

The Story of Impact

Story Impact Report 2025-26

Building Opportunity Through Investment at
Caldew School

This report showcases how investment from Story has transformed opportunities, aspirations and experiences for students and staff across Caldew School during 2025-26.

Challenging our most able students

This year Caldew School joined NACE (National Association of Able Children in Education) to further strengthen provision for our most able students.

Working alongside a NACE consultant, we completed a whole-school audit of provision to identify strengths, priorities and next steps.

This has led to the introduction of our **Challenge for All** strategy, ensuring that challenge is embedded with everyday classroom practice and that all students are encouraged to think deeply, reason effectively and achieve their potential.

Supporting Potential & Encouraging Independence

Developing Future Leaders Through ELEVATE

ELEVATE is Caldew School's academic enrichment and future skills programme for our most able students.

Through fortnightly sessions, students develop the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to thrive in an increasingly competitive world.

The programme focuses on four key strands: **Lead, Global, Scholar and Enrich**, helping students become confident, ambitious and well-rounded young people.

Lead • Global • Scholar • Enrich

STUDENT VOICE

ELEVATE has given me confidence to speak in front of others, solve problems and think outside the box. I have really enjoyed every session.

Why ELEVATE?

The programme has been designed to respond to the changing expectations of universities, degree apprenticeships and employers.

Students develop transferable skills, broaden their experiences and build a portfolio of achievements that help them stand out from the crowd.

ELEVATE

YEAR 7 DRAGONS DEN

Building confidence, creativity and enterprise through real-world business challenges.

Year 7 students took part in the ELEVATE Dragons' Den Programme, building entrepreneurial thinking, communication and confidence through team-based challenges. In fortnightly sessions, students researched ideas, considered costs and marketing, and developed pitches - culminating in a Dragons' Den Final where teams presented to a panel of judges.

The programme sets students up for the Year 8 and 9 ELEVATE pathways, developing skills for future leadership and enterprise.

IMPACT ON STUDENTS

- ✓ Increased confidence in presenting ideas
- ✓ Improved teamwork and collaboration
- ✓ Greater creativity and innovation
- ✓ Stronger communication and persuasion skills
- ✓ Introduction to business enterprise and concepts
- ✓ Increased resilience through feedback and refinement
- ✓ Improved problem-solving and decision-making
- ✓ Strong foundation for future ELEVATE opportunities

Presenting our idea to the judges was challenging but really rewarding.

STUDENT VOICE

THE APPRENTICE

YEAR 9

This year, Caldew School launched a Year 9 ELEVATE programme, providing students with one-hour fortnightly sessions focused on developing the skills needed to succeed both in school and beyond.

Through a range of practical activities, discussions and team challenges, students have developed confidence, communication, teamwork, leadership and problem solving skills. The programme culminates with a final presentation based on an apprentice style challenge.

Identify an issue, challenge or area of improvement within the school or local community and develop a realistic project that would make a positive difference.



STUDENT VOICE

I've learned lots of new skills and become much more confident working with other people.

STORY ELEVATE

Story ELEVATE delivered a powerful experience that inspired, challenged and equipped our students to aim higher and believe in their potential.

One of the most positive outcomes of the programme has been the enthusiasm shown by the students themselves.

STUDENT VOICE

It showed me that ambitious goals are achievable.

YEAR 9

A two-day experience designed to raise aspirations, build confidence and open minds to endless possibilities.

TUESDAY 20TH MAY

The programme launched in school with 62 Year 9 students.

Students took part in workshops delivered by the Story team, met with Alumni and developed a wide range of skills.

