



Where every student is successful today and prepared for tomorrow

Aspire Believe Achieve

September 2017

Dear Parents /Carers

I would like to wish you all a warm welcome 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. I always enjoy seeing the students return to school and finding out what they have been up to in the summer holidays. It is lovely to see them refreshed and ready to engage with their learning, in smart uniform. I have spent a lot of 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 fully focused on their learning.

Last year students and staff worked together to decide on a new vision statement for the school and this can be seen at the top of this bulletin. This statement shows that we are committed to building on the improvements that the school has already made. We want all our students to continue to receive the highest quality education possible. We want them to achieve the qualifications and skills that they need for the next stage in their lives in a school where they feel valued, cared for and supported. 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.

Yours faithfully

Ms Vicki Jackson

Headteacher

vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

News

Exam Results

GCSE – 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 A* and A grades achieved by our students, with 15 of them having achieved 5 or more of these higher grades and nearly 55% of the year group gaining one or more A* or A. The number of students achieving Maths and English remains strong and the percentage of students achieving the new grade 4 or above in both these important subjects will again be in line with the anticipated national average. As a comprehensive school we are also proud to see that every student will 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.

A level – The school's results maintained our strong record at A level with improvements in many areas. Once again we have seen an improvement in the average grade per entry. We are particularly pleased that a third of the students have achieved at least one grade A. Congratulations should go to 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 staff to Caldew School:

Mrs Sarah Connolly	Clerk to Governors
Miss Hannah Capstick	Geography teacher
Mr Ryan Foster	Geography teacher
Mrs Jo Riddick	Modern Foreign Languages teacher

PE News

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
- Netball
- 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. Please see the school website for more information.

Performing Arts News

Music Examinations

A big congratulations to all students who took part in instrumental/singing music exams last year:

- 4 students achieved Grade 8
- 1 students achieved Grade 7
- 2 students achieved Grade 6
- 3 students achieved Grade 4
- 3 students achieved Grade 3
- 3 students achieved Grade 2
- 3 students achieved Grade 1

It is worth noting that Grade 8 is the equivalent to 30 UCAS points. We are very grateful to all the peripatetic staff who have worked so hard to help prepare students for these exams. If your child would like to have instrumental/singing lessons, please contact Mrs Cooper for more details.

School Musical

This year we will be performing the wonderful 'We Will Rock You' musical during the week before half-term. Tickets will be on sale very soon - please check the school website for more details. The performers range from Years 7 to 13 either acting, singing and dancing or playing in the school orchestra. It's not too late for your child to take part in what will be a fantastic production - please contact Mrs Cooper for more details.

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

Free school meals and clothing vouchers are available if parents/carers 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 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. Students arriving to school after 8:40am will complete a 10 minute detention and you will be notified by text.

Did you know that 90% attendance is 20 missed school days? That's 100 missed hours of learning.

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 (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, which is available on the school website:

- *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.*

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 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 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, Mrs Atkinson or Mr Hammond 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.

Home to Caldew School Agreement

Working in collaboration with parents and students we have created a Home/School Agreement. The Home/School Agreement highlights the responsibilities of our school community. These responsibilities support the school values to ensure every student aspires, believes and achieves. The Home/School Agreement can be found on pages 4 and 5 of the student planner. Please take the time to read it through with your child and sign it.

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

University Applications and Finance Talk

On Wednesday 27 September there will be a talk for parents and students in Year 13 about the UCAS process and student finance delivered by Mr James. This will be in the theatre in school starting at 6.00pm and will last for approximately one hour. Although aimed at Year 13, any parents and students are welcome to come along.

Upcoming Events

Tutor Evenings

We have introduced Tutor Evenings this year so you can meet your child's Form Tutor to discuss how they have started the year and their individual academic targets. 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. Students' 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 11 October (5.30-8.00pm)
- Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 Thursday 12 October (5.30-8.00pm)

Further details will be provided in the next week.

Year Group Messages

This academic year we have changed to a year group based Pastoral System. This will allow us to develop pastoral teams who are able to provide academic mentoring to help develop learning skills that can be transferred across a range of subject areas and address potential barriers and tutors who are able to advise on age-specific topics and issues.

Year 7

Year 7 students 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 upon Caldew School's Vision and Values. At the time of writing this, Year 7 students have also been awarded an impressive number of achievement points by their teachers during their first four days of term. Our first Year 7 Parents' Evening is on Wednesday 11 October from 5.30pm when parents 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. We look forward to seeing you then.

Mrs McGuiness

Year 8

How fantastic to see our Year 8 students looking so smart in their Caldew uniforms, enthusiastic about the new term and the opportunities on offer to them this year. I am very proud to be Head of Year 8 – a year group with huge potential. Thank you to parents for supporting our uniform policy and ensuring our students have all of the equipment they need to learn, I hope to meet with you all at some point this year and welcome you to contact me at school if needed.

This term in form time we are working on team work – establishing our new form groups, developing friendships and skills such as leadership, cooperation and resilience. I look forward to reporting back our students' successes throughout the year.

Miss Atkinson

Year 9

I am pleased to say a big welcome to Year 9, so far I have been very impressed not only with the uniform standards but also with the positive attitude of all Year 9 students. Form Tutors have been equally impressed and have told me how well students have responded to the form activities which have been planned to allow them all to 'Aspire, Believe, Achieve'. Indeed 77% of Year 9s already had achievement logs within the first three days! Special mentions go to Gemma Davidson and Joe Haugh who both 7 logs. Attendance stands at 96.8% which, while acceptable, is something that does need to improve; remember high attendance = high attainment.

Mrs McBride

Year 10

Wednesday 6 September 2017 marked the start of the Year 10 GCSE journey. The students have started this journey with positive attitudes. Linking to the Caldew School vision - 'Aspire, Believe, Achieve' - we have two year group slogans; 'Commit to Greatness' and 'Seize Opportunities'. The Year 10 tutor team aim to provide outstanding pastoral support and to encourage students to learn and thrive as soon as they enter their form room. I look forward to meeting you Thursday 12 October at the Tutor Evening.

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 have been. We have begun our programme of study during registration which will include a how to revise, time management, online learning apps and Future Fridays which looks at work skills and careers. I am keeping a close eye on punctuality, attendance and homework and will be contacting parents if I have concerns. By working together we can enable Year 11 to achieve the amazing results we know they are capable of!

Miss Brownlee

Sixth Form

I would like to thank all parents for supporting us in our aim to give the Sixth Form students in both year groups every opportunity to achieve outstanding grades. Last year both Year 12 and Year 13 achieved some really great results and many Year 13 students will be about to go to the universities they chose as their first choice. Working together I am sure the two year groups this year will go to achieve even more.

Year 12 - Year 12 returned to school after their summer break to start life as Sixth Formers. This was a hectic start for them involving reviewing GCSE grades, changing plans and making sure choices fit future career aspirations. Lessons started on the first morning and already the students will have found the step up to be a challenge but one, with hard work and support, they are all more than

capable of making. There has been an impressive attitude shown by the new Year 12 and already the Year 12 tutor team is receiving positive comments about many students which will be shared at the upcoming Tutor Evening. If you have any issues you want to discuss before the evening please contact your child's tutor and/or the Head of Year 12.

Year 13 - the start for Year 13 students involved decisions about which A level courses they would continue and how this fitted with future career and/or university plans. Many students achieved some fantastic AS grades in the summer and this has made it easier to choose what to continue with. Already there is a focus on university applications with the first assembly being a presentation about how to write great personal statements. For those not wanting to apply to university this is still valuable because a personal statement can be used for apprenticeship and employment applications. Year 13 have settled down quickly and we have been impressed by the positive attitude already been seen in lessons and around school. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Tutors Evening where we can help with any questions you might have. Please contact your child's tutor and/or the Head of Year 13 if you have any queries before then.

Mr James (Head of Sixth Form), Mrs Hill (Head of Year 12) and Mrs Tate (Head of Year 13)