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Aspire Believe Achieve

March 2018

Dear Parents /Carers

I can't believe that we are coming to the end of the Spring term already and I am sure the students will welcome their well-deserved Easter break. During the Spring term we always see our older students' minds focussing on the upcoming exams and many of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students are already working hard revising and preparing for their exams. 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 are 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 term. 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. They need to prepare themselves for the exams and in that sense, the Easter holidays should include revision for all students.

News

Performing Arts

Carlisle Music and Drama Festival

This is a prestigious and high profile event across North Cumbria and a great opportunity to show off the talent at Caldew School. The students represented the school admirably and are a great credit to us all. More Caldew students than ever (over 50) competed in various classes this year and they have been very busy preparing for the festival over the last few months.

Music

Huge congratulations must go to the Caldew School Choir who came 1st in the Secondary Schools Choir Class competing against Austin Friars, Trinity and Cockermouth. Their performance was brilliant and I have received a number of emails from members of the public who praised their singing. The students who took part were Ellie Blackadder, Harley Cleminson, Emma Dobson, Isla Doyle, Eleanor Elliot, Sophie Forster, Erin Johnston, Bella Kerr, Meredith Kerr, William Langley, Sadie Little, Ingrid Messenger, Anastasia Mullins, Eve Phinn, Katie Richardson, Daisy Robert, Charlotte Thomson, Izzy Walker, Kerriane Wallace, Imogen Watson, Caroline Wiles, Emma Wiles, Paige Wood and Oriana Young.

Well done to Emily Scott who performed her first solo (flute) and achieved a 'highly commended' performance. Big congratulations to Olivia Seal who came 2nd in her class (clarinet) and to William Nixon who came 1st in both the Pianoforte Open Class and Pianoforte 15-18 class. The Caldew School Woodwind Instrumental Ensemble came 2nd and also deserve a huge well done. All five solo singers, Chloe Nugent, Nathan Coulson, Daisy Robert, Caroline Wiles and Izzy Walker, although not placed, achieved high marks and praise from the adjudicator

Drama

Congratulations and thanks to all 21 students who performed so well in the Drama classes at this year's festival. Their performances were of a high standard and they represented the school very well. A special mention goes to Emma Dobson and Jack Utting-McBride for coming 2nd and to Ellie Blackadder and Nathan Coulson for coming 1st in their respective classes. Congratulations to Isla Doyle, Harrison Fell, Mark Musgrave and Oriana Young who came 2nd in the Spoken Word Challenge.

We are very proud of all of our talented students who took part and these results show what a strong Performing Arts department we have at Caldew School. In the current national climate that focus on EBacc subjects it is easy to forget the importance of other subjects such as the Performing Arts in the curriculum. I am very proud that these subjects continue to go from strength to strength here at Caldew. This would not be possible without the dedication of our staff so I would like to thank Mrs Cooper, Ms Brownlee, Mrs Openshaw and Miss Howie for all their hard work and support for our students.

National Cross Country

Mr Butler attended the Northern Cross Country meet at Barnard Castle Independent School on a very snowy Saturday morning in February. Special mention must go to our Year 8 student Millie Bell who represented Cumbria despite being a year younger than most of the other girls. She finished in the top 15, her Junior Girls Team won gold and was selected for the nationals. The national competition took place this month and Millie came 192 out of 342. An outstanding achievement!

National Gymnastics Finals

The girls Under 13 gymnastics team took part in the national finals and came an impressive 8th. The team were Amy Gilbertson, Lucie Martin and Jessica Yates. Well done, girls!

Library News

Spellbinding!

Spellbinding is a county-wide book award scheme giving students in Years 7-9 the opportunity to vote for their favourite book from a shortlist of student-nominated titles. It runs throughout the Spring and Summer terms, encouraging students to debate, discuss and deliberate the merits of the individual titles with each other and with students from other Cumbrian schools via an online forum. The award aims to encourage students to foster a love of reading; to read more widely by extending and broadening reading choices; to build reading stamina; and to encourage students to express their own views, helping to improve speaking and listening skills, critical skills and self-confidence all within a supportive environment. This culminates in an Awards Day in June to decide the overall winning title which will be attended by at least three students from our group. There are still spaces available in our Spellbinding group, and it's not too late to join – see Mrs Bell, our Librarian, for more details.

