

VJJ/HEV

December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As we draw near to the end of 2016, I would just like to take a moment to reflect upon my first term as Headteacher. Time has flown by and I can't quite believe that we have nearly reached the Christmas holidays. I hope the transition to a new Headteacher has been a smooth and positive one for students, parents and staff. As during any time of transition there has, and will continue to be, changes aimed at supporting our young people to be the best they possibly can. As I said in my first newsletter in September, I am determined to make sure that Caldew is a school where every student makes outstanding progress, has high aspirations and every member of the school community works hard to be the best that they can be.

It has certainly been an eventful and busy half term. As well as the normal busy daily life of the school we have seen lots of different events taking place. There have been residential trips to Berlin and London and the school production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. We have celebrated the achievements of Year 12 and Year 13 with students and their parents, Year 11 have sat their mock exams and as we speak, the Performing Arts Department are rehearsing for the Christmas Concert. It is important that we recognise and celebrate the successes of individuals in our community; it is only through this recognition that we develop the positive attitudes that motivate students and staff alike to overcome challenges which then encourage us to develop and improve. With that in mind I would like to thank all students and staff for their hard work this term.

News

Last Day of Term

The last day of term is Friday 16th December. On this day, lessons will continue as normal during the morning but school will finish at 1:15pm. The bus companies have been informed of the early finish to the school day and students who are picked up will need to be collected at this time.

Christmas Jumper Day

We are joining in with Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term. Students are welcome to come into school wearing Christmas jumpers and consider donating £1 to Save the Children beforehand. This is a really easy and fun way of supporting those who are worse off than us.

Year 11 Mock Exams and Results

Year 11 have just completed their mock exams and the approach that they have demonstrated has been commendable. The vast majority have prepared themselves well for these 'dry runs' of the Summer GCSEs. The students no longer have the opportunity to sit modular exams and this practice to prepare for exams in all their subjects is very important. The mock exam results will be posted home just before the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 11th January. Parents and carers will then have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with subject teachers at this evening.

New Governors Appointments

We are pleased to announce that the vacancies for three Parent Governors have now been filled. Pam Abba has been re-elected for a further term of office whilst Rachael Mason (Upperby, Carlisle) and Catriona Messenger (Gaitsgill, Carlisle) join us as new Parent Governors. We also have a new Staff Governor, Steve Garbett. Diane Shirvinton (Brisco, Carlisle) and Kerry Richardson (Stockdalewath, Dalston) have been elected as Community Governors. We look forward to working with them all during their terms of office.

Farewells and New Staff

The end of term will see two staff leaving us. We wish them all well as they have given so much to our students:

- Mrs Brown, who worked as a Senior Teaching Assistant, has already left to take on a new challenge at Youth Services.
- Miss Watson, who has taught English, is leaving us at the end of term. Ms Walker has already taken over teaching her classes.

In January we will welcome Mrs Claire Atkinson as our new Deputy Headteacher who will be strengthening our Leadership Team. Mrs Atkinson is an experienced Senior Leader; she will have responsibility for Teaching, Learning and Assessment. She will be working alongside the other Deputy Headteacher, Mr Hammond, who has responsibility for Student and Staff Development.

Young Enterprise

The Young Enterprise Team did well at the weekend. They attended their first trade show in Carlisle; the Year 12 team were runners up (losing by 1 point) for their trade stand and won the overall category for most innovative product. On Sunday, both the Year 12 team and the Year 8 team were in action at the Dalston Christmas Market – both made a nice profit!! Well done.

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

Anti-Bullying Week

Caldew School has a proud tradition of taking part in the National Anti-Bullying Week and this continued this year. The theme for the week was 'Power for Good' which encouraged students, teachers and parents to be the power for good and eliminate bullying. Students worked with Mr Clarke to plan and deliver a powerful assembly that made us all think about the impact of bullying on individuals and how we all have a role in making it sure it doesn't happen. Thankfully bullying is rare at Caldew but if any students or parents have any concerns they should speak to a trusted member of staff. Mrs Taylor and Mrs Graham at Student Reception are available at all times if students want to talk. Thank you to parents for supporting our high expectations of behaviour and anti-bullying policy.

PE News

Congratulations to Joe Harland in Year 10 who has been selected to train with the North of England Hockey Squad this year and James Rowland in Year 11 who is the 70kg National Boxing Champion.

