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Aspire Believe Achieve

November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an extremely positive and busy start to the school year, it is hard to believe that seven weeks have flown by already. The school has a really nice atmosphere and it is really encouraging to see how our students are applying themselves to their learning. Year 11 students are often found working after school on various pieces of coursework and Sixth Formers can be seen in the library or in study areas around the school, working hard during their study periods. Year 7 have settled into the school really well and they are a wonderful addition to our school community.

The next few months bring challenges as the mornings get darker, it gets colder and students get tired. It is important to remember that time never comes back and we all need to keep focused on learning and keep trying to be the best we can be. This half term is a busy one, especially for Year 11 who 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 targets.

News

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Just before half term we were very proud to see 45 students presented with their Bronze award and one student with their Gold award. Two years ago only two students completed the Bronze award so having so many this year is a real achievement. Currently Caldew School has the fourth highest number of awards out of 29 centres that come under Cumbria County Council's licence. Caldew School is considerably smaller than those schools with the higher rankings so this is testament to the hard work and dedication of the students and staff involved. Congratulations once again to all.

Caldew Musical - 'We Will Rock You'

50 students from Years 7 to 13 took part in this year's school musical 'We Will Rock You' with two performances that took place before half term. The talented cast was ably supported by the school orchestra and everyone who came to see this performance was impressed by the talent shown by our students and staff. Everyone involved has shown great commitment including regularly rehearsing at weekends, after school and during lunchtimes. Congratulations to everyone involved for such a successful event!

Attendance

Our attendance for the first half term was over 96% which is a four-year high. This is a fantastic milestone for the school community to have achieved and we aim to build on this up to Christmas. As the winter season approaches we ask you to continue encouraging high attendance. When considering your child's attendance, something to reflect on is whether you would take a day off work for the same ailment. With the changes to the curriculum, high attendance is vital to ensure progress is made. In November, Year 11 begin their mock examinations. There is a clear link between attendance and attainment. If you have any queries about attendance please contact our Attendance Officer.

Caldew Friends and Family Association

The newly formed Caldew Friends and Family Association have been working hard since the start of September. The committee has now been formed and they have been busy serving tea/coffee and fabulous cakes at Parents' Evenings and events in school. At the end of half term they arranged a party night at the Energi trampoline park for Years 7 and 8 which was well attended.

They are also setting up a 200 Club. Being part of the 200 Club is a great way of contributing to fundraising for the students and costs just £1 per month. For each monthly draw there will be a first, second and third prize. If you would like to get involved or would like more information about the 200 Club please contact Cheryl Eastburn- Cheryl.Eastburn@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

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).
- No cars should be parked in the bus bays along the front of school at the end of the school day.
- Cars should not stop or park on the footpath opposite the school. As well as being potentially dangerous, it 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 have been informed in assemblies that they should not cross the road at the front of school between the buses and must walk towards the village and cross the road at St Michael's.

Students Cycling to School

Students who cycle to school should exit the school premises directly onto the cycle path via a 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 road to Carlisle 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.

Penguin Classics For Sale

We have copies of Penguin classics for sale in school. All the books are still in boxes. They are £1 each, or a full set for £35. A full list of the classics is at the end of the bulletin. If you would like to purchase any, please contact Cheryl Eastburn - Cheryl.Eastburn@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk. All proceeds from these sales will go into school funds.

Schools Direct

We are part of a partnership of schools that deliver a Schools Direct programme. Schools Direct is an Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programme for both primary and secondary teaching. Our partnership works closely together with other schools and is experienced in the delivery of excellent ITT with committed, talented mentors in place in all schools. Applications for next year's course are open. If you would like more information there will be an Open Evening at Trinity School on 25 November. Further information can also be found on Trinity School's website.

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.

Collecting Students from School

If you are collecting your child from school early due to illness or an appointment, please note that you need to come into Main Reception to meet your child. We cannot allow students to leave the building unless we are sure they are being picked up.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert has become one of our school traditions and it is a lovely opportunity for parents and the local community to join us to celebrate Christmas. This year's concert will take place on Thursday 14 December at St Michael's Church at 7:00pm.

Light Up a Life Service

Performing Arts students have been invited to take part in the 'Light Up a Life' service at Hospice at Home (The Courtyard, Barras Lane, Dalston) at 3.30pm on Sunday 10 December.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

These start on Friday 24 November and run until Thursday 7 December. Students have received a timetable in school, one has also been posted home and it is available on the school website.

Year 12 Mock Examinations

These are scheduled immediately after the Christmas holiday between Thursday 4 January and Friday 12 January 2018.

Year 11 Work Ready Day

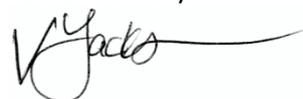
This takes place on Tuesday 12 December. Further details will be advised closer to the date.

Parents' Evenings

Year 10 - Wednesday 22 November and Year 13 - Wednesday 6 December (both 5.30pm-8.00pm)

As this half term passes, 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

Year Group Messages

It is lovely to see how our students are settling well into our new Year Group pastoral system.

Year 7

It is hard to believe that Year 7 have completed their first half term at Caldew. They have continued to adapt to secondary school routines and are confidently moving between classrooms. Attendance has been very good with a high percentage of students achieving 100% - congratulations to Mr Johnston's form for achieving an overall attendance rate of 99.5%. Teachers continue to comment on the positivity and enthusiasm of Year 7 students in their lessons. I was also very impressed to see Year 7 students helping at our Open Evening at the end of September and taking part in the musical.

During form time, students have produced their own form charters and have participated in team building activities. The form time focus for this half time will be friendship.

Congratulations to Mrs Bradshaw's form for winning the inter-form netball tournament.

It was great to see so many parents attending last month's Tutor Evening. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's Form Tutor.

Year 7 students also attended a drama production called 'Feel the Hate' which addressed many concerns relating to hate crime and the students responded in a sensitive and thoughtful way.
Mrs McGuinness

Year 8

It was great to welcome back our Year 8 students in September and it is fantastic to see that they have settled into their new forms so well. A big thank you to students and their parents for supporting our uniform code – Year 8 are a very smart year group who wear their Caldew uniform with pride. We appreciate your help in keeping our standards high.

There have been some excellent individual successes for Year 8 students – Millie Bell was placed 4th in the National Triathlon Championships, Lucy Smith was crowned County Gymnastics Champion and Eden Beattie has been selected for the Cumbria Football Development Centre. Meredith Kerr and Sophie Forster have been successful in the 'Kids Lit' quiz, coming second by just one point at the regional final. I love to hear of our students' achievements and appreciate parents keeping me informed of successes as the students themselves are far too modest! Please email me at school to let me know what our Year 8s are getting up to.

Georgina Stewart, Callum Dixon, Rachel Wilson and Charlie Yeomans have all been awarded the Head of Year Learner of the Week certificate with Georgina and Callum also achieving the prestigious Headteacher Learner of the Week award.

Homework is an important part of students' learning and is set to reinforce what has been learnt in lessons and to challenge students to work independently – please could parents support students at home to ensure the homework set by teachers is done on time. Every student has a planner where they record their homework and its due date.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of our students who are 'getting it right' every single day – arriving on time with the correct equipment, working to the best of their ability, completing their homework on time and being a good friend to others. I look forward to seeing what else our students can achieve this year; be your best Year 8 – you're great!
Miss Atkinson

Year 9

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 email your child's Form Tutor.

Another date for your diary is the Parents' Evening which is on Thursday 8 March. This is very important as it not only incorporates option choices for GCSE but staff will also be discussing how students performed in their exams. The Year 9 mock exams run from Monday 15 January to Friday 26 January 2018, which are earlier in the year to help inform option choices.

To help with exam preparation, the topic in form time for this half term is working on different revision skills. Form time is a calm productive start to the day and Form Tutors have commented on how focused students are.

Well done to students who have been nominated for Learner of the Week. It is also positive to note that, as a year group, the number of achievement logs is high, by far exceeding behaviour logs. However I would ask you to support students where homework is concerned, by encouraging students to complete it and signing log books, as this is an area for concern. The Learning Gateway is a good way to see how well your child is doing. If you do not have access, please get in touch and we will be happy to help you access this resource.

Mrs McBride

Year 10

The first half term of our GCSE journey is complete. In September, I challenged us as a year group to seize opportunities and commit to greatness. With our attendance over 96% and over 2000 achievement logs, we are doing well towards meeting this challenge. We have celebrated our year group success in our weekly assemblies including Head of Year Learner of the Week.

It was fantastic to meet so many parents at the Tutor Evening. Taking student voice and parental comments into consideration, I will be releasing a homework timetable this half term so you will be aware of the quantity of homework that should be set each week.

A key date for your diary is Parents' Evening on Wednesday 22 November 2017. Please let your child know your availability between 5.30pm and 8.00pm and they will make appointments for you. It will be a great opportunity to find out your child's current progress with their subject teachers. I will be available too for appointments.

Mr Clarke

Year 11

Year 11 continue to prepare for their GCSEs this year. Work has been done on effective revision for exams and this information has been shared with parents in our first Year 11 Newsletter. Mock exam timetables have also been released and with more exams than ever before, students need to manage their time effectively to ensure they are adequately prepared.

Top Tip – Have revision material with you at all times either in paper form or on a smart phone (there are some great apps out there for revision) so that you can maximise your time e.g. waiting for a bus! Remember you are not on your own! My team of tutors and me, along with the subject teachers, are here to help and support.

Ms Brownlee

6th Form

A number of students have completed and submitted their UCAS applications and the offers are starting to come back. If students receive invitations for interviews, it is really important that they let their tutor know straight away so that we can help with arranging mock interviews and give general guidance beforehand. Can I also remind parents and students that many universities offer schemes to assist applications from students who are the first generation in their family to intend to study at university. Universities like Bristol, Leeds and Newcastle offer schemes where there is the possibility of a reduced offer on completion of some academic work. Others offer financial support packages so it is really worth looking carefully at what packages a university has to offer before applying, if you meet their criteria. If students are unsure that they would qualify, they should discuss it with their tutors initially.

Mr James