World Book Day Harry Potter Tournament

While the snow did its best to scupper our World Book Day celebrations on Thursday 1 March, our Harry Potter competitors were not so easily discouraged, and the rescheduled Tri-wizard Quiz took place at lunchtime on Thursday 8 March in the Theatre. Each of the three teams (staff, students and 6th Formers) were confident that they would win easily, and so the questions were extremely difficult! The final result, out of a total of 30 available points, was as follows:

1 st place:	Students	(28 points)
2 nd place:	6 th Form	(25.5 points)
3 rd place:	Staff	(18 points)

Congratulations and very well done to our student team of Daisy Robert, Maisie Ryan, Natalie Sisson, Alexis Wallace and Elisha Wharton.

LoveReading for Schools

Many recent studies have highlighted the academic and social benefits of regular reading for pleasure. If you're looking for reading inspiration for your child, why not take a look at our customised LoveReading lists, available from <https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk/schools>. These lists are organised thematically with the intention of helping students branch out and broaden their reading choices and have a wide range of reading suggestions compiled by Mrs Bell, the school's Librarian. All of the books listed are available to borrow from the school library free of charge or can be bought from the website at a discounted price if you prefer. A link to Caldew School's online LoveReading lists is also available at the bottom of the Latest section of the school website.

Young Enterprise

The Year 12 Young Enterprise team has been competing in the North Cumbria area since October last year. At the Spring Trade Show in early March they were runners-up and awarded a place in the County Finals at Rheged on Wednesday 28 March. We wish them all good luck!

The Young Enterprise team are led by Managing Director Nathan Harmon. The team are Dan Betts, Elisha Cuthbert, Charlotte Frith, Jodie Grant, Jack Hartley, Grace Johnston, Jamie McClean-Wykes, Ashleigh Riding, James Shirvinton, Adam Sixsmith, Adam Smith, Alex Tonge and Matthew Watson.

Uniform Review

You should have recently received a letter explaining the changes to our school uniform for September 2018. These changes are the result of the review that was carried out by the school and its Governing Body. Thank you to all those parents and carers who gave their view as part of the consultation. In line with most other local schools, we will be introducing a blazer from September. This academic year we have seen a large number of students choosing to wear the optional school blazer instead of a school jumper. The school blazer will be available from The Uniform Shop and is priced in line with the cost of blazers for other local schools. The changes affect students in the current Years 7, 8 and 9, as well as the students who will be joining us in September in our Year 7. If you did not receive the letter a copy is available on the school website or you can request a paper copy from Reception.

Uniform

If your child is leaving school during the summer or has outgrown their PE kit, please think about donating it to the school. We are always looking for school ties and PE kit.

Parent Governor Vacancies

We have two vacancies for Parent Governors. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor please get in touch with Mrs Connolly, Clerk to the Governing Body. Her email is Sarah.Connolly@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk.

Easter Rewards Events

Caldew Friends and Family Association are hoping that parents and carers will support the Easter Rewards Parties in school. We are looking for donations of prizes such as small bars of chocolates and Easter Eggs etc. If you can support us by donating an item, please send them into school marked for the attention of Miss Eastburn. Thank you for your support.

Information

Medication during the School Day

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. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions document on the Parents tab of the school website for the form, or contact Student Services. 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 painkillers, in school. All medication MUST be brought in its original box with your child's name clearly marked on it.

Packed Lunches

If your child brings food to school, can you please ensure that it contains no nuts or products containing nuts. We have some students with nut allergies who may have a severe allergic reaction if they come into contact with nuts and we need to ensure they are safe.

School Closures

We will only close the school as a very last resort and the default position will always be to stay open. If we do close, it will be announced via the school text system, the school website and through local media (e.g. CFM, Radio Cumbria) as early as is practical. If you change your mobile or email contact details, please let the school office know so that we can update our records accordingly.

On occasion, it may be necessary for transport operators to cancel the morning school journey at short notice if they not believe that they can transport students safely. We always try and inform parents/carers as soon as we are aware that this is the case. Some of the transport operators (Irving's, Irving of Dalston and Reays) also use their Facebook pages to provide updates so it is worth following them if your child travels on one of their routes (and you have a Facebook account). If a school bus does not complete the morning journey, it will not run in the afternoon either.

PE Department Policy for Non-participants

Students excused from PE due to injury or illness are expected to change into full PE kit to ensure that they can be effectively integrated in all lessons. They will take on the roles of coaches and officials or focus on relevant observation and analysis tasks. We recognise that an exception may need to be made in the rare case when it is not physically possible for a student to change their clothes. However, this policy will ensure that the majority of non-participants can be actively involved and continue their progress and learning. This has been the case since September 2016.

