these. We want the students to complete their GCSEs as winners and we will celebrate the class of 2019 at the Prom on the 21st of June. Thank you.

Mr Clarke

Year 12

Year 12 completed mock exams in early January and Form Tutors are in the process of working with students to support them after they received their results from subject teachers. This involves reflection on where students were successful as well as setting targets to improve. Mock exams are a chance for students to gauge where they are with their initial studies in Year 12 and then use this information to focus on the areas and skills that need to be improved in the final months before the Summer exams. Every year the vast majority of students successfully improve their grades from mocks to final exams with the support of teachers and above all else, a renewed focus on the areas that need to be consolidated and improved. I am sure that Year 12 will learn the lessons from their mocks and work hard over the coming months.

Although it is only term two, we will be starting to work with Year 12 on their plans for after Sixth Form. All of Year 12 will be arranging a work placement for the last week of the Summer term and assemblies will be held to outline this for the students. There are also arrangements in place for outside support to guide students in options. Northumbria University will be running activities in the Summer term to support those students considering applying to universities and we will be also holding events from local providers of higher level apprenticeships in the Summer term.

Year 13

Year 13 have recently completed their mocks exams. Results will follow as well as thorough analysis of the papers in class. The feedback and response to this is a vital step for students to achieve their potential in the A level exams in the summer. Whilst it will be gratifying for students who achieved their targets, there will be improvements to make for everybody. Taking the advice on board and acting on it can make big differences to final outcomes.

There will be briefings by representatives from Northumbria University for 6th Form students in the coming weeks, reiterating the need for careful note taking and revision tips prior to the Spring break. The Sixth Form team has had meetings to discuss support for students in registration. Many Year 13s have applied for university places; for those who have not, there will be conversations about next steps and support put in place for those who need it. All students have been given a Kudos Cascaid login. These websites are a source of ideas for next steps to help students narrow down their choices.

Looking further ahead to the end of exams, the date for the prom is Friday 28th June. The event is to be held at the Halston hotel, Warwick Road. The cost is £29.95. We will be holding some bake sales to raise the money to pay for the disco.

If you would like to contact us about these or any other issues please get in touch via email c.hill@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk AllanJames@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk