



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

September 2019

Dear Parents /Carers

I am delighted to welcome back students, parents and staff 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. It is always lovely to see our students return to school after the summer holiday ready to engage with their learning and in smart uniform. It has been a great start to the new academic year and I am sure your children have come home tired after their first few days back, but I have been impressed with their positive attitude to learning. I have spent a lot my time in the first week going into lessons to see students and staff at work and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing a wide range of activities taking place and students concentrating fully on their learning. Our focus this year is to ensure all students at Caldew School continue to enjoy a high quality education and achieve the qualifications and skills that they need for the next stage in their lives, in a school where they feel valued and cared for. I believe 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.

## **News**

### **Exam Results**

GCSE – We are very pleased with our results and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our students on their achievements which are the culmination of five years of hard work and study. We are especially pleased with the high number of grade 9, 8 and 7s achieved by our students. There were many students who achieved outstanding results but a special mention has to go to Thomas Storey who achieved an amazing 8 grade 9s and 2 grade 8s.

The number of students who achieved in Maths and English remains strong and the percentage of students achieving a grade 4 or above in both these important subjects will again be in line with the anticipated national average. Science results improved for a second year and will be again above the national average. As a comprehensive school we are also proud to see that 99.5% of students leave with at least 5 or more passes. However, we are not complacent and there remains work to be done. I am very ambitious for our students and I have high expectations of what they can achieve.

At A level, the school's results maintained our strong record with improvements in many areas. Congratulations should go to all the Year 13 students on their A Level results. There were many standout results but a special mention goes to Robert Wilkins who is going to Oxford University to study History. All students achieved the grades they needed to move onto their choice of university 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:

Mr M Brown	Assistant Head of Science
Mrs P Golhar	Teacher of ICT
Ms K Hopley	Teacher of Law
Miss M Morfett-Murdock	Teacher of Geography
Mr D Verry	Teacher of Music
Mrs J Owens	Teacher of Maths (maternity cover)

We are also welcoming back Miss Brownlee (Head of Music), Mrs Dawson (Teacher of Science), Mrs Bainbridge (Teacher of English) and Mrs Nicholson (Teacher of PE) from their maternity leaves.

### **Red Box Project**

Last year, we became part of the Red Box Project. This means that girls are able to access sanitary towels, tampons etc. whenever they need them in school. The boxes are in the attendance office and Miss Nordon's office. Students don't need to ask; they can help themselves to whatever they need.

### **CEIAG Autumn Term**

#### What is CEIAG?

- CEIAG (Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance) is provided to all students in Years 7-13.
- Caldew School has been accepted as part of the "Cumbria Careers Hub". This will allow us to work with other schools, employers and advisors in Cumbria on our careers' provision.
- Partnership links have been set up with Inspira, The Local Enterprise Company, The Careers Enterprise Company, A county council Enterprise Advisor, Hello Future, Work Experience Advisor and The Job Centre.

#### What CEIAG can we look forward to in the Autumn Term?

- Year 11 World of Work Day on 20<sup>th</sup> November. This will involve a variety of workshops in the morning and one-to-one mock interviews with an employer in the afternoon.
- Assemblies – Students in Year 11 will have assemblies in October by Caldew Sixth Form, Inspira, Carlisle College, Newton Rigg and the University of Cumbria which will provide them with information and details about how to access the courses on offer.
- Year 12 and 13 will have the opportunity to visit Northumbria University in September to gain a glimpse of university life and learn about the courses they offer.
- Year 12 and 13 will also have the opportunity to visit the "Careers Convention" at St James' Park in October.
- Year 10 students who study Health and Social Care have had the opportunity to attend "The Blue Light Event" at the University of Cumbria.
- The careers platform "KUDOS" has been introduced to Years 7 – 13. Students can access this using their own username and password and it provides them with excellent information, advice and guidance on all careers.
- A new careers focus area has been set up in the curve for Years 7-13. The information here signposts students to further career information.
- "Careers News" is now a feature on the school newsletter and is also displayed on the school information screens.
- Social Media is also being used in the form of Twitter and Instagram as a means by which CEIAG information is given to students.
- Young Enterprise Programme - Year 12 students will be able to take part in the programme.
- Guest Speakers will join us throughout the Autumn Term from various careers to speak to students in all year groups about the world of work.

#### Where can I find more information on CEIAG in order to help my child?

The careers page on the school's website contains up-to-date information and advice for parents and students.

## **PE News**

### District Football

Congratulations to Lleyton Hall, Charlie Brown, Reece Cooney and Jack Sharpe who have all been selected to represent Carlisle School Boys this season.

### Football Boots

We highly recommend that all boys have a pair of football boots for PE lessons. When they are on the field in the winter it prevents injuries caused by slipping and twisting in sports like rugby and football. Please note that students in mixed-gender PE groups may not participate in these sports on the school field. It is recommended that a gum shield is also worn for rugby.

### 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
- 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.

Netball will take place on Thursdays

## **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 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)
- Parents picking up students from the Sports Hall Car Park need to park in a designated 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 Nestlés. 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 and from School**

We encourage students to cycle to and from school as this is a healthy and environmentally-friendly way for them to travel. However we want students to do this safely and we are very lucky that the cycle path along the river to Carlisle is accessible directly from our grounds. The road outside school gets very busy, especially at the end of the school day and students sometimes ride out of the school gate without looking. Students must walk their bikes off the school site. If your child rides their bike to school, please can you talk to them about how to do this safely. 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.

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

Cumbria County Council has launched an online application process 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)

The online service has a number of benefits:

- Parents/guardians are able to check eligibility without waiting for a phone call/email from the Service Centre.
- Reducing the risk of duplicate applications being submitted for the same child.
- Reducing the risk of application forms and supporting documentation getting lost in the post.
- Providing the Service Centre with an audit trail of applications.
- Enabling the Service Centre to issue vouchers in a more timely manner; a postal application takes twice as long to process as an online application.

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

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who are paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

### **Attendance**

Did you know, 90% attendance is 20 school days missed? This is 100 missed hours of learning.

Caldew School has made significant progress in raising awareness about the importance of attendance. We started with developing Caldew School community's understanding about the importance of attendance as a life skill. We then made the link between low attendance being a cause for low academic achievement and we are now developing teaching strategies to support students with missed learning caused by absence. Students have the responsibility to catch-up on missed learning. In addition to class teaching catch-up strategies we have an 'Attendance Catch-up Club'. If a student is absent for a period of time they will be asked to attend after school. These one hour sessions, facilitated by an Academic Mentor, are designed to help students catch up on the English, Maths and Science work that has been missed. If your child is required to attend, you will be contacted. Students can also go to Attendance Catch-up Club voluntarily, please contact your child's Head of Year if you would like them to attend a session. Attendance Catch-up Club is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3:10 and 4:10pm.

As a result of these interventions, attendance is improving. However, to make further progress we need the whole school community to be aiming high to improve and sustain their attendance. Termly rewards will continue and it is pleasing to hear so many students already aiming for the prestigious Diamond Reward for 100% attendance for the whole academic year.

If you need to discuss your child's attendance or if your child needs to be absent from school for any reason you need to contact the school before 9:30am on each day of the absence. You can either 'phone to speak to Mrs Richardson, our Education Attendance Officer, on 01228 710044 or send a text message to 07860002169. 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.*

## **Contacting Staff**

Communication with you as parents is the key to ensuring that together we can improve the outcomes for students. You can find e-mail addresses on the dedicated staff page on the school website and staff 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 Miss Atkinson (Deputy Headteachers) directly and we will make every effort to address your concerns. My personal school email is included at the foot of this letter and I welcome any communication from parents

## **Caldew Friends and Family Association**

A group of parents has 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 raffle prizes, help at events, or offers of time to help in other small ways. Further information will be sent out to parents but if you would like to get involved, please contact either [Caldewfriends@Caldew.cumbria.Sch.uk](mailto:Caldewfriends@Caldew.cumbria.Sch.uk) or Cheryl Eastburn on (01228) 710044.

## **Social Media**

You can find out all about what is going on in school and the many activities that take place at Caldew on our Facebook page (@CaldewSchool), on Twitter (@Caldew\_School) as well as the website ([www.caldew.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.caldew.cumbria.sch.uk)).

The social media feed is a great way to not only keep up with events in school, but also posts regarding CEIAG, open events at colleges and universities, apprenticeship opportunities and community posts.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Tutor Evenings**

Our tutor evenings will take place next month (Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October for Years 7-9 and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October for Years 10-13) and students will soon be asked to make appointments for you with their Form Tutors. This is an important opportunity for you to talk to your child's tutor about how they've settled into the new school year, discuss their academic targets and look at how we can all work together to support them in the future. We look forward to seeing you there.

The dates for these evenings are:

- Years 7, 8 and 9                      Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 5.30-8.00pm
- Years 10, 11, 12 and 13              Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 5.30-8.00pm

I believe the relationship between students, parents and teachers is fundamental to students achieving their potential and I am very much looking forward to working with you over the coming years to ensure the best outcomes for your children.

Yours faithfully

Ms Vicki Jackson

Headteacher

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

## **Year Group Messages**

### **Year 7**

After only a week at Caldew, 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.

Students are currently producing form charters during Form Time and learning about the Year 7 Registration Programme that 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 Year 7 Tutor Evening is on Wednesday 9<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**

Welcome back to our Year 8 students who are looking smart and have made a great start to the year. It is fantastic to hear that most of them were looking forward to getting back to school. In our first assemblies, Ms Jackson and I have spoken about our high expectations of the year group. Teachers last year spoke very highly about our students; their excellent behaviour, attitude to learning and their positive and respectful relationships with each other.

