



*Where every student is successful today and prepared for tomorrow*

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January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! At the start of a new year we often make resolutions and try to make positive changes to our lives. In my first assemblies of the year I have asked students to think about what positive change they think they need to make at school. This might be about improving their attendance, as we know that one of the biggest factors in underachievement is attendance less than 90%, spending more time on homework, improving their contributions during lessons or taking part in an extracurricular activity. Often focusing on making a positive change to one area can have big effect on a student's levels of achievement and a new year is an ideal time to make a fresh start. It would be useful for parents and carers to discuss with their children what they feel they need change at school.

Time is flying by, it seems like only a few days since we returned after the Christmas holidays yet we are already well into this half term. The start of a calendar year 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 15 weeks of school left before their examinations begin. Year 11 sat their mock exams before the Christmas holidays and they have been receiving their results. Parents and carers can discuss these at the Parents' Evening on Wednesday 24 January.

The school continues to be a busy place. Year 12 have just sat their mock exams and Year 13 are about to start theirs. Revision and coursework sessions have started for Year 11 at both lunchtimes and after-school. Lots of extracurricular activities are taking place that enrich the experiences of our students and help them to develop their confidence and social skills.

## **News**

### **English Revision**

To support students with their English revision, they can download and use the English PiXL app. The web address is [englishapp.pixl.org.uk](http://englishapp.pixl.org.uk) and the app can be downloaded free of charge for mobile 'phones and tablets. The school id is CD4634, the username is the student's surname and first initial and the password is the student's first name. This will support students in revising the English Literature texts already studied in Years 10 and 11, revising key quotations and securing knowledge in preparation for the closed book exams. Students should also be using the weekly revision tasks on [caldewenglish.weebly.com](http://caldewenglish.weebly.com), which cover language and literature tasks for all their English exams.

### **Maths Revision**

All Year 11 students have been issued with CGP revision guides and have logins for two internet-based revision apps, MathsWatch and the PiXL Maths app. These contain videos, written guides and tests on all the content for GCSE Maths. The website for MathsWatch is [vle.mathswatch.co.uk](http://vle.mathswatch.co.uk) and the PiXL app can be downloaded free of charge for mobile 'phones and tablets from [mathsapp.pixl.org.uk](http://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk).

## **New Staff**

Welcome to the following new staff who joined us in January:

- Miss Jessica Adam Cover Supervisor
- Mrs Fiona Singleton Midday Supervisor
- Mrs Jenny Rogerson Cleaner

## **School Council**

We have been extremely busy during the Autumn Term working on various projects:

- The Caldew Ambassadors have been promoting the School Council – in assemblies on anti-bullying, typing up entries for Weekly Notes and working very closely with Mr Beedie on Caldew School News. Before Christmas you may have watched our first broadcast and we are currently developing our second.
- The Charity Subcommittee with Will Nixon raised over £500 by organising a Christmas Jumper Day! This money will be donated to Eden Valley Hospice/Jigsaw who will be collecting their cheque from our Student Leaders. Caroline Wiles even managed to win herself a £20 restaurant voucher for making her own Christmas jumper complete with lights! We are currently working in collaboration with Caldew's Amnesty Club on another fundraising venture planned to take place before February.
- The Teaching and Learning Subcommittee continues to branch out and work with other departments on assessment strategies. Feedback is a massive part of improving in school, and our subcommittee have had the chance to personally contribute to the creation of success criteria that teachers use in lessons. In 2018 we are hoping to continue this and work closely with teachers to contribute ideas on lessons, assessments and feedback.

You will also see us at the upcoming Year 11 Parents' Evening, showing people around, answering questions and showcasing exactly what Caldew School is all about.

## **IPay**

Previously payments made from credit and debit cards were subject to charges. We are pleased to advise that you will no longer be charged when making payments from credit or debit cards. The direct debit payment function which was temporarily suspended is now available again.