Attendance

Under the hashtag '#AttendAndAchieve' we continue to highlight good attendance as a life skill. Comparing current attendance to this time last academic year we have made fantastic progress as a school community. Students have spoken about how they have noticed good attendance does lead to good attainment as there are no gaps in their learning. However, where there is absence, students are encouraged to see their subject teachers or Study Buddy to complete missed work.

Thank you also for your support during our annual attendance event; Attendance Week 2018 was a success. Sustained, good attendance is important; one day of absence means five hours of learning missed. If you have any attendance concerns, contact our Attendance Officer, Mrs Richardson.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 28 March	Young Enterprise County Finals
Thursday 29 March	Rewards Events
	Last Day of Spring Term (normal school finish time)
Friday 30 March – Saturday 7 April	Ski Trip
Monday 16 April	First Day of Summer Term
Thursday 19 April	Year 7 Parents' Evening (5.30pm – 8.00pm)
Thursday 26 April	Year 10 Parents' Evening (5.30pm – 8.00pm)

Yours faithfully



Ms Vicki Jackson
Headteacher

Vicki.Jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Year Group Messages

Year 7

It is hard to believe that Year 7 have nearly completed their second term at Caldew. The term has been very busy and in addition to the excellent work being produced in lessons, has featured rocket cars, sporting successes and charity events.

In lessons, Year 7s continue to work focus and purpose. Their teachers comment on their great attitude to learning and enthusiasm in class. Information about your child's progress will shortly be communicated to you via your child's second report.

The importance of high attendance continues to be discussed with your child during form time. Congratulations to Mr Clay's form for the highest attendance in Year 7 for January and to Mr Johnston's form for this achievement in February.

Year 7 students have been working in small groups to design and build a rocket car. After some very closely contested races, the winning team of Jude Askew, Elise Batey, Jessica Bewley and Brody Johnston was announced. The team will now go forward to the regional finals. The organisers of the event were very complimentary about our students' behaviour and enthusiasm for the project.

Sporting successes include the Year 7 hockey team who have won all of their matches so far, and gymnasts Amy Gilbertson, Lucie Martin and Jessica Yates who are North of England team champions. They will compete at the National Schools Gymnastics final.

A special mention to Maisie Ryan and Alexis Wallace who recently held a bake sale at school. An impressive £78 was raised for two charities: The Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow and Tic Toc, a charity which aims to increase the number of defibrillators in Cumbria.

Mrs McGuinness

Year 8

It has been great to walk around school this term, popping into Year 8 lessons and seeing students working hard. It is lovely to be stopped in the corridor to be given positive news from teachers about individual students and whole classes. The most recent data suggests the majority of our students have a good or excellent attitude in most or all of their subjects – I am sure there are many proud parents and carers.

One area where there is room for improvement for some students is attendance – please help your child make every effort to get in to school every day. One day off school is 5 hours of missed learning. Students who are off school are asked to copy up any missed work. The attendance trophy for the last 2 months has been awarded to Mr Atkinson's form (8/STA). He is expecting to keep it all year but I am sure there are other forms and Form Tutors who would like to stop this happening!

Year 8, in my opinion, is still the smartest year group when it comes to uniform and I thank parents and carers for their continued support with this. A reminder as the weather improves that skirts must be knee length and not made of tight Lycra material.

The Under 13 hockey team recently played in the North Cumbria tournament at Wigton – the highlight of the day was a 4-0 win against Cockermouth. Some of our Year 8 students also took part in the Carlisle Music and Drama Festival. It is fantastic to see so many student involved in extra-curricular activities.

You may have heard that the BBC were in school recently, filming a documentary which will feature some of our Year 8 students. We can't say too much about this at the moment but all will become clear in 2019.

Miss Atkinson

Year 9

Whilst it now seems a long time ago, you will remember that in the last Bulletin the World of Work day was mentioned. I am delighted to say that your children impressed all our guests, who commented on their positive attitudes, excellent behaviour and on how smart they were (a gentle reminder here to say please do keep supporting us with our uniform policy as there are some short Lycra skirts making an appearance again).

Options are of course the most important issue at the moment and the students were all very attentive in the series of assemblies which outlined and explained this important process. I would like to thank you for the high turnout at the Year 9 Parents'/Options Evening. As explained at the time, the school will do its best to guide students, listen to and if possible, act upon any concerns that parents and carers have. Our pastoral programme for the next term will see students working on career advice and guidance put together by Mr Greenwood.

