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Aspire Believe Achieve

June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an extremely busy half term. The exam season is well underway with not only GCSE and A level exams but internal exams for other year groups. It is how students perform in exams that is the measure of how well they have succeeded at school. This is becoming increasingly true as the reforms to the exam system see a reduction in the amount of controlled assessments students will do and an increase in the number of exams. This means that the ability to memorise large amounts of information and perform well in exams is becoming more important. Students need to learn how to revise and remember information which is why the internal exams in Year 7-10 are so important in helping students learn how to prepare and to give them the experience of working under the pressure of exam conditions.

As I am sure you are aware we have also been visited by OFSTED for an inspection, which took place on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th June. The results of the inspection will be available later this term and I will let you all know when the report is published. Thank you to all parents and carers who sent in messages of support and to those who completed Parent View which, I am pleased to say, was very positive. The inspectors did ask me to thank our students for their politeness, respect and cooperation, which I have done. As usual, we were very proud of our students.

There have also been a whole range of other activities going on. Year 7 students are planning their enterprise activities, drama performances have been taking place and our various sports teams have been taking part in competitions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff whose dedication and hard work means that these activities take place.

News

Attendance

Overall attendance up until the Summer half-term increased to 95%. This is almost 1% higher than the same time last academic year. This is an outstanding milestone for our school community; a milestone that every member of our school community should be proud of and that we will aim to sustain for the rest of the academic year. Students agree that good attendance supports engagement in learning and as a result, good academic achievement. Thank you to parents, carers and students for working towards an outstanding academic year of attendance.

The prestigious Diamond Attendance Certificate for 100% attendance for the whole academic year will be awarded at the Awards Day. If you have any attendance-related questions, please contact our Attendance Officer, Mrs Richardson.

Library News

Readathon

Year 7s are currently taking part in the *Read for Good* sponsored Readathon, to raise money to buy books and storytellers for children in hospitals. Books and storytelling are particularly important for children in hospital – they provide comfort, distraction, reassurance and entertainment. Due to the risk of infection, however, library books are not allowed on the ward. The sponsored Readathon is a great way both to motivate our students to read, and to raise money for this important charity.

Spellbinding Awards Day

The annual Cumbrian Schools Book Award, Spellbinding, finished on Wednesday 13th June, with an awards day attended by students from 12 schools from around the county, held at Penrith Methodist Church, and hosted by performance poet Mike Garry. Four Caldew students attended the day, along with School Librarian Mrs Bell, taking part in various literary activities and competitions, and voting for this year's winning book: Penny Joelson's *I Have No Secrets*. The students had a great day, and Natalie Sisson, Year 9, won the 10-word competition to summarise one of the shortlisted books!

Half-Price Book Fair!

We will be hosting another of our popular half-price Scholastic Book Fairs in the library for one week this summer, commencing Thursday 5th July. All books in the fair will be half marked price, with some fantastic bargains to be had!

PE News

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent Cumbria in athletics.

Rachel Carr	100m
Emma Kendal	300m
Isla Kerr	High Jump
Meredith Kerr	Pole Vault
Kian Martin	Javelin and Hammer
Adam Willis	Hurdles and Triple jump

Congratulations to Chris Cowing in Year 10 who recently competed at the North West Swimming Finals in Manchester finishing overall 6th in the finals (100m breaststroke). He also took part in a 5000m swim along with other Caldew students to raise money for Eden Valley Hospice. This was organised by Sam Abba (ex-Caldew student). Well done to all those who took part.

Dalston in Bloom

As a school we are proud to part of the Dalston community and we are delighted that Dalston in Bloom have given us £80 to buy plants for the tubs around school.

Update from Caldew Friends and Family Association (CFFA)

The committee recently released their first amount of funds to the school. £500 was awarded to the gymnastics team so that they can purchase new leotards for competitions, £100 was awarded to the prom committee to go towards their celebrations and £100 was awarded to the library.

In early May we had a very successful bag packing session at Asda. Students from the School Council and gymnastic team supported us on the day and were fantastic ambassadors for the school. We received many positive comments from the public and staff at Asda. We will be repeating the bag packing at Tesco on Sunday 1 July. If any student (or parent/carer) would like to help us on the day please contact Cheryl Eastburn in school.

We are always looking for help and support from parents/carers. If you would like to support the CFFA we would love to hear from you. We meet approximately once a month with meetings lasting no more than an hour. Thank you once again for supporting us so far.

E-Newsletter

We have recently launched our E-Newsletter. This will now replace our printed versions. The E-Newsletter will include up to date news and information from Caldew School. It's very easy to subscribe by visiting the homepage of the Caldew School website.

Information

Uniform

Our new uniform for current Years 7-9 will come into effect from September 2018. The Uniform Shop in Denton Holme have confirmed that the Caldew blazer is now in stock. The school jumper becomes an optional item for these year groups from September. Current Year 10 will continue to wear the school jumper.

Spare Uniform

If you have any uniform that is in good condition that you can donate back to the school it would be appreciated. This includes jumpers, ties, blazers and PE kit. Please bring any items to either Main Reception or Student Services. Thank you

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The new General Data Protection Regulation came into effect on 25th May. You should have received a letter explaining how Caldew is meeting these new regulations. Further information is available on the school website, including the school's GDPR Policy and Privacy Notice.

Year 6 Open Evening

The Year 6 Open Evening for students looking to join the school in September 2019 takes place on Thursday 27 September 2018 from 6.30pm. If you have a child who is due to start secondary school in September 2019, you are very welcome to come along and visit us.

Term Dates 2018-19

Autumn Term:	Wednesday 5 th September to Friday 21 st December Half-term - Monday 22 nd to Friday 26 th October
Spring Term:	Monday 7 th January to Friday 29 th March Half-term - Monday 18 th to Friday 22 nd February
Summer Term:	Monday 15 th April to Friday 19 th July Good Friday - 19 th April Easter Monday - 22 nd April Early May Bank Holiday - 6 th May Half-term - Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st May

Upcoming Events

21 st June	Year 8 Parents' Evening
22 nd June	Year 11 Leavers' Assembly Year 13 Leavers Assembly Year 11 Prom
25 th & 27 th June	Year 5 Science Day
2 nd July	Year 6 Induction Day
5 th July	Year 5 Enterprise Day
6 th July	Year 13 Formal
9 th & 10 th July	Summer Concert
11 th July	Year 7 Enterprise Challenge
13 th July	Sports Day
16 th & 17 th July	6 th Form Induction Days
17 th July	Awards Day
19 th July	Rewards Event
16 th August	A Level Results Day
23 rd August	GCSE Results Day

Yours faithfully

Ms Vicki Jackson
Headteacher

vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Year Group Messages

Year 7

We are now in our final school term and Year 7 students continue to work with focus and determination. Many students are currently receiving their exam results and these results will also be communicated to you at the end of the Summer term.

Last term, Year 7 students attended a concert presented by the boy band *The Shades*. Whilst the students were very enthusiastic about the event and the opportunity to meet the band, there was a serious message given about online safety.

Parents' Evening was well attended and provided the opportunity to receive feedback about your child's progress and also their targets. If you were unable to attend the evening or have any queries, please contact your child's Form Tutor.

Year 7 students are currently working towards their Enterprise Challenge and have already produced some great work. We hope that you will be able to visit the trade stands in school on 11th July to see the results. *Read for Good* was also launched in last week's assembly which raises money for books and storytellers for children's hospitals. Please encourage your child to take part. If you have any queries about *Read for Good* please contact Mrs Bell, the School Librarian or myself.

You may remember this time of year last year when your child was visiting Caldew as a Year 6 student. We are now preparing for the students to move into Year 8. All of the students have been a pleasure to work with and I am very grateful to you for your ongoing support throughout the year. Ms Brownlee will become Head of Year 8 from September and she and I will be working closely over the remaining weeks to ensure a smooth handover.

Mrs McGuinness

Year 8

At the beginning of the year I told our Year 8 students that this year would fly by – I wasn't wrong! It has been a busy and productive year with many positives. At the time of writing, students in Year 8 have been awarded the most achievement points of all year groups, Zoe Campbell has achieved the most individual achievement points in the school with Emma Watling just behind in second place – well done to all! Attendance has improved throughout the school with 21 students in Year 8 having 100% attendance, which is fantastic. Some of these students have had 100% attendance for 2 years in a row. Individual successes this term include Meredith Kerr who has broken the county schools' pole vaulting record and has represented Cumbria at a North Counties competition. Josh Stirling continues to impress in the cricket world, travelling to Durham for training and Millie Bell is competing at a high level in triathlon. We have some talented students in Year 8. It is always great to hear what they achieve outside of school and as most of them are far too modest to tell us what they get up to I would appreciate if parents/carers would let me know.

Looking ahead, we have a residential trip to Lockerbie Manor organised for October – I'm not sure who is more excited, the students or their Form Tutors. During the weekend, students will have an opportunity to take part in nine outdoor challenges – let's hope for good weather!

As we begin dreaming of our summer breaks, I apologise for bringing up the start of next year. I would ask parents/carers for their continued support in ensuring students keep up their very smart appearance. Footwear should be plain black and not branded and skirts must not be 'stretchy' and should be knee length. I have been very impressed with how smart Year 8s have looked this year and with the introduction of blazers, this will only get better!

As we near the end of this academic year, our Year 8 students are taking their end of year exams. I wish each and every one of them 'good luck' and hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer holidays. I look forward to Year 9!

Miss Atkinson

Year 9

The options process is now complete and students are now focusing on exam courses in some of their subjects. With Year 10 on the horizon it is pleasing to note that there has been a slight improvement where attendance is concerned; this will be essential next year when students are following their exam courses.

I would also like to let everyone know that I will be retiring at the end of this academic year and will miss the students. Whilst I am looking forward to this, I also have some regrets as I think your children are wonderful and I would have liked to work with them until Year 11. All that remains for me to do is to thank you for your support and wish all the very best to all students in Year 9 in their journey at Caldew and beyond.

Mrs McBride

Year 10

Year 10 students recently completed their Year 10 exams. These exams were a challenging part of their GCSE journey. Students will already be informing you of their results and reflecting on how they can make progress. The Year 10 full report will present all the exam results, teacher comments and expected grade in the 2019 GCSE examinations. You will receive the report in July.

We are at an exciting point of the GCSE journey; with the current Year 11 set to finish their GCSEs on Friday 22nd June, Year 10s will become the top of the school. This position in the school comes with much responsibility. Year 10s will be role models for the younger students so it is essential they rise to the challenge of setting an example with outstanding attendance, behaviour and achievement and also modelling the school's uniform policy.

The Year 10 registration topics this half term focus on mindfulness activities and recognising how transferable skills developed at school, function in the world of work.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please contact your child's Form Tutor or myself if you have any questions.

Mr Clarke

Year 11

We have made it to the end of Year 11! The challenges of the new specifications, the pressures of managing revision, homework and other commitments as well as planning and preparing for their futures has made it a very hard year for all students. They are leaving as a different year group to the one I first worked with at the end of Year 10 and I am incredibly proud of all of them for the way they have worked, and for their focus, determination and maturity.

Every single one of them has made progress in aspects of their education this year and I'm sure you are very proud of all they have achieved too. I am hopeful that all of their hard work, as well as the hard work and support of teachers and parents/carers will pay off in the summer. I would like to take this final opportunity to thank you for all of the support you given to the students and to myself over the last 12 months, I know it can be a very stressful time for parents/carers and your support and encouragement has been a key part of their success as well as being appreciated by me and the other staff at Caldew.

All that remains is for me to wish all Year 11 students a happy and relaxing summer break and I look forward to seeing many of them on Results Day on 23rd August!

Miss Brownlee

Year 12

Last half term the focus was very much on exams. The students had been preparing for some time and the Sixth Form pastoral team were there to support them during that period. Altogether the exams went very smoothly and we were impressed by the way that students approached them. The results will be available for students to pick up from Main Reception on Thursday 16th August. Mr James and Mrs Hill will be available to offer support and advice on that day.

In the second half of this term, the focus is on the second year of students' chosen courses. It is really important that attendance is good so that the opportunity to make a sound start is not missed. During registration time tutors will be encouraging the students to begin their personal statements

which can provide information for references their tutor might need to write in the future, or be the start of their UCAS personal statement. They will also be researching courses, whether apprenticeships or university courses.

Some students have been applying for summer schools. Robbie Wilkins has gained a place on the Unique summer school at Oxford University. This is a great achievement and we both congratulate him and wish him well on the course. Mrs Wragg is also taking a group of 8 students on a residential trip to Oxford University at the end of June.

At the end of this term (week beginning 16th July) many students have arranged work experience placements. This is the scheduled week and so we prefer that work experience is not arranged for any other school time. There will be no timetabled lessons that week and anyone in school should be continuing UCAS or career research.

Mrs Hill

Year 13

It has been a busy half term! We have had the University of Cumbria in to deliver two workshops about managing finances and living independently, these were really great interactive workshops helping students to prepare for the next stage of their lives, whether that is university, apprenticeships or college.

Students have been very busy revising and preparing for their exams with their teachers in lessons and in their study periods. They have had assemblies on revision techniques, managing stress and relaxation techniques as well as time management and prioritising their workload to help them with the preparation for the exam period so fingers crossed all has gone well for them.

Events that are coming up include their Leavers' Assembly on the afternoon of Friday 22nd June. This is an opportunity to celebrate their time at Caldew. Their formal event is on Friday 6th July at The Crown and Mitre Hotel.

As their Head of Year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents/carers for their support during the two years they have been in 6th Form and wish the students all the very best for their future plans. They have been a great year group and deserve every success.

Mrs Tate