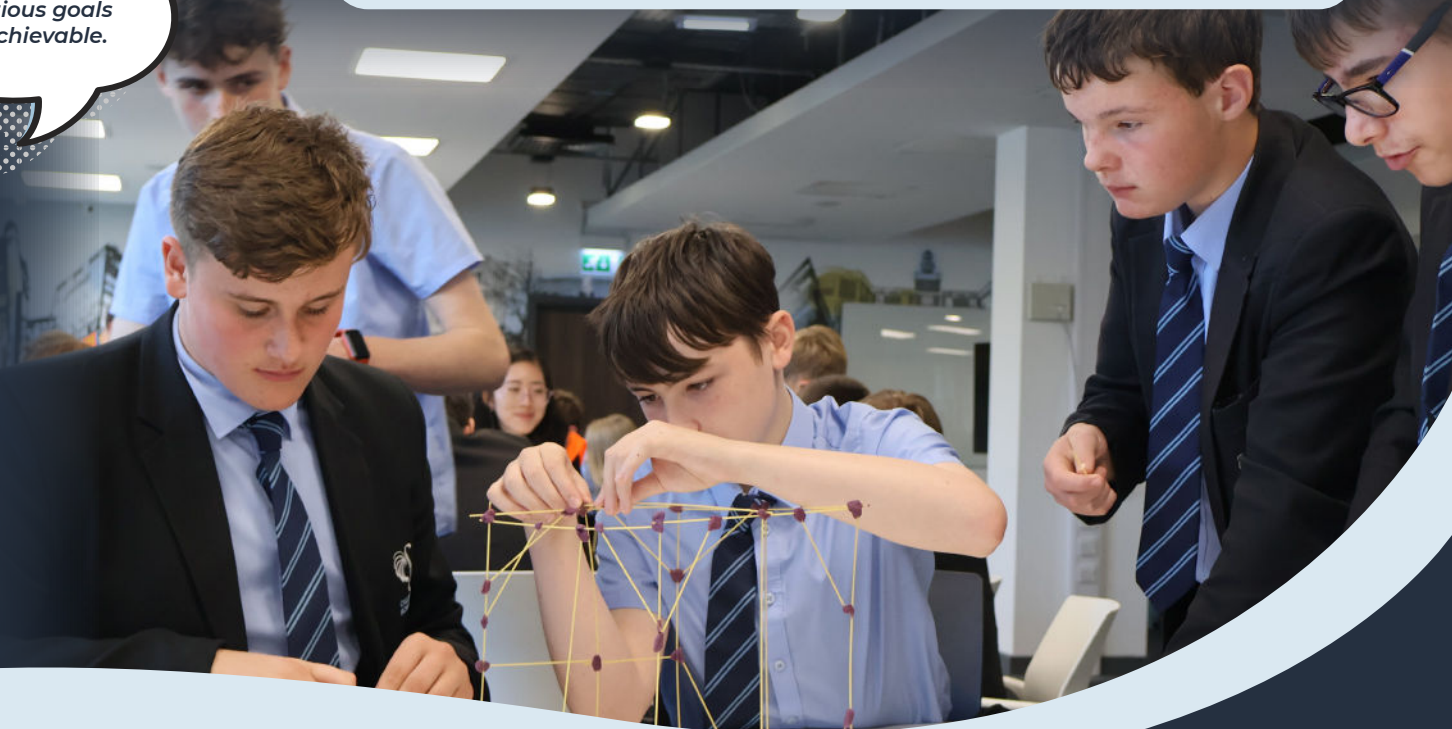
WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY

Students visited Newcastle University for a day of workshops, campus tours and interactive sessions designed to inspire, motivate and encourage them to think about higher education.

YEAR 12

A two-day experience designed to raise aspirations, build confidence and open minds to endless possibilities.

This year, twelve Sixth Form students took part in the Story ELEVATE programme, a two-day employability and leadership experience. It began with a launch event at Story headquarters and a day of workshops on communication, teamwork, leadership and presentation skills, followed by visits to workplaces across Cumbria to meet professionals and explore regional career pathways. The programme concluded with a showcase evening, where students presented their learning to parents, staff, governors and Story representatives, demonstrating the confidence and professionalism they had developed throughout the programme.



Transforming our Digital Presence

As part of our commitment to providing the best possible experiences for students, parents and the wider community, Caldew School has completely redesigned and re-launched the website. The new platform provides a modern, accessible and engaging digital experience that better reflects the ambition, opportunity and success of our school community.

*"You are writing your story
make it count"*

Reshaping the Sixth Form Experience

Creating spaces where students learn,
collaborate and succeed.

The refurbishment of the Sixth Form has created modern learning and social spaces that better reflect the aspiration, independence and academic excellence. Students now benefit from facilities that better prepare them for university, apprenticeships and future careers.

- ✓ 60 laptop workstations
- ✓ Silent independent study areas
- ✓ Collaborative workspaces
- ✓ Modern teaching facilities
- ✓ University-style learning environment

Empowering Our Staff to Grow, Develop & Thrive

High-quality teaching starts with high-quality professional development. The introduction of BlueSky and StepLab has strengthened coaching, performance management and professional learning across Caldew School.

STAFF VOICE

StepLab allows you to focus on small steps that make a big difference and provides videos and examples for teachers to use to improve their practice. It is invaluable.

Investing in Teaching Excellence

The new CPD and coaching programme in English, Maths and Science is now fully embedded, supported by dedicated Lead Practitioners working alongside departments.

Each core subject benefits from a timetable of weekly CPD sessions, providing protected time for teachers to:

- ✓ Collaboratively plan and refine lessons
- ✓ Engage with educational research
- ✓ Observe effective practice across departments
- ✓ Receive personalised coaching and feedback
- ✓ Develop strategies linked to department priorities
- ✓ Reflect on classroom impact and student outcomes

Instructional coaching • Collaborative Planning • Research Informed Practice

Investing In & Supporting Our People

When staff feel valued and supported, they can be their best for our students. Our Staff Wellbeing Committee introduced initiatives our staff asked for most — with wonderful impact.

Termly Staff Breakfasts – Held once a term, with staff choosing from a menu in advance, giving everyone a chance to connect over a freshly prepared breakfast together.

Peer Recognition – Thank a Colleague Day – Staff wrote appreciation cards celebrating kindness, teamwork and support, sharing hundreds of messages that strengthened morale and our sense of community. The day was celebrated with a coffee morning, fresh cream cakes and multiple prize draw to win gift vouchers.

A dedicated **Staff Professional Development Fund** was established this year, supporting staff to access high-quality training, qualifications and specialist development. With two application rounds held annually (September and January), funding is awarded where applications demonstrate clear professional value aligned with individual and school priorities.

This year, nine applications were approved across teaching, support staff and leadership teams — funding areas including a Level 4 Diploma in School Business Management, Subject Knowledge Enhancement in Design & Technology, Lego Therapy and Decider Skills, and Executive Function Coaching in Schools.

STAFF VOICE

It is fantastic to work in a school that actively invests in staff development and encourages us to continue learning.

Wellbeing • Recognition • Appreciation

Raising Aspirations Through Mathematics

This year Caldew's mathematicians have gone from strength to strength, both in national competition and through deeper, more challenging study.

Students from our Most Able cohorts took part in the UK Maths Trust Maths Challenge across Years 7–8 and 9–11, applying their maths knowledge in unfamiliar contexts to build resilience, reasoning and problem-solving skills. **This year saw 73 awards achieved — up significantly from last year (25 in total) — including 52 Bronze, 18 Silver and 3 Gold awards.**



Developing Confidence, Challenge and Opportunity Through Axiom Maths

We're proud to partner with Axiom Maths, a registered charity supporting high-attaining students through its Maths Circles programme. A select group of students meet weekly for one-hour sessions led by a Mathematics teacher, developing deeper mathematical thinking, confidence and resilience beyond the curriculum. Two students were nominated for, and gained places on, a fully funded residential Maths Camp in York.

The programme provides a highly challenging environment that goes beyond the classroom curriculum.



Exploring Possibilities & Experiencing University Life

Throughout the Year, we have run a wide-ranging programme to help students make informed choices about their next steps after Sixth Form. We have co-ordinated University webinars, talks and workshops with leading institutions including Oxford, Durham, Lancaster, Manchester and Newcastle Universities covering University life, subject exploration, student finance, how to apply and career pathways.