Attendance is still one of the areas that could improve and it is important to remember that prospective employers are always interested in a student's attendance, hence the need to aim high. Indeed, it is also important to note that lower attendance has been proved to be an important factor in students not achieving their full potential.

Mrs McBride

Year 10

During registration this term students have been working on their advocacy skills by debating and discussing how to make academic progress through developing a growth mindset.

Year 10 Parents' Evening is scheduled for Thursday 26 April where you will have the opportunity to discuss with subject teachers what progress has been made and what needs to be done for further progress. Ultimately, we are working towards the Year 10 mock exams that begin Monday 30 April (students should have received the exam timetable in registration, and it is also on the Diary page of the school website). It is good to hear from some students that their registration activities have motivated them to start revising. Good attendance is a contributing factor to academic success and it is positive to see Year 10 attendance rising over Spring term.

The Inter-form Chess competition has now reached the semi-final stage.

Year 10 Homework Club is every Thursday lunchtime in R13 where students have the opportunity to do their homework. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Clarke

Year 11

This is a tricky time for Year 11s; the mock exams in November feel like so long ago and the real exams still feel a long way off so it can be hard to stay motivated. Despite this, many students are engaging with revision in a very positive way; they are listening to the advice and feedback of their teachers and beginning to understand the importance of planning their time. The second edition of the Year 11 Newsletter has been posted and includes lots of information about staying motivated as well as information about upcoming events, including the Year 11 Prom. A Prom Committee made up of students and staff is being put together. Remember, Prom is a reward and a privilege, not a right. It's important that students remember the focus must be on the exams, not just the Prom! As always, staff are here to support at this challenging time, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you are concerned.

Just a Note...

We are asking parents/carers to write a short note of encouragement to their children. The note does not need to be long and could include telling them how proud you are, recognising how hard they have worked, reassuring them that it's not too late to start and that they have your support and backing. Please send the note to office@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk marked 'Just a Note' in the subject,

post to Caldew School, Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7NN or hand in to Main Reception. We will be handing the notes out to students during a special assembly and are aiming for every Year 11 student to have one to open so your support is vital.

Ms Brownlee

Year 12

Following the mock exams Year 12s have been reviewing their grades with Form Tutors. This is a crucial time for them to iron out difficulties and to seek the help that they need. Mr James and I have identified students who need some extra help with mentoring. Mentors have been assigned, so that more formal guidance is in place for these students.

During registration time, tutor groups have had one session per week using computers in the Curve to help students identify opportunities for work experience in the last week of the Summer term (starting Monday 16 July). Students are encouraged to seek out a work experience place to broaden their CV when applying for jobs, apprenticeships or university places.

Half-term saw some of our students particularly busy; Rebecca McAdam undertook a work experience with Story Construction - she took the placement even though it was at short notice. Megan Busby, long jumper extraordinaire, was training in Spain and she has since been congratulated by John Stevenson on gaining a place at the Athlete Academy of Sporting Excellence. Dan Betts completed a week shadowing members of the Green Spaces Team after gaining a place on the Dream Placement Scheme earlier this year.

Year 12 Reading Champions have been busy with their mentees lower down the school. The scheme takes place during registration with all participating students gaining valuable experiences.

Congratulations go to the Young Enterprise team who have gone through to the next round of the competition following the event on Saturday 10 March in the centre of Carlisle, where they were runners up. Particular mention was made of the excellent customer service and approachable staff on the stall that day. We wish them luck in the next round.

Mrs Hill

Year 13

It has been a busy few weeks; the mock exams are now out of the way and students are getting their results back. It is important to remember that they are an indicator of where they are now and students should not be too disappointed if they are not where they need to be. I have had many chats regarding this and it does highlight the importance of a systematic approach to revision. The results should also identify areas of strength as well as specific areas that need additional work. The school website and exam board websites are great tools to use to access materials for the upcoming exams, and subject teachers can signpost appropriate resources and revision guides to help with this preparation.

Students going to university are now in the process of accepting their university offers and applying for student finance and accommodation. Students looking to do apprenticeships are completing application forms and attending interviews.

I have arranged for some personal finance lessons in the coming weeks to cover topics such as budgeting, borrowing money and ID fraud to help prepare students for the world of work and living independently. It is going to be a stressful few weeks as coursework deadlines are approaching and the countdown is now on until the exams start in May. The best way for students to deal with this is to prioritise their work and use their study lessons productively in order to keep on top of their workload and my advice is smile your way through it, it will be the summer soon!

Mrs Tate