Year 13 Berlin Trip

During October half term, Year 13 History students visited Berlin. This was a valuable trip both academically and culturally. It allowed students to see some of the places they have been studying as part of their A level course. We were very proud of our students and how engaged they were with all aspects of the trip. Their behaviour and attitude were an absolute credit to the school.

Performing Arts

We would like to wish good luck to Andrew Tyson and Heather Cartwright (guitar), Charlotte Thomson (piano) and Nathan Coulson (singing) in their music exams this term. They will all take higher level exams which are renowned for their difficulty.

All students who have attended Drama and Music extra-curricular activities have worked very hard; the Year 7s in particular are been very enthusiastic.

Information

Attendance Matters

Good attendance is one of the major factors in ensuring your child achieves at school. A student who has attendance of 90% at the end of the Autumn term will have missed 7 days and 35 lessons. They will have missed important learning opportunities and catching up on missed learning can be difficult. You will shortly be receiving a letter in the post with your child's attendance for the Autumn term to celebrate high attendance and to raise awareness of any concerns. With this in mind we are asking parents to ensure their child attends school each day unless it is absolutely necessary that they stay off. Medical appointments should be made outside of the school day wherever possible and holidays during term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

The Department for Education defines any student whose attendance falls below 90% as persistently absent from school. If your child falls into this category then you will be contacted by your child's Head of House, a Senior Leader and the school's Education Attendance Officer in the New Year so an Attendance Plan can be put into place to ensure that attendance returns to acceptable levels as soon as possible.

In cases where attendance does not improve, parents may be fined or prosecuted for not ensuring their child attends school regularly. If you need to discuss your child's attendance or if your child will 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 07860 002 169.

Punctuality

Thank you to parents for supporting Caldew School with high expectations of punctuality. School begins at 8.40am and students should be in school before this time. This half term we have introduced a 'Late Gate' which supports our high expectations of punctuality and this will continue in the New Year.

Free School Meals – Pupil Premium

In addition to normal school funding for every student who receives free school meals we receive additional funding called the Pupil Premium. This money is used to support these students and help them make progress to ensure that low family income is not a barrier to educational achievement. A description of how we use this money can be found on our website. If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals or if your circumstances change then please complete an application form as your child will not only receive free meals but also benefit from the additional funding the school receives. For further information please visit:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp>

Procedure for School Closure

When we return to school in January we will be entering that part of winter where we are more likely to have inclement weather. We will only close the school as a very last resort and the default position will always be to stay open. At times some bus routes may be cancelled but the school remains open for those students who can make it. The reality is that there may be occasions when the site is deemed unsafe or we may have insufficient staff that can get into school and in this case we may need to close either fully or for some year groups. If this should happen, the closure will be announced via the school text system, the school website, our Twitter account and through local media channels as early as is practical. If you changed your mobile or email contacts please let the School Office know so that we can update our records accordingly.

Lost Property

If your child has lost something please ask them to check the Lost Property store. We have full PE kits, school trousers and shirts, school jumpers, coats and hoodies, pairs of shoes (including Adidas and Nike trainers) however very few items have names in them. It would be really helpful if parents could put names in items so if they are lost, we can easily return them to their owner. The key for the Lost Property store is kept at Student Reception and we would advise students to look there if they have lost something.

Parent View

As you may be aware, Parent View is an online questionnaire that records the views of parents on the school that their children attend and is referred to at times by OFSTED. Feedback from parents is always helpful to us and I would like to remind you that the questionnaire is available to complete at any time at www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

iPay

The school is now in the second year of operating iPay, the online payment system for school meals. I would encourage you to use this method of payment as it is quick and easy to use and avoids the need for cash to be brought into the school. The registration process is simple. You will also be able to see what your child is buying. If you would like to register to use this system please email us on office@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk and we will send you details.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
5 th – 13 th January	Year 12 Mock Exams
11 th January (5.30pm-8.00pm)	Year 11 Parents' Evening
13 th January	Cumbria Calling Music Project (Years 10-13)
17 th January	Year 11 Work Ready Day

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school and to wish you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year ahead.

School restarts on Thursday 5th January for all students.

Yours faithfully



Ms Vicki Jackson
Headteacher

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