Alongside this, sixth-form students visited 6 universities and attended open days across the UK (Northumbria, Durham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores and Newcastle), experiencing campus tours, course talks, accommodation guidance and careers advice first-hand.

Together, these opportunities have raised awareness of higher education pathways, boosted confidence in choosing the right course and institution, and strengthened students' aspirations for future study.



STUDENT VOICE

Hearing from university staff and current students helped me understand the different options available and what I need to do to get there.



Real-World Experience & Expanding Opportunities

Our partnership with Story Homes and Story Contracting continues to provide outstanding work experience that broadens horizons and inspires future careers. This year students secured placements across departments including Design & Construction, Marketing, Civil Engineering, Law, Finance and Business. The experience has given students real insight into different industries, helped build employability skills and confidence, and strengthened valuable professional networks.

Enrichment That Helps Every Student Thrive

Investment in enrichment has enabled Caldew School to significantly expand opportunities beyond the classroom, with **40+ extra-curricular clubs and activities running throughout the year - spanning sports, performing arts, debating, technology, creative writing and leadership.**

Supported by staff, student leaders and external partners, the programme ensures every student can discover new interests, develop talents and build skills for life, from confidence and resilience to teamwork and aspirations.

- ✓ Provides real insight into different careers and industries
- ✓ Helps students develop employability skills and confidence
- ✓ Builds valuable networks and professional relationships
- ✓ Supports informed decisions about future education and careers
- ✓ Strengthens our partnership with local businesses and the wider community

40+ Extracurricular Clubs & Activities

Building Confident Communicators

As part of our commitment to developing confident, articulate learners, the Drama Department introduced the LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) Public Speaking Programme. Supported by professional workshops and expert coaching, students developed their public speaking, presentation, debate and communication skills before completing a formal assessment.

Year 7 achieved an outstanding 24 Distinctions and 4 Merits, while Year 9 saw a 100% pass rate, with every student achieving Merit or above. Specialist "Talk the Talk" workshops provided expert guidance on speech delivery, confidence and audience engagement.

LAMDA
London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art

Feedback shows increased confidence, participation and willingness to contribute in lessons, with skills transferring into students' wider learning across the curriculum.

Professional Theatre Experiences



Through Story funding, the Performing Arts department has partnered with ACT Theatre School to deliver a weekly 1.5-hour after-school theatre programme. Working alongside experienced practitioners, students develop confidence, communication and performance skills, and explore pathways within the creative industries.



Sporting Success

Developing Talent, Building Teams & Achieving Excellence

This year, the PE Department has achieved outstanding success across a wide range of sports, competing and winning at district, county and national level. Investment has enabled specialist coaching in rugby, football, hockey, badminton and athletics, helping students develop advanced skills and achieve success both individually and collectively.

The Story Group Investment has enabled us to provide speciality coaching, developing advanced sporting skills, improve performance and achieve success both individually and collectively.

STUDENT VOICE

Playing in county and national competitions has been an amazing experience and something I'll never forget.

2025-26 SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

- Year 7 Girls & Boys Football – District & County Champions, National Cup last 16/32
- Years 7, 8 & 9 Football – District Champions
- Year 10 Boys Football – County Champions
- Netball – District Champions (Years 7, 10 and 11)
- Year 9 Rugby – County Champions; Year 7 Rugby – District Champions
- Hockey – District Champions and runners-up across multiple year groups
- Athletics – North West Finals winners in both Junior and Senior Boys categories
- LTA County Schools Tennis – Boys winners and Girls Runners Up



Participation • Performance • Success

More to Come...

Providing ambitious opportunities that inspire students to aim higher and achieve more - continuing to invest, continuing to improve.

Our next phase of investment will take place over the summer holidays, focusing on the PE area. While not a complete redevelopment, the project will refresh, repair and improve facilities to create a more modern, welcoming environment for students and staff — the latest step in our wider programme of improvements, with the next area of development to be planned in the Autumn Term.

THANK YOU

Story's ongoing investment and support continues to make a real and lasting difference to the lives of our students and staff at Caldew School. Together, we are creating opportunities, raising aspirations and helping every young person to thrive.

