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Aspire Believe Achieve

November 2018

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. 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, 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. Year 11 students have been given advice on different revision techniques that they can use to help them prepare for their mock examinations.

News

School Performance Tables

In August our students received their GCSE and A level results and we were very proud and delighted that they achieved the best results the school has ever had. This included significant improvements in the GCSE results in Maths, Science and History. These three subjects were mentioned in the OFSTED report and the results showed that improvements have already been made in these areas. The provisional 2018 school performance tables have now been published by the Department for Education and these confirm the improvements in our exam results. Our Progress 8 score is positive. Progress 8 measures the performance of students across eight subjects including Maths, English, three EBacc and three other subjects. Our Attainment 8 score which is the average grade across the same eight subjects is above both national and Cumbrian averages. Our EBacc points score is also above both national and Cumbrian averages. This is the average grade achieved by students in Maths, English, two science subjects, a humanities and a language. The Performance Tables can be viewed at www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables

Sixth Form Applications

As part of the advice and guidance given to students, Year 11s have received a presentation about their options in the Sixth Form and what Caldew can offer. The courses offered, extra-curricular opportunities and issues such as the different types of qualifications were all explained to the students. They were given a subject survey form to complete which had to be returned to Student Services by Monday 12th November. This will help to create a final subject choice form which matches as many students' choices as possible. The survey sheet was sent home with an explanation sheet so that parents and guardians could be involved.

The next step in finding out about what students want to do is the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 24th January 2019. At this event, students and parents will be able to talk to individual teachers about the specifics of the A level courses on offer. This is the best way to have particular questions about subjects answered by the subject teachers. Even if students know what they want to do, they should attend to gain as much information as possible. In the meantime if anyone has any questions, please contact Mr James, our Head of Sixth Form, at allanjames@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk who will either answer your query or point you towards the relevant member of staff.

Caldew Musical - 'Oliver'

Over sixty students from Years 7 to 13 took part in this year's school musical 'Oliver'. Students and staff worked very hard to put on two matinee performances for primary schools (Cummersdale, St Michael's and Burgh by Sands Schools) and two evening performances in the week before half term. The talented cast was ably supported by the School Orchestra and everyone who came to see this performance was impressed by the talent shown by our students and staff. Everyone involved has shown great commitment including regularly rehearsing at weekends, after school and during lunchtimes. Kelvin Wallace played a fantastic Fagin, Caroline Wiles was enchanting as Nancy, Nathan Coulson a scary and mean Bill Sykes and Harley Cleminson was perfectly cast as Artful Dodger. The students worked so hard on their polished performances and were a joy to watch. A special mention has to go to Hughie Watt-Lee in Year 7, who played the lead role of Oliver after just a few weeks at Caldew. Congratulations to everyone involved for such a successful event!

Charity Concert

The Caldew Choir performed at a special charity night raising money for fellow student Alice Tyson. Alice has XP (Xeroderma Pigmentosum), has undergone many operations and will continue to have many more in the future. The charity event at Harraby Catholic Club raised over £2,000 on the evening with a number of performers taking part. The Caldew Choir sang three songs from their musical 'Oliver' and went down a storm! Mark Winter, organiser of the event said: "Just to say a very big thank you to you for helping me with the charity show for Alice. The choir were fantastic, and everybody was saying that they really enjoyed their performance, not only a great choir but the kids were great and I am sure that they also had a great night. They are a credit to Caldew School." Money can still be donated to Alice's fund at any Cumberland Building Society

Attendance

Our attendance for the first half term was 96%. This is a pleasing consistent trend in our attendance. Thank you for supporting our school community in raising attendance. We aim for every student to sustain and improve their attendance up to Christmas. As the winter season approaches, we ask you to continue encouraging high attendance. When considering your child's attendance, something to take into account is whether you would take a day off work for the same ailment. With the changes to the curriculum, high attendance is vital to ensure maximum progress. Last academic year we discussed with students that one day off results in five hours of learning missed. This academic year our focus is one day off means five hours of learning to catch up. Teachers will give great support to ensure no student is left behind but students need to take responsibility to ensure that they attend and achieve. In December Year 11 begin their GCSE mock examinations. There is a clear link between attendance and attainment. If you have any queries about attendance, please contact our Attendance Officer.

Senior Awards Evening

We celebrated the success of our students in Year 12 and Year 13 at our Annual Senior Awards Evening on 31st October. These are the students who got their GCSE and AS examination results in August. This is always a lovely evening where we get to celebrate how well students have done with their parents. The evening was attended by the Mayor of Carlisle, Jessica Riddle. It was lovely to meet her and she was very supportive of our students.

