



*Aspire Believe Achieve*

September 2018

Dear Parents /Carers

I would like to wish you all a warm welcome back to the new school year. An especially warm welcome goes to our new Year 7 parents and to those families whose children have joined us in other year groups. The relationship between students, parents and teachers is fundamental to students achieving their potential and I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with you and your child over the coming year.

We are delighted to be starting the year celebrating the best exam results the school has ever achieved. At GCSE we saw significant improvements, including an increase in those students achieving the highest grades. It was also really pleasing to see good results in History and the Science subjects as both these were identified in the OFSTED report last term. In fact, we feel that had we got these examination results before the inspection then we would have been able to show the inspectors the improvements that had been made and we would have received a better judgement.

We are very proud of our students' achievements in their GCSE examinations. It is especially true this year where there have been even more changes to the examination system, including students having to sit more exams than ever before, the removal of controlled assessments and the introduction of the new grading system across a wide range of subjects. Despite these changes, we are very pleased with our results that are a testament to our students' dedication, resilience and hard work

Yours faithfully

Ms Vicki Jackson

Headteacher

Vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

## **News**

### **Exam Results**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our students on their achievements, which are the culmination of years of hard work and study. It was lovely on both results days in August to see so many happy students.

GCSE – Our students achieved the best results the school has ever seen with improvements across many areas. The number of students achieving in Maths and English remains strong; the percentage of students achieving the new grade 4 or above in both these important subjects increased and is likely to be above the national average. Results in the Science subjects were very strong. We are expecting our Science results to be above the national average for the percentage of students achieving two subjects at grade 4 or above. There was also a significant improvement in the percentage of students achieving two subjects at grade 7 or above and this will be at least in line with the national average. The significant improvements in History and results in this subject will be in line with national figures. We were delighted to see the number of our students who achieved the top grades of 7, 8 and 9 increase and as a comprehensive school we are also proud to see that every student will leave with at least 5 or more passes. Results in a whole range of subjects were good, including Music, Drama, Business Studies, System and Religion Philosophy and Ethics.

However we are not complacent and there remains work to be done to ensure every Caldew student realises their potential. I am very ambitious for our students and I have high expectations of what they can achieve.

A level – The schools has a strong track record when it comes to A level results. This year our students did even better and once again, we have seen an improvement in the average grade per entry. We are particularly pleased that a third of our students achieved at least one grade A.

Congratulations should go to all the Year 13 students on their A Level results. All students achieved the grades they needed to move onto their choice of university, higher level apprenticeship or into jobs with training.

### **New Staff**

As always at the start of a new academic year there have been some changes of staff and I would like to welcome the following new teachers to Caldew School:

Mrs J Moody	Head of Modern Foreign Languages
Miss Kaali	Drama teacher
Mrs Wamsley	Cover Supervisor

### **PE News**

#### **Congratulations Jack!**

Congratulations to Jack Smith who attended the Swim England National Summer Meet over the summer holidays and won Gold in the 200m breaststroke. He had a great swim in the heat, knocking 2 seconds off his personal best, then knocked a further 4 seconds off in the final. We are really proud of his achievement. Well done Jack!

#### **Games Night is Back!**

The PE department introduced Games Night to make extracurricular sport available to all our students. This takes place every Tuesday night and a free bus is available to take students back to Carlisle at 4:30pm. Students should sign up in advance by 1:00pm on Mondays at the PE office if they wish to take the bus. The exact activities at present are:

- Football
- Rugby
- Gymnastics
- Hockey

With fixtures taking place on Wednesday and Thursday nights along with various other after-school activities, we hope that this approach will enable as many students as possible to participate. The games on offer will change as the year progresses and the weather and hours of daylight change.

### **Information**

#### **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 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)
- Parents picking up students from the Sports Hall Car Park need to park in a designated parking space either by 3:00pm or wait until the buses have departed at 3:20pm
- We do stop cars from leaving the Sports Hall Car Park until all the buses have left. To ensure students safety, no cars should be moving through the car park when students are walking through it to reach their buses
- 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.

### **Applying for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants**

At the end of last term, Cumbria County Council launched an online application for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants. This can be found via the Citizen's portal, at this link:

[https://emsonline.cumbria.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal\\_LIVE](https://emsonline.cumbria.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal_LIVE)

Free school meals and clothing vouchers are available if parents/guardians are receiving one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- An income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided parents/guardians are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that as of April 2012 does not exceed £16,190. Note: From 1st May 2009 where recipients are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after employment ceases, or after start to work less than 16 hours per week, your children are entitled to Free School Meals, this may be extended.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- Universal Credit;
- Children who receive Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive Free School Meals;
- Children who receive "education suitable for children who have not attained compulsory school age" will still need to satisfy the additional requirement of "receiving education both before and after the lunch period", before being eligible to receive free school meals.

### **Attendance**

At Caldew School we believe that attending school regularly is an essential foundation for enjoying school and successful learning because it helps to prepare students for the world of work and adult life. Therefore, we expect every student to attend school and to be punctual.

We are proud that our attendance last academic year reached at 95%. This is almost 1% higher than the previous academic year and is an outstanding milestone for our school community; a milestone that every member of our school community should be proud of and one that we aim to sustain this academic year.

The prestigious Diamond Attendance Certificate for 100% attendance for the whole academic year was awarded to 87 students at the Awards Day in July.

Students arriving to school after 08:4am will complete a 10 minute detention and you will be notified by text. Working in partnership with parents is part of Home/School Agreement found in the Student Planner and on the school website.

Please if you have any attendance-related questions contact, our Attendance Officer Mrs Richardson on 01228 710044 or send a text message to 07860 002 169. Thank you for supporting our aim of a school community with 100% attendance.

### **Holidays and Other Absences in Term Time**

I would like to remind parents as usual at this time of the year 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.*

### **Easter Holiday**

Please find attached the holiday dates for 2018-19. Please note that the school Easter holidays this academic year do not include Good Friday and Easter Monday.

### **Site Improvements**

Over the summer holidays we have made some improvements to the facilities in school. The boys' toilets on the main corridor have been completely refurbished. We have created a Sixth Form workroom with ICT facilities next to the Library to ensure our Sixth Form students have somewhere quiet to work. You may have also noticed that we have a new fence around the perimeter of the school site which increases security and will mean students will be able to use the school field in good weather. We were awarded a grant to pay for this fence and the money has not come from our school budget.

### **Caldew Friends and Family Association**

A group of parents set up the Caldew Friends and Family Association. The aims are to strengthen the partnership between parents and the school and to provide funds for "extras" that enrich and have an impact on our children's education.

You don't have to join the committee – we are also looking for support in the form of raffle prizes, help at events, or offers of your time in other small ways. Further information will be sent out to parents but if you would like to get involved please contact: [Caldewfriends@Caldew.cumbria.Sch.uk](mailto:Caldewfriends@Caldew.cumbria.Sch.uk) or contact Cheryl Eastburn on (01228) 710044.

### **Contacting Staff**

Communication with you as parents is the key to ensuring that together we can improve the outcomes for students. You can find the e-mail addresses on the dedicated staff page on the school website and they will normally respond to you within 24 hours. If you wish to speak to a member of staff then please contact the school's reception. As most staff teach the majority of the day, they may not be available to take a call. They will return calls as soon as is possible, although in some cases that may not be until the following day. I would encourage all parents to contact us as soon as you have any concerns or questions. Dealing with issues quickly means that they rarely become insurmountable. As always, if you have any concerns about how a matter has been dealt with please do contact myself, Mr Hammond or Mrs Atkinson directly and we will make every effort to address your concerns. In addition parents of students in the Sixth Form may want to contact Mr James (Head of Sixth Form) directly.

### **Twitter**

You can keep up with all the news and events that are taking place at school on our new Twitter account. If you are already signed up to Twitter, you can follow the feed at [@Caldew\\_School](https://twitter.com/Caldew_School)

You can also view the information by accessing a web address: [https://twitter.com/Caldew\\_School](https://twitter.com/Caldew_School)

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Tutor Evenings**

We have introduced Tutor Evenings this year so you can meet your child's Form Tutor and discuss their individual academic targets and how they have started the year. There have been national changes to the way GCSE exams are to be graded with the introduction of a 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest) grading system that replaces the A\*-G grades in a number of subjects. Student's targets have been set to reflect this new grading system and Form Tutors will be able to explain the new system to you at this evening. For Year 11 it will also provide an important opportunity to review where students are on their GCSE courses and how they can start the year in the most positive fashion possible. For Year 12 and 13 parents will be able to discuss students A level targets. It is also an opportunity for you to raise any other issues or concerns that you have. The dates for these evenings are:

- Years 7, 8 and 9                      Wednesday 10 October 5.30-8.00pm
- Years 10, 11, 12 and 13              Thursday 11 October 5.30-8.00pm

## Other Dates to Note

26/09/18	Year 13 Parents' Universities Talk (ALJ)
27/09/18	Year 6 Open Evening (staff 6.00pm, parents 6.30pm)
01/10/18 - 05/10/18	Year 6 Tours Available All Week
17/10/18 - 18/10/18	School Production - Oliver! (SKC)
31/10/18	Senior Awards Evening
05/11/18 - 09/11/18	School Attendance Matters Week (CDC)
29/11/18	Year 10 Parents' Evening

## Year Group Messages

### Year 7

After only a few days, Year 7 have settled into secondary school routines very well and have coped impressively with the transition from primary school to Caldew. Students look very smart in their new uniforms and are well equipped for lessons.

During Form Time, students are currently producing form charters and learning about the Year 7 Registration Programme which is based around Caldew School's vision and values. It is also very promising to see so many achievement points awarded to the students by their subject teachers.

Our first Year 7 Parents' Evening is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Parents and carers will have an opportunity to meet with form tutors to discuss how their child has settled into Caldew, find out about their child's targets and to ask any questions. Further details will be provided nearer the time and we look forward to seeing you then.

Mrs McGuiness

### Year 8

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Year 8 back to school following the summer break, it was great to see you in the assembly on the 5<sup>th</sup> September arriving so smartly and ready for another successful year at Caldew School.

Year 8 students are now no longer the 'new students' at school but students that the Year 7s will look up to as role models. I feel that the students in this year group certainly have the attributes to fulfil that role. For example, last year, Year 7 had the highest overall attendance of the school at 96% which was excellent, but could it go higher? I think a target of 96.5% this year is attainable. Also, Year 7 had the highest achievement logs last year - so another success that as a year group we should aim to repeat! With these achievements in mind, I'm certain that Year 8 students will be keen to represent the other students in their form by becoming School Council members; this gives the opportunity to work with staff and governors, promoting opinions and further developing Caldew School.

I would encourage all Year 8 students to try to take part in some form of extracurricular activity this year; this could range from being on a sports team, dancing, being involved in the many music and drama clubs, the School Council or going on the ski trip to name just a few. Becoming involved and trying out new things will lead to having an enriching year ahead. Go for it Year 8!

### Welcome to Year 9

How fantastic to see all of our Year 9 students looking so smart in their blazers – thank you to our parents and carers for supporting our new uniform policy. Having been back in school for two days, I am impressed with the enthusiasm of our students and the obvious determination to do well this year. In form time, students have had time to reflect on their successes last year and to set goals for the coming academic year – it was pleasing to see personal goals regarding improving attendance, getting homework done on time and striving to achieve and exceed academic targets. I have had the pleasure of visiting many Year 9 lessons over the past two days and the positive learning atmosphere in class is great to see.

In assembly this week, we discussed the importance of looking out for each other. This year, like any other, will no doubt have its ups and downs – as Ronan Keating sang – 'Life is a rollercoaster' – he wasn't wrong. In Year 9 we hope our students will support their friends and be kind to all, I have already seen many of our students helping out our new Year 7s. We are fortunate to have an amazing group of form tutors in Year 9 who will support your son/daughter throughout their time at Caldew – please do not hesitate to contact our team if you have any concerns or queries.

To put it simply Year 9; arrive to school every day, on time, fully equipped and wearing smart uniform. Try your best in lessons and be kind to others. It's going to be a good year and I look forward to working with you all.

Miss Atkinson

## **Year 10**

I am delighted to be coming back to school this September as the new Head of Year 10. Students have already made a superb start to the year and I have had many conversations with staff telling me they have noticed how focussed, mature and determined the students are. Attendance has been good and the students look so smart in their new blazers. Students are already collecting achievements within school for excellent effort and attitude and also outside school. I would like to add a special mention to Jack Smith for his success winning gold in the 200m breaststroke this summer in the Swim England National Meet. Well done Jack! Please let me know about achievements outside of school so we can share them with the year group.

Mr McArdle

## **Year 11**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 marked the start of the Year 11. We continue on our GCSE journey to learn and thrive. I have had many positive comments about how Year 11s have shown a positive attitude towards their achievements after returning from the summer holiday. The Year 11 Tutor team will continue to provide outstanding pastoral support to guide students through this academic year. The Year 11 Form programme this half term will look at resilience and Post-16 options. We have a challenging, but exciting year ahead of us. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to continue working with you this academic year.

Mr Clarke

## **6<sup>th</sup> Form**

Congratulations for working hard to get set of exam results to be proud of and welcome back for another round of working hard and achievement.

The A level results in the summer were very pleasing and enabled students to take up their first choice of university course or apprenticeship. For the present Year 12, coming into 6<sup>th</sup> Form with a fabulous set of results has meant that tutors have been able to facilitate the choosing of A level courses with relative ease. The 6<sup>th</sup> Form Team would like choices to be confirmed by the end of September and so any change to timetables need to be discussed and approved by Mr James before then.

Year 13 are in the midst of choosing their next steps and Mrs Hodgkinson and Mrs Robinson are on hand to help them. A personal statement needs to be written by all students. It is a good idea to consult subject teachers as well as form tutors. Students are invited to show drafts to teachers to get advice about wording and what to include.

## **Upcoming events**

Awards Evening is on 31<sup>st</sup> October, starting at 6:00pm and finishing at about 8:00pm. Nominees and their guests will be invited to celebrate achievement in the summer exams. Parents with students nominated for an award will receive an invitation to the event and will need to reply stating the number of guests so that we know the numbers to cater for.

UCAS presentation for Year 13; Mr James will be giving a talk on 26<sup>th</sup> September from 6:00pm to 7:00pm about applying to university. This will take place in the Theatre. The presentation will include advice about the process, partnership schemes, reduced offers and the finance aspect including bursaries.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries.

[AllanJames@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:AllanJames@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk)

[c.hill@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:c.hill@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk)

**CALDEW SCHOOL**  
**TERM DATES 2018-19**

**Autumn Term 2018**

STARTS      Wednesday 5th September                      ENDS   Friday 21 December

HALF TERM HOLIDAY      Monday 22 - Friday 26 October

Number of school days in term – 73

**Spring Term 2019**

STARTS      Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January                      ENDS   Friday 29 March

HALF TERM HOLIDAY      Monday 18 - Friday 22 February

Number of school days in term – 55

**Summer Term**

STARTS      Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April                      ENDS   Friday 19 July

Good Friday – 19 April

Easter Monday – 22 April

Early May Bank Holiday 6 May

HALF TERM HOLIDAY      Monday 27 - Friday 31 May

Number of school days in term – 62

**Total Number of days for students in year – 190**