## **Year 11 Work Ready Day**

This annual event took place in December, and comprised a series of morning workshops focused on the skills required to gain entry into future employment and training. In the afternoon students took part in sessions preparing application forms and taking part in individual mock interviews. Local employers volunteered their time and gave effective feedback to students so that they were able to plan their next steps. Visitors were impressed with the enthusiasm and skills demonstrated and our students found the day enjoyable and beneficial for their future aspirations

## **PE News**

### **Winter PE kit.**

Students are allowed to wear a winter PE kit when outside for PE, however the tracksuits bottoms must be navy blue. Boys in Years 7-10 can only wear a rugby top over their polo shirt (as well as a skin) and girls in Years 7-10 can only wear the Caldew hooded top over their polo shirt (as well as a skin). Students in Year 11 are allowed to wear a navy blue jumper or the rugby top.

## **Medication in school**

If your child needs to take any medication in school, there is a form to complete giving your permission to allow school staff to administer it. This form MUST be completed before we can administer the medication. We have been advised that a written note from parents is not sufficient. Students are not allowed to carry their own medication, including pain killers, in school. All medication MUST be brought in its original box with your child's name clearly marked on it. Please contact Student Services if you need us to send you a form.

### **Games Night**

This starts again on Tuesday 16 January for students in Years 7-11 who want to train or play football, rugby, netball and hockey. We operate a free bus to Carlisle at 4.30pm, students must sign up outside the PE office by 11:00am on Monday to ensure a place on the bus. The bus drops at the following locations:

<b>Drop Off Location</b>	<b>Approximate Drop Off Time</b>
Pirelli	4.40pm
Woodend Drive	4.40pm
Stonegarth shops	4.45pm
Queensway	4.50pm
Orton Road	4.55pm
Dunmail Drive	4.55pm
Dalston Road	5.00pm
Denton Street	5.05pm
Currock Road	5.15pm
Henderson Road	5.20pm
Lamb Street	5.25pm
Durdar	5.30pm

**\*The bus can also drop off in the Belle Vue area on request but students must tell the driver as they board.**

### **Information**

#### **Attendance**

Attendance at the end of the Autumn Term was 95.10%. 2016/17 Autumn Term attendance was 93.99%. We are proud as a school community to have made great progress to achieve this milestone. Students who achieved attendance over 95% during the Autumn Term have been awarded a certificate - 95% Bronze, 97% Silver and 100% Gold. Five students from Years 7 – 11 won a £10 High Street Voucher in a 100% attendance raffle draw.

Every student with 100% attendance during the Spring Term will be rewarded. 290 students achieved this last academic year and we would like to challenge students again to attend and achieve. As a school community we place great value on high and improving attendance as we recognise the direct link between high attendance and high attainment.

Attendance Week 2018 is the week starting Monday 22 January and the aim is to raise awareness that school attendance matters. During Attendance Week 2017 we achieved 95.6% attendance and the challenge is to beat that. If you have any concerns regarding attendance contact Mrs Richardson, our Attendance Officer.

#### **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, 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 change your mobile or email contacts please let the school office know so that we can update our records accordingly.

## **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 while en route. However, it comes to our attention that occasionally 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/carers 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 child to speak to a member of staff at the school (Form Tutor, Head of Year, Student Services).

## **Parent View**

As you may be aware Parent View is an online questionnaire that records the views of parents/carers on the school that their children attend and is referred to at times by OFSTED. Feedback from parents/carers is always helpful to us and I would like to remind you that the questionnaire is available to complete at any time at [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening**

This takes place on Thursday 8 March and is an important evening for both students and parents/carers 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 prior to the evening and it is recommended that you read and discuss the information in them with your child.

## **Diary Dates**

22 – 26 January	Year 9 Mock Exams
24 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening (5.30pm to 8.00pm)
1 February	Year 9 World of Work Day (morning only)
2 – 9 February	Year 13 Mock Exams
7 February	Year 12 Parents' Evening (5.30pm to 8.00pm)
12 – 16 February	Half Term
1 March	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening (6.00pm start)

Yours faithfully



Ms Vicki Jackson  
Headteacher  
[Vicki.Jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:Vicki.Jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk)

## **Year Group Messages**

### **Year 7**

After a very successful first term at Caldew, it was lovely to welcome Year 7 back after their Christmas holiday. Our uniform standards continue to be high and I am very grateful to parents/carers for their support in following the school's guidelines.

Attendance is very good with an impressive 77 students achieving 100% attendance last term. Well done to these students and particularly to Shayne Gumbo who won the prize voucher for the term. Form Tutors will continue to discuss the importance of attendance with students during form time. Congratulations to Mr Johnston's form and Miss Hayton's form for highest form attendance for the months of November and December respectively.

Year 7 reports were issued at the end of term detailing progress made in each subject together with a target for improvement. Please contact your child's Form Tutor if you have any queries or concerns about the report.

Congratulations to all students who have taken part in extracurricular activities and sporting activities last term. There were many successes and I urge all students to take part this term. Please encourage your child to ask their Form Tutor for further details – there are so many clubs to choose from!

Mrs McGuiness

### **Year 8**

I hope that all of our Year 8 students have had a good rest and are ready to embrace the challenges that 2018 will bring. The end of a year brings time for reflection and an opportunity to make resolutions for the coming months – whether it is to work harder in lessons, do homework the night it is set or to improve attendance and punctuality – let's hope we can always aim to be 'the best we can be'.

Year 8 spent the second part of the Autumn Term aiming for the stars! Teachers were able to award three stars per class to the students who had shown outstanding effort in lessons. These stars were then placed on their form Christmas tree with the aim of collecting as many stars as possible for their form. Each student awarded a star was also given a raffle ticket for a prize draw held in the final assembly of the year. The winning form was 8/STA with 8/JOE/AVN in second place. Individual prize winners were Mark Musgrave, Sam Ballantyne, Jasmine Marix-Whitlock, Emma Graham, Emma Watling, Thomas Broughton, Alice Tyson and Rianna Unsworth.

8JOE/AVN won the prize for the best attendance and the most achievement logs with 8/STA close behind. There is definitely a correlation between good attendance and achievement!

At the beginning of the year Year 8 students were asked to design a poster highlighting Caldew School values. The winning designs chosen by Ms Jackson were by Oliver Metcalfe and Meredith Kerr. These will be displayed in the Year 8 form rooms.

In registration time, students have been looking at bullying and cyber bullying, what they should do if they are a victim and what they can do to stop it if it is happening to them or others. They have also been looking at how to form positive relationships. In assembly this term, students were asked to think about what they were doing with their time on earth – about the decisions they make and how this can affect their future choices. One message is simple – 'In a world where you can be anything, be kind'. Happy New Year to all Year 8 students and their families! Miss Atkinson

### **Year 9**

It is a pleasure to welcome back Year 9 to a term with lots going on. The first focus for this term is to aim for high attendance; statistics prove that low attendance means that students' GCSE results are lower by at least one grade. With this in mind, there will be an Attendance Week and also an Attendance Trophy awarded each month to the form with the highest attendance.

This half term exams are on the horizon; last term Form Tutors looked at different ways to revise and students now need to ensure that they put these ideas into practice. The exam timetable is on the school website. In addition to this, students will begin the options process. To help them make informed choices there will be a series of assemblies to explain the process for students as well as an

Options/Parents' Evening on the Thursday 8 March for parents/carers. Added to this there will be a World of Work Day organised by Mr Greenwood which should also help students to make the right choices for their future.

Thank you for your continuing support. If you have any issues, please feel free to contact your child's Form Tutor or myself.

Mrs McBride

### **Year 10**

Welcome back Year 10 after the Christmas break!!! We ended the term with a fantastic celebration event and students will have another opportunity to be invited to the next celebration at the end of the Spring Term.

Congratulations to Mr Huntbatch's form who achieved the most achievement logs (1046) and Mrs James' form who achieved the highest attendance (97.6%) during the Autumn Term.

The Spring Term competitions are well under way. There are many extra-curricular activities for students to get involved with during the Spring Term including an inter-form chess tournament and quiz competition. Our overall theme during the Spring Term is 'Progress'. Reflecting on their interim reports from the Autumn Term, students will be guided to develop the mindset to make progress. This will be the first topic explored during form time this half-term. The second topic will be 'Loud Speakers'. Students will be engaging in popular debate and developing their advocacy skills.

Mr Clarke

### **Year 11**

Year 11 students have all been receiving their mock exam results. The focus now shouldn't necessarily be on the grade they got, but moreover the feedback they receive which details the specific areas they need to work on to maximise their success in the summer. If students have done well then this is because they have worked hard, revised and taken on board all of the advice and teaching that was given. These students fully deserve their success and should be commended for their efforts. For those students who revised and worked towards their mock exam and were disappointed by their grade, then they need to remember that mock exams are a learning exercise and that as long as they can understand where they went wrong and what they need to do differently, they also have every chance of success in the summer. There will of course be students who didn't revise, who didn't work and who didn't take on board the advice from their teachers and who got results which reflected this. To those students, I urge you to think about how you would feel if you opened your envelope in the summer and those were the grades you got? What doors would those grades open for you? Would you be able to take the course you want? Would you get that apprenticeship you are applying for?

Fifteen weeks is all that remains before the 'real' summer exams. After spending 12 years at school, students have just 17 weeks of normal timetabled lessons to go. Every minute of every lesson is about those exams, what students need to know, how they should answer the questions and how they can maximise their marks. Don't waste it. For those who feel they 'messed up' the mocks...it's not too late!! Students have been able to pull things round at this stage before but it will take focus, hard work and above all determination. The words 'can't' and 'failure' cannot exist in Year 11 vocabulary. Instead we are purely thinking about 'can' and 'will'.

Don't forget its Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 24 January. This will be the last formal opportunity to sit down with each classroom teacher and find out what needs to be done, what revision should be in place and what support is on offer. The Caldew 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open evening is also on Thursday 1 March, this is an excellent opportunity to find out more about the post-16 courses on offer. You will receive the next Year 11 newsletter soon which will also contain careers advice and support. Don't forget you can always contact the team of Form Tutors by email either directly or by the school office email address.

Ms Brownlee

**Year 12**

Following several assemblies about time management and revision techniques, students in Year 12 have returned to mock exams. Subject teachers will be giving feedback once these have been marked.

In the following period Form Tutors will be talking to their tutees about future plans and how they can achieve them. For those students who require further guidance an Inspira interview will be arranged.

There will be an assembly in the near future which centres around work experience, which is in the calendar for the last week of term in the week beginning 16 July.

Mrs Hill

**Year 13**

We have had a very busy term. The UCAS application process has now finished for another year. 59 students have applied to university and many have already had offers and attended interviews so the pressure is on to now to achieve the grades that will secure their places. There have been a wide range of courses including one application to Oxford and one to Cambridge, one for Medicine and two for Veterinary Science as well as numerous applications to Russell Group Universities and one application to a musical conservatoire.

Lancaster University delivered an interview skills workshop on Wednesday 29 November to show the best way to impress and secure an offer. 40 students attended and were very engaged with the session which included role play and discussions. On Friday 15 December we had a student finance talk where 53 students had the opportunity to listen to a recent graduate discuss the process of applying for student finance and the advantages of going to university. There was also lots of information regarding bursaries and scholarships so that our students can explore these opportunities to see if they are eligible.

Students who do not want to go to university have had interviews with Inspira to discuss apprenticeships and there is a workshop planned for Friday 19 January to show students how and where to apply as well as ongoing support for their application process.

We have the mock exams approachin, which start on Friday 2 February so students are busy revising and preparing for these alongside completing coursework and keeping on top of new topics and homework.

Stress levels are running high at the moment so it is important for students to make sure that they take time to relax as well exercise and follow a healthy diet alongside plenty of sleep. It is also important that students are not working too many hours at part-time jobs in the lead up to their exams as this will affect their results.

Mrs Tate