At the end of last year, students received their reports with their Year 7 exam results. Please discuss your son/daughters progress with them and get in touch with their Form Tutor in the first instance if you have any concerns.

Students have been given new timetables and will have met with their new teachers. It is a great opportunity to make a good impression and we expect students to continue to produce class work and homework to the best of their ability. We welcome your support in ensuring homework is completed on time – planners should be checked and signed every week by parents.

Thank you for supporting the school by ensuring students arrive to school on time and are dressed smartly with all the correct equipment. Good attendance is very important and has a direct influence on progress made – this was evident in the Year 7 exams, students who are classed as persistently absent (Under 90%) did not achieve their target grades.

Finally, we are very much looking forward to the Lockerbie residential in November – there will be a brief information meeting for parents on the Tutor Evening on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October so students have time to get organised.

Thank you for your continued support. I am looking forward to a positive year with lots of success for our students. Harry Cross has set the standard, finishing first in the English trampolining synchro competition with his partner! Please let me know of any other successes outside of school; students should be proud of their achievements and we want to celebrate success.

Miss Atkinson

### **Year 9**

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to the year and it has been great to hear about all their summer adventures! Miss Morrison joins the Year 9 team as co-Head of Year and has been working hard to get to know the year group. She has already put together an exciting programme for form time to develop social skills and support learning in the classroom. We will be working closely to support all students in their academic, social and emotional development this year and look forward to celebrating their successes with them. We are again fortunate to have an experienced and dedicated team of tutors, a special welcome to Mr Brown and Mr Rhodes, as well as Mrs Owens who will be working with Mrs Bradshaw's group while she is on maternity leave.

Year 9 is an exciting and important year. It marks the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4, and many subjects will be introducing skills and content that will support students as they move towards GCSEs. It is a year of opportunities for students; to continue to develop knowledge and understanding, to engage in sporting and extra-curricular activities, to immerse themselves in school life and take advantage of the opportunities available. This year there will be a strong focus on building positive relationships. We are so fortunate to have a fantastic community at Caldew School, and this year, we will be strengthening it through reflective activities, team building opportunities and a strong emphasis on reinforcing our inclusive, tolerant, supportive community. The year inevitably will present its challenges of course, so please do not hesitate to contact the team with any questions or concerns. Miss Morrison will be in school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, while I will be available every day but Tuesdays. A positive relationship between school and home is key to students' success and we look forward to working with you over the next school year.

Mrs MacFarland

### **Year 10**

I am pleased with how Year 10 have started this academic year. I have visited lessons and it was fantastic to see a positive climate for learning in lessons which will support the start of GCSE courses. Good attendance will be key to making rapid progress towards GCSEs.

This half term during form time students will be looking at two topics. The first will challenge students to think critically when discussing philosophical questions. Students will be also thinking about careers with our second topic 'Future Thursdays'.

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

Thank you for your support

Mr Clarke

### **Year 11**

Year 11 have made a superb start to the year! I have had many positive conversations and emails telling me that staff have noticed how focussed, mature and determined the students are. We have begun our programme of study during registration which will include academic monitoring, how to revise, time management and online learning. I am keeping a close eye on punctuality, attendance and homework and will be contacting parents if I have concerns.

If you would like your child to attend after-school sessions to work on homework or independent studying while being supervised by our Learning Mentors, then please get in touch. By working together we can enable Year 11 to achieve the amazing results we know they are capable of. I look forward to seeing you for our Tutor evening on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Mr McArdle

## **Year 12**

We are delighted to welcome back so many students into Year 12 after some truly wonderful results. Welcome too to those who have joined us from other schools. So far, Form Tutors and the Sixth Form Team have been having conversations to find out about students' future intentions and to help them choose the appropriate courses. We are hoping that final decisions about which subjects students choose will be made by the end of September. Any changes of course must be made in agreement with Mr James.

As part of the induction for Sixth Form we are taking part in two events run by Northumbria University. The whole of the year group went on a campus visit to Northumbria on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. We took part in a resilience workshop, had a campus tour and saw the accommodation available at the university. This week one of the outreach team will address both year groups about note taking and then speak to the EPQ students about making a success of their EPQ qualification.

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](mailto:AllanJames@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk)) or Mrs Hill ([c.hill@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:c.hill@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk))

## **Year 13**

Year 13 are quickly settling into their final year in the Sixth Form. For the many students who are applying to university, the autumn is both an exciting, and at times, daunting task! However, we have already run a number of events and have more scheduled to support all students with their future plans. On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September Mr James gave a talk on the UCAS process for parents and students. Year 13 will also be attending workshops on interview techniques at Northumbria University on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September and in October will be attending a careers event in Newcastle. If you have any questions about the application process to university or about higher level apprenticeships please contact me on the above email address.

The Year 13 Tutor Team this year is Mr Bulman for one form and Mrs Openshaw with Mrs Nicholson for the other form group. Please contact them in the first instance if you have any general questions or concerns about your son or daughter.

Mr James