Caldew Friends and Family Association

The AGM took place in October. The Chair thanked all the committee for their support throughout the year. Last year, contributions were made to Christmas Rewards Party £100, Gymnastics Team for new leotards £441.69, sets for plays/drama events £450.00, Prom Committee £100 (2017 and 2018) and a special protective top for Alice Tyson £58.50. We also found a sponsor for a new football kit.

The committee are still looking for more help with events and activities. Our next major event is bag packing at Morrison Supermarket on Sunday 16th December. We are looking for parents and students to help on the day for a maximum of two hours.

The Co-op has chosen Caldew Friends and Family to be a local cause for 2018/2019. All money raised will go towards new equipment for the students to use in school and extra-curricular activities. When members buy Co-op branded products and services, the Co-op will give 1% to a local cause. Please make us your chosen cause by going online – visit www.coop.co.uk/membership. If you can support us with fundraising, sponsorship or help with activities we would love to hear from you – email Cheryl.Eastburn@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk or call (01228) 710044.

Rewards Parties

We are now in our second year of our themed Rewards Parties. The next ones are coming up on Thursday 20th December. Thank you for all the contributions we have had so far but we still need more. We are looking for donations eg chocolate coins, selection boxes, candy canes or tubes of sweets for prizes. Donations can be handed in at reception for the attention of Cheryl Eastburn.

Information

Keeping in Touch

Apart from the Headteacher bulletins 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 for example our Learners of the Week, sports, performing arts and 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 we also have a weekly e-news that you can subscribe to by clicking on the homepage of the website. Text messages are sent out regularly so please ensure that we have your current 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

Students that cycle to school should exit the school premises directly onto the cycle path via the gate at the rear of the Agriculture block. This is a safer way for them to access the village and join the Carlisle road away from buses, pedestrians and other road users. The gate to the cycle path will also be open each morning and students should enter the school via this route rather than from the front of school. We also strongly encourage students to wear cycle helmets. As we move into the darker mornings and evenings, please ensure students wear appropriate bright/high visibility clothing and their bikes are fitted with lights.

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

Thursday 29th November - Year 10 Parents' Evening

Sunday 2nd December - Light Up a Life Service

Our choir will once again be performing at the Light Up a Life Service at Hospice at Home

Tuesday 4th December - Year 11 Work Ready Day

Wednesday 5th to Monday 17th December - Year 11 Mock Exams

Students have received an exam timetable. A second week of mock exams is planned in February to cover the topics students have not yet finished studying.

Wednesday 12th December - Year 13 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 18th December - Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas concert will take place in St Michael's Church. Tickets will be available from the School Reception.

Thursday 20th December – Rewards Events

Friday 21st December – Last day of Autumn Term

Monday 7th January – First day of Spring Term

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

Ms Vicki Jackson

Headteacher

Vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Year Group Messages

Year 7

It is hard to believe that Year 7 are already into their second half term at Caldew. The students have settled into secondary school routines very confidently. Attendance for the year group is good and students with 100% attendance were congratulated in assembly at the end of the half term. Teachers are very complimentary about the enthusiasm and hard work of the students and the year group has an impressive number of achievement points – nearly 5000 at the time of writing.

Year 7 students are fully involved in the school and I was so impressed to see many Year 7 students helping at our Open Evening at the end of September and taking part in Caldew's Musical. There have also been a number of sporting successes including Miss Hayton and Mrs Vaudrey's form who were the winners of the inter-form netball competition.

During form time, students have learnt about resilience and are considering 'smart moves' that they can make. This term our focus is on friendships and taking care of one another. We have also watched a drama production called 'Feel the Hate' which discussed hate crime and students participated maturely and responded in a sensitive and thoughtful way.

Mrs McGuinness

Year 8

We would like to take this opportunity to say how happy we are to be working with Year 8 for the rest of the academic year. We have heard so many great things about the year group and it's fantastic to be working with them on a day-to-day basis celebrating their successes and helping them through more challenging times. Year 8 have already had a brilliant start to the year with 3686 achievement points to date. We have also had members of the year group representing the School Council in staff meetings, being selected for the County Netball Team, representing the school's sports teams and making superb first impressions on their new teachers.

Undoubtedly Year 8 is not going to be without its difficulties and we hope that our students will be supportive of their friends and kind to those around them. They have an excellent support network at Caldew with their Form Tutors, Heads of Year and the Pastoral Team so we would encourage students to speak to staff if ever they have any concerns.

In a recent assembly we spoke to Year 8 about working together as a team – to be proud of their own achievements and to celebrate the successes of those around them. We look forward to sharing these with you throughout the year!

Miss Capstick & Mrs Macfarland

Year 9

It has certainly been a busy first half term. The highlight being our visit to Lockerbie Manor. 60 students and eight members of staff took part in a range of challenging outdoor activities during a weekend of persistent, torrential rain - this added to the fun! It was great to see students getting stuck in, crawling through mud and water, cheering each other on as they overcome their fears on the high ropes and climbing wall but also being super-competitive in the rifles and archery. The students' behaviour was fantastic and a real credit to Caldew School. Hopefully happy memories have been made - we certainly won't forget the weather!

It was lovely to see our students in the choir perform in a charity event and Alice Tyson sang a beautiful solo which impressed us all. Our Music and Drama students also performed in the school production of Oliver which was outstanding. Well done to all involved.

There has been an excellent turn out of Year 9 students on the rugby and hockey fields - showing commitment to teams and aspiring to be the best that they can.

Year 9 also has a visit from a member of the Police and Crime Commission who spoke to them about the consequences of anti-social behaviour. Our students engaged well, offering excellent answers to the questions posed.

Our theme this year is being kind - something that everyone can do. 'You may not be able to change the world but you can change the world for one person' #bekind

Miss Atkinson

Year 10

To begin, a big thank you to parents for attending the Tutor Evening and a reminder that if you were unable to attend, you can still contact your child's Form Tutor. The next date for your diary is Parents' evening which is on Thursday 29th November. Your child will make appointments for you so let them know times between 17:30 and 20:00 that are the most convenient for you. It is a great opportunity to discuss your child's current progress with subject teachers.

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, by far exceeding behaviour logs. The Learning Gateway is a good way to see how well your child is doing. If you do not have access to it, please get in touch and we will be happy to help you with this.

Homework is set on a regular basis by all staff and is completed by most students; however some students are struggling with this. To support our students, I have started a Homework Club at lunchtimes in room B3 so please encourage your child to come along. Homework should be logged in planners so could I ask that you check your child's planner and sign it on a regular basis.

Thank you for your continued support with uniform, I am very proud when I walk around the school and see the students looking so smart.

Mr McArdle

Year 11

It does not seem like a whole year has passed since we began our GCSE journey. With approximately 21 school weeks until the GCSEs begin it is essential that every student is focused on thriving and achieving so that they can proudly move on to their post-16 option. Every student has been challenged in their GCSE year to have 100% attendance as it is proven high attendance is a major factor in contributing to high achievement. The GCSE mock exams run 5th to 17th December. Students should take full advantage of revision sessions offered by teachers. Students have been revising during form time and assisted in making revision timetables. Every subject should be included and please encourage them to stick to their timetable. We continue to celebrate our year group success in our weekly assemblies including Head of Year Learner of the Week. The GCSE year is a challenging year but with plenty of positive preparation and planning students will be rewarded with fantastic results. Thank you.

Mr Clarke

Year 12

After a hectic start to the year in terms of finalising subject choices, Year 12s have settled down to their studies. Making the step up to Sixth Form study is a big one but the year group have made a really positive start so far this year and are doing well with their work. As well as their studies, many students have got involved with wider activities such as the National Citizenship Scheme (NCS), the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Young Enterprise, the school musical and play as well as mentoring and supporting younger students. Taking these opportunities is not only rewarding in itself but also shows a real interest in becoming involved in the wider community which always looks good on university personal statements and applications for jobs and apprenticeships. I am sure Year 12 will build on this positive start so that they enjoy the fruits of their hard work in their exam results in the summer.

Mr James

Year 13

Learner of the week has been a feature of life at Caldew School for over a year now. Teachers nominate students in their classes and then the Head of Year passes one nomination to the Headteacher. There have been several weeks now when teachers have emailed me to say that they would like to nominate their class every week as the students are so committed and are working so well together. What a great endorsement of the year group!

The aim in Year 13 is quite clear for most of the students – get what is needed for the next stage in their lives. We are committed to enabling them to do this too. Many of the students have chosen courses that they would like to complete at university and are busy writing personal statements to send off. Personal Tutors and the Sixth Form Team are sifting through these to make sure that they give the best impression possible. Subject Teachers are writing references which are then passed on to Personal Tutors and these will form the basis of the reference sent off to the universities.

For those who are not applying to university, I am in the process of arranging for Wendy Lawson our INSPIRA contact to come into school to advise students where to get information about apprenticeships and how to start this process.

Mrs Hill

If you would like to contact us about any issues relating to Sixth Form, please get in touch via email: c.hill@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk or allanjames@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk