



Where every student is successful today and prepared for tomorrow
Aspire Believe Achieve

November 2019

Dear Parents /Carers

This has already been a busy and eventful half term. Not only have the staff and students been hard at work in lessons but we have had the School Musical, Year 11 Work Ready Day, numerous sporting events and a breakdown of our heating system! I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to parents and carers for the inconvenience caused when we had to close the school. The decision was taken because of a significant leak in a water pipe that meant we were unable to heat the school. This problem has now been fixed.

This half term is a busy one and there are still plenty of things taking place across the school. Not only is this the longest half term at eight weeks, but it is the time of the year when it gets darker and colder and inevitably, we all get tired. It is important to remember that time never comes back and we all need to keep focused on trying to be the best we can be.

Year 11 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 of what they achieved. The provisional 2019 School Performance Tables have now been published by the Department for Education. Our Progress 8 score is, for the second year running, the best across the city's schools. Progress 8 measures the performance of students across eight subjects including Maths, English, three EBacc subjects and 3 other subjects.

Performance Tables can be viewed at www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables

Caldew Musical

Sixty students from Years 7 to 13 took part in this year's school musical. Students and staff worked very hard putting on a matinee performance for St. Michael's primary school and two evening performances before half term. Everyone who came to see this performance was impressed by the talent shown by our students and staff. All those involved showed great commitment by regularly rehearsing at weekends, after school and during lunchtimes.

Congratulations to everyone involved for such a successful event.

Library - Kids Lit Quiz

After two rounds of intensive in-school heats and several weeks of quiz practice, our team of four Year 7 & 8 students journeyed with Mrs Bell to Nelson in Lancashire on Monday 11th November to represent Caldew School at the North West England heat of the International Kids Lit Quiz, competing against 20 other schools from the region. There were ten rounds of quick fire questions, with topics covering everything from Hercules to the Hunger Games, with plenty in between! While we weren't successful in reaching the national finals in London on this occasion, the team did brilliantly, were impeccable representatives of the school, and an excellent time was had. Well done Holly, Olivia, Tom and Harry. Special thanks also to Noah also for standing by as reserve team member.

Caldew Friends and Family Association

A big thank you to the Friends and Family Association for all their support to the school. So far this year the committee has agreed to fund:

- Games Club £100
- 2 visualisers for Geography £222
- Indoor Netball posts £250
- 10 x body pump equipment sets £400
- A cup for Carlisle Music Festival in memory of Ingrid Messenger £120.

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.

Attendance

Caldew School's overall attendance was above national figures for the academic year 2018/19 and the highest of local Carlisle schools. The week starting Monday 11th November was School Attendance Matters (SAM) Week. During this week students were engaged in discussions about why school attendance matters and the impact missing school has on enjoying it and on academic progress.

For your child to attend Attendance Catch-up Club please contact your child's Head of Year. Attendance Catch-up Club is held on Tuesday and Thursday 3:10 - 4:10pm.

At the end of this term, students will be awarded a certificate if their attendance for the term has been above 95%.

If you have any questions regarding attendance, please ask our school Attendance Officer, Mrs Richardson.

East Cumbria Family Support Association

This organisation are seeking to recruit more volunteers. Please contact them if you are able to help.

East Cumbria Family Support Association
Registered Charity No: 1085861



Please can you help us in:

Carlisle

Eden

Allerdale?

Cumbria Family Support has been providing help to local families for 26 years, and in the current climate the need for family support is greater than ever. Our Home Support service matches volunteers with families who have young children who are experiencing difficulties relating to health or disability, emotional wellbeing or parenting. Volunteers visit usually for a couple of hours each week to give practical and emotional support. Training and ongoing individual and group support is given to volunteers, and travel expenses paid.

If you are interested, or know of anybody who may be interested in helping support families with young children and have a few hours to spare each week, we'd love to hear from you. We already have many fantastic volunteers doing a wonderful job, but the demand for our service is great so we're keen for more people to join us. Whether you are retired and looking for a new interest, young and wanting to gain experience, or 'somewhere in between', supporting families can help to make a real difference in our community.

If you'd like to know more, please contact a Family Support Coordinators on:

Dan Nicholson (Carlisle) 01228 227 348

Sarah Craig (Eden) 01768 593 102

Val McQuillin (Workington) 01768 593 102

Careers Information Advice and Guidance

Recently we held our Work Ready Day for Year 11 with 32 businesses and organisations supporting us. During the morning, students took part in workshops including CV Writing, application forms, team building, effective communication and interview skills. In the afternoon, each student had a "mock interview" with a local employer and received feedback to develop their interview skills for the future. We have received many favourable comments from the businesses and organisations that attended last week. They all said what wonderful students we have at Caldew and how hard they worked and concentrated throughout the day.

Here are some of the comments:

"Some incredibly good answers and focussed students ... I would happily hire any of them."

"The students I met were brilliant! Very mature, polite with well-prepared answers."

"Once again I have really enjoyed taking part in this event. Your students have been a credit to you. Count me in for next year."

We would like to thank the many employers who support us not just on the Work Ready Day but all our careers events.

As part of our careers programme Year 11 have had a number of assemblies regarding their options for the future. We are currently working with Inspira to offer each student a careers progression plan and hold a careers drop-in on Friday lunchtimes for any student to access.

As part of the School's Career Guidance Year 12 and 13 visited Northumbria University for a tour of the campus and participated in workshops. They also visited the University and Apprenticeship Careers Fair at Newcastle United.

If you can support us with our careers programme, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Cheryl Eastburn (Cheryl.Eastburn@Caldew.Cumbria.sch.uk).

Information

Keeping in Touch

Apart from the Headteacher monthly bulletin 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 in school. This includes 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 and we also have a Facebook page. Text messages are sent out regularly so please ensure that we have your most up to date 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 will enable them to gain access to the village at a safer point, or 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 I would encourage students to 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

Year 10 Parents' Evening

This takes place on Thursday 28th November from 5:30 – 8:00pm. Students have been given forms and should be making appointments with their teachers.

Year 11 Mock Exams

These run from Monday 2nd to Wednesday 18th December. Students have been given an exam timetable.

Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas concert will take place on Tuesday 17th December at St Michael's Church. Tickets are available from the school reception.

Rewards Events

These will take place on Thursday 19th December to celebrate students who have impressed their teachers with their achievements over the course of the autumn term.

Last Day of Term

The last day of term is Friday 20th December when school will close at 1:15pm. Buses have been ordered and students who are picked up will need to be collected at this time. School restarts on Tuesday 7th January.

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. The year group has a good rate of attendance and many students are awarded achievement points for 100% attendance. In total, Year 7 has an impressive number of achievement points – nearly 4500 at the time of writing.

Our students are fully involved in the school and I was so impressed to see many Year 7 students helping at our Open Evening in September and taking part in Caldew's Musical. There has also been a number of sporting successes and a wonderful team of students took part in the annual Kids' Lit quiz. Additionally, well done to students who volunteered to help Mr Atkinson and Mr Senior with tree planting last week.

During form time, students have learnt about resilience and are considering 'smart moves' that they can make. Form tutors are also presenting '7 Stars' award to a student in their form and we celebrate this each week in assembly along with our Learner of the Week. Thank you also to parents and carers for continuing to check and sign their child's planner every week, we are very grateful to you for all your support.

Mrs McGuiness

Year 8

Thank you to all the parents who attended the tutor evening in October – we really appreciate your support and we hope that you found the evening useful. As always, you are welcome to contact your child's form tutor at any time if you have any queries or concerns. We also appreciate hearing about your child's successes outside of school.

Attendance in Year 8 has been consistently good over the past few weeks – A big congratulations to Ms Hayton and Mr Verry's form who have made a huge improvement – moving from 6th to 1st in the form attendance race!

During registration time, Year 8 students have been taking part in literacy activities, a weekly quiz and a form challenge. Congratulations to Miss Adam's form who were champions of the challenge – having consistently handed in their results each week showing determination and team work to work out the problems. Mr Sharpe's class were the only ones to successfully work out the maths challenge.....

Our Year 8 students have been excelling on the sports field – the girls qualified for the County hockey final after beating schools from North Cumbria. A number of students have been selected for county hockey and netball squads and the city football team.

Finally, 45 students and 5 members of staff had a fantastic weekend in Lockerbie at the beginning of November and believe it or not, the weather was fantastic!! Students took part in a number of new and challenging activities including climbing, blind obstacle course and fencing. Although the weather was warm, the lake temperature wasn't as Mr Garbett and Miss Adam – along with a number of our students found out when they unfortunately fell from their paddle boards! It was great to see our Year 8s working together on the crate stacking challenge and conquering their fear of heights on the zip wire and Jacob's ladder.

We're looking forward to another successful half term up to Christmas.

Miss Atkinson

Year 9

It has been a delight to get to know the Year 9 students this term, as well to be part of such a close community of students and tutors. I am thoroughly enjoying working with Mrs Macfarland in leading the year group through such an important phase in their lives, and already we are feeling immensely proud of their efforts and achievements. We have seen our musically talented students take to the stage in the spectacular performance of 'Caldew the Musical'. We have also had some superb displays

of dedication from our sportsmen and sportswomen this term, in a variety of home and away fixtures. It really is impressive to see so many of our students making the most out of all of the opportunities on offer here at Caldew.

Mrs Macfarland has been continuing her work in assemblies focusing on developing positive relationships and has been working with a dedicated team of ABC- Mentors to continue our commitment to effectively deal with bullying and promote our values of kindness and respect. Meanwhile, I have been leading on the weekly personal development activities in form times, as well as our new initiative, 'Brain boost', designed to get our students reflecting on their own learning and boosting their brain-power in the process!

Thinking ahead; it is important to note that the Year 9 internal exams will take place during the first week of the spring term. In the coming weeks teachers will advise students about how best to prepare for these. We would encourage all of Year 9 to listen attentively to any advice given and to plan their study time carefully. This way, students can have the satisfaction of feeling fully prepared for their exams whilst also enjoying a well-deserved, relaxing, festive break!

Miss Morrison

Year 10

Year 10 have had a positive start to the academic year. I am pleased with their focus on their GCSEs; good and improving attendance will also be key to making rapid progress in their studies.

This half term during tutor time students will be looking at two topics. The first is 'Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul'. Students will be reading this book with their form and discussing the stories. The second topic is 'LOUD Speakers' in which students will debate contemporary themes.

'50 things to do in Year 10 at Caldew School' aims to bolster learning and for students to apply some of the theory to real life. This is an optional challenge to run all academic year but many students have completed some of the challenges already. For example, leading part of a lesson.

It is important for students to maintain high standards in all aspects of Caldew School Community including the uniform dress code.

Teachers look forward to meeting with you Thursday 28 November at Parents Evening to discuss your child's academic progress. Thank you for your support

Mr Clarke

Year 11

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 for information.

GCSE mock exams start on 2nd December and students should take full advantage of revision sessions offered by teachers. Students have been revising during form time and assisted to make revision timetables. Every subject should be included and please encourage them to stick to their timetable. A Year 11 newsletter has been emailed home to parents giving details of how you can support students at home with revision, if you did not receive this, please get in touch.

Homework is an important part of preparing students for GCSE's and is set on a regular basis by all staff and is completed by most students; however some students are still struggling with this. Students are able to complete homework in school during lunchtime in B3 and after school in The Curve. Homework should be logged in planners so could I ask that you check your child's planner and sign it on a regular basis.

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.

Mr McArdle

Year 12

Following the theme of careers information advice and guidance, Year 12 students have been to a higher education fair at Newcastle organised by Miss Eastburn. The fair gave them access to information about individual universities as well as information about apprenticeships in various sectors.

At the start of this term the students also took place in a workshop delivered by Nahla Summers of www.engaging.works. During the workshop, the students signed up to the website which gives access to quizzes and surveys and gave them insight into suitable career paths along with help to write a CV. I have asked students to start thinking about a work experience in a relevant field. Work experience week is the week starting Monday 13th July. Students need to find a work experience themselves but tutors will be on hand to give help and advice.

If you need to get in touch, form tutors are the first port of call: Mrs Hodgkison, Mr Johnston or Mrs Robinson. Otherwise you can get in touch with Mr James (AllanJames@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk) or Mrs Hill (c.hill@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk)

Year 13

Learner of the Week has been a feature of life at Caldew School for over a year now. Teachers nominate students 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 are the best that they can be. 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 and advise students where to get information about apprenticeships and how to start the process.

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 or allanjames@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk