



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

January 2020

Dear Parents /Carers

Happy New Year! Although the Christmas holidays seems like a very long time ago now. Time is flying by; it seems like only a few days since we returned after the Christmas holidays yet we are already half way through this half term. The start of a calendar year signals the beginning of the last full term of Year 11 and Year 13 students' time at school; it is sobering to think that they now have approximately 15 weeks of school left before their exams begin.

At the start of a new year we often make resolutions and try to make positive changes to our lives. And this is a good time for our students to think about what positive change they think they need to make at school. This might be about improving their attendance as we know that one of the biggest factors in underachievement is an attendance of less than 90%, it might be about spending more time on their homework, improving their contributions during lessons or taking part in an extracurricular activity. Often focusing on making a positive change to one area can have a big effect on a student's levels of achievement. It would be helpful for parents and carers to discuss with their children what they feel they need to change at school.

The school continues to be a busy place. Year 12 and 13 have just sat their mock examinations. Revision and coursework sessions have started for Year 11 at both lunchtimes and after school. Lots of extracurricular activities are taking place that enrich the experiences of our students and help them to develop their confidence and social skills.

News

Staff News

Welcome back to Mrs Bradshaw (Maths teacher) from her maternity leave.

Year 9 Futures Day

On Thursday 30th January we organised free-of-charge visits to Further and Higher Education venues as part of Caldew School's Careers Information Advice and Guidance. The aim was to equip Year 9 students with the information and guidance ahead of them making their GCSE choices. The day gave the students the opportunity to explore a wide variety of vocations, careers and qualifications open to them once they leave school. Each venue focussed on a different career area for example the students visiting Carlisle College took part in activities in Mechanics, Construction, Catering, Music and Drama and Northumbria University will focus on Business, Law, Accounting, Sport and Engineering. At Lancaster University the focus was on Science and Technology, Health and Medicine and at the University of Cumbria it was Criminology and the wide range of weird and wonderful courses on offer.

What CEIAG have we provided to students so far this year?

- Year 12 and 13 have visited Northumbria University for a tour of the campus and participated in workshops. They also visited the University and Apprenticeship Careers Fair at Newcastle United.
- Year 11 World of Work Day was delivered very successfully in November with positive student, staff and employer feedback. A variety of workshops took place in the morning and 1:1 interviews with an employer in the afternoon. Workshops included: CV Writing, Application Forms, Labour Market Information, Progression Routes, Team Building, Effective Communication, Career Action Plan and NCS Presentation.

- INSPIRA Interviews have taken place with over 150 students from Years 11 and 13. These were 1:1 interviews with a trained INSPIRA Careers Advisor. Each student was given a career progression plan and will have a follow up interview in due course.
- A Careers Drop- in has also been available every Friday between 12.00pm and 1.30pm in the Library with a trained INSPIRA Careers Advisor. This has been for Years 11, 12 and 13 students.
- Students in Year 11 have had assemblies in October with INSPIRA, Carlisle College and University of Cumbria to inform them about what each of these provide and how to access the courses they have to offer.
- Students in Years 7-11 have had a CEIAG assembly tailored to the needs of the year group in December 2019. Outside agencies were involved in this.
- A new careers focus area has been set up in The Curve. 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 Facebook as a means by which CEIAG information is being given to students.
- Year 12 Young Enterprise Programme – The process of setting up their own business has begun.
- Sixty Years 10 and 11 students have attended "The Blue Light Event" at the University of Cumbria, which is an NHS run day where they can access all careers in the NHS and talk to people who hold various roles.
- Year 12 Dream Placement has begun.

What are our next steps?

- On Tuesday 14th January, the Royal Navy (Marines) catering team came in to school. They ran "Ready, Steady Cook" Sessions during the day and worked with Year 9 students to help motivate them and work on various skills such as team building, communication and resilience.
- We have signed up to "The Brilliant Club" for Year 12 which is all funded by Hello Futures. Students work with PhD researchers on a project over a number of weeks. It all starts with a day visit including a tour of Lancaster University. Then the researchers come into school and discuss the niche research that they are doing.
- On Tuesday 28th January, Peter Bakare, Olympic Basketballer, motivational speaker, joined us to speak to Year 9 and Year 10 students.
- Year 9 Futures Day – All students visited one Higher Education Institution in January for the full day. The options were Carlisle College, Cumbria University, Lancaster University and Northumbria University.
- On Wednesday 6th May, Year 8 will have the privilege to see **Health Education England's** highly regarded "**Why Care?**" NHS Careers performance, delivered by international theatre company **Gibber**. This is a valuable resource for Year 8 students that we know they enjoy and benefit from and it's completely free of charge for the school. The high energy, fun and interactive theatre performance raises awareness of the exciting variety of careers the NHS has to offer them.
- Caldew's Sixth Form Open Evening was on Tuesday 21st January from 6pm. The new prospectus is available in the carousel in the curve. We offer 24 different courses. Students had the opportunity to chat to course teachers, current students and further career advice and guidance.

Drama news

Stars Drama club are busy getting ready for the Carlisle Drama festival, which is in March. They have chosen scripts and are rehearsing and learning words. Meeting in the studio every Tuesday lunchtime, there is a real buzz every week and a genuine excitement to take on new projects and challenges. With a mix of year groups taking part, the older students are helping the younger ones - passing on words of wisdom, helping them improve their work and foster a love of Drama in general.

Film club is back, and we are hoping to take part in the VE day anniversary by making an old style news reel. A fun, but challenging project, this is being led by GCSE Drama student, Oliver Rudd.

The GCSE Drama evening is on Wednesday 15th April at 7pm in the theatre. Tickets available on the door. There will be a real range of play extracts performed by students, from comedy with 'One Man Two Guvnors' to tense Drama 'Mercy Fine'. Students are working hard towards this final project for their GCSE, and it feels quite poignant that this will be their last performance. A real culmination of all their hard work over the last couple of years.

School Play

This year's play is 'The Beauty of Buttermere' by Alasdair Brown, it is based on a true story with local interest. The heroine is Mary Robinson who grew-up happily in Buttermere in the latter years of the 18th Century. The poets, Wordsworth and Coleridge, regarded Mary as the romantic ideal – youthful grace and beauty in a primitive setting. She had the misfortune to meet the notorious villain John Hadfield, the play tells their story in a series of fast-moving scenes, with aspects of comedy and melodrama, until it reaches a tragic climax in Carlisle 1803.

There are about 30 students involved from Year 7 through to Year 12. They are an enthusiastic group, working hard in rehearsals, I'm sure that they will pull together to produce a great evening's entertainment. The play takes place on 17th and 18th March at 7pm.

Borneo Expedition

The students enrolled for the Borneo expedition are working hard to fundraise for their trip. Last term we raised over £1000 by bag backing, Dalston show stall and cake sales. This term we are looking to raise even more by climbing the equivalent of Scafell Pike from sea level at Eden rock and organising a Year 7 disco.

A massive thankyou to JD Pipes for supplying all the students with expedition rucksacks, these will be used for years to come on future expeditions and also for DofE participants.

If you wish to sponsor our students or make a donation, please contact Mr P Brown: Phil.brown@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

PE News

It has been fantastic to see so many of our most talented sport and PE students excelling not only on school sport but also for their clubs and teams.

Caldew have a strong link to Carlisle Comets Netball Club due to the work of Miss Adam. Ellie Anderton and Aimee Somerville represent Comets in the Carlisle (adult) Netball League. They played Harraby, drawing 30-30, in an exciting game. Grace Webb continues to train with the county squad based in Sedbergh.

The following students have been training with the County hockey squads this year – Grace Heaney, Lily Potts, Lottie Marsh, Sophie Nunn, Blythe Jackson, Bella Kerr and Hattie Kerr. In gymnastics – Lucie Martin, Amy Gilbertson, Elise Batey, Jess Yates, Hannah Pilmer, Charlotte Scott, Olivia O'Mahoney, Bethan Cameron and Ebony Harper have all been training in readiness for County and North of England competitions – we wish them well.

In Year 13, Joe Harland continues to excel in hockey playing for the North of England and Carlisle Men's Team. In Year 11, Jack Smith is currently completing his winter training phase and will be swimming in the Cumbria Championships followed by the British Championships in July and hoping to win a medal in the 200m and 400m individual medley. Jack hopes to win a scholarship in America when he turns 18 to train and study. In golf, Robbie Cullen is playing off a 2 handicap and Liam Short off 7 and will be playing in the English and Scottish National Championships as well as representing the school at the National Golf Championships.

Winger Harrison Benson has been selected to represent Cumbria Rugby Under 16 against Northumberland and Durham. In Year 10, Josh Sterling has been selected to train with Lancashire Cricket Club and continues to make fantastic progress with his cricket. In Year 7, Jake Rennie has excelled in his taekwondo and last year won the World Championships for Under 13s in Wishaw. He represents Carlisle Taekwondo Club and this year he will be competing in the European Championships. Jake hopes to compete for team GB in the future and become a grand master. Oliver Pritchard in Year 7 plays for Cumbria Squash Team in the Under 13 section and finished runner up in the Cumbria Championships this year. Sam Hetherington, Ashley Yeomans and Jack Sharpe all continue to represent Carlisle United Schoolboys and Lleyton Hall in Year 10 has gained his city honours this year for football.



Gymnastics

The Under 14 Gymnastics team came second in the County Championships on Saturday 25th January 2020. The team were all Year 7 students and were absolutely brilliant!

On Sunday 26th January, the Year 9 girls gymnastics team came third in the North of England Group Competition.

Country Cross Country

Many of our students represented Carlisle at the recent Cumbria cross country championships. Lottie Marsh put in a brilliant performance to finish in the top 20 in the junior girls' event missing out on a place in the Cumbria team this year but Lottie is in Year 8 and will be hoping to get her county vest when she is at the top of her age group next year. Special mention must go to Olivia O'Mahoney in Year 7 who has made fantastic progress this season. She finished 19th and will represent Cumbria at the Northern Championships in February.

PE Enrichment

It is always great to hear about our elite athletes however it is vitally important that all students have the opportunity to take part in extracurricular enrichment at lunchtime and after school. This year the PE department has been promoting wellbeing via enrichment clubs at lunchtime. Following a donation from the PTA the department has invested in new equipment, students can now attend fitness classes at lunchtime and take part in activities like body pump, yoga and body balance. A full timetable can be found at the end of the bulletin.

Games night

This started again for students in Years 7-11 who want to train or play football, rugby, netball and hockey. We operate a free bus to Carlisle at 4.30pm, students must sign up outside the PE office by 11am on Tuesday to ensure a place on the bus. The bus drops at the following locations:

Drop Off Location	Approx Drop Off Time
Pirelli	4.40pm
Woodend drive	4.40pm
Stonegarth shops	4.45pm
Queensway	4.50pm
Orton Road	4.55pm
Dunmail drive	4.55pm
Dalston Road	5.00pm
Denton Street	5.05pm
Currock road	5.15pm
Henderson road	5.20pm
Lamb street	5.25pm
Durdar	5.30pm

*The bus driver can also drop off in the Belle Vue area on request but students must tell the driver as they get on the bus.

Information

Attendance

A flu and sickness bug in the area before the Christmas holidays did impact on attendance. However, the Christmas holiday has given everyone a chance to rest and Caldew School Community is back to improve and sustain good attendance.

Our annual Attendance Week was 20th – 24th January 2020. Every member of Caldew School Community had an attendance target of 100%. Last year, Year 9 (current Year 10) had the highest attendance. This year, Year 8 achieved this accolade.

When a student is absent, they are encouraged to catch up on missed learning. To support students catch up, there is an Attendance Catch-Up Club every Tuesday and Thursday between 15:10 and 16:10pm.

At the end of this term students will be awarded with a certificate if their attendance for the term has been 100%, 97% or 95%.

Please if you have any questions ask our school Attendance Officer.

Free Period Products for Schools

You may have seen in the news that the government is picking up the work of the 'Red Box Project' charity by providing free period products for schools. We have been part of the 'Red Box Project' for a while now and will be continuing to provide free period products through the new government scheme. 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.

Applying for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

Cumbria County Council has 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

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
- Reduces the risk of duplicate applications being submitted for the same child
- Reduces the risk of application forms and supporting documentation getting lost in the post
- Provides the Service Centre with an audit trail of applications
- Enables 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 are available if parents/guardians 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 starting 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.

Procedure for School Closure

Although the winter has been reasonably mild so far, we are in 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 then the closure will be announced via the school text system, the school website 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.

Behaviour on the School Buses

As a school we have a high number of students that travel on buses to and from school on a daily basis and as a whole we are very pleased with student behaviour while on route.

However, at times it comes to our attention that on occasions students have not been meeting our basic expectations whilst on the buses. There is no doubt that this is the behaviour of a minority of students. I would like to remind all students and parents that under the general power of discipline in the 2012 Education Act, the journey home from school falls under the responsibility of the school, as such we will always follow up reports of unacceptable behaviour on buses when we become aware of issues, which may lead to loss of social time, exclusions or other school sanctions.

If you are aware of concerns on the buses please ask you son/daughter to speak to a member of staff at the school (Form Tutor, Student Services, Head of Year).

Upcoming Events

Year 11 Parents Evening

This takes place on Wednesday 5th February and provides an opportunity for parents and carers to discuss their child's progress and what steps they can take to raise achievement in the lead up to the GCSE exams.

Half term is the week beginning 17th February.

Year 9 Options and Parents Evening

This takes place on Thursday 27th February and is an important evening for both students and parents to attend. Options choices are important decisions and you will be able to find out about the process and discuss your child's possible choices with subject teachers. Students will receive their Options Booklets on Friday 14th February and it is recommended that you read and discuss the information in them with your child.

School play performances are on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th March.

School finishes for Easter on Friday 27th March and students start back on Tuesday 14th April.

Please remember that the May Day Bank Holiday has changed this year. All students should attend on Monday 4th May and the bank holiday has moved to Friday 8th May.

Yours faithfully

Ms Vicki Jackson
Headteacher

Vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Year Group Messages

Year 7

Year 7 students are now in their second term at Caldew and are working hard in lessons. This is represented by achievement points to date – now in excess of 9,000.

Last term was very busy and included our termly reward party. Students with high numbers of achievement points are invited to this event and we celebrated success in assembly too, including our Learners of the Week and our 7 Stars.

Our uniform standards continue to be high and I am very grateful to parents and carers for their support. Please could you also continue to check and sign your child's planner every week.

Teachers will shortly complete Year 7 reports and I look forward to reading about all the wonderful work that the students are producing in lessons. Please contact your child's form tutor if you have any queries or concerns about school or the report. Year 7 parents' evening, which is when we invite you to come into school with your child to meet their subject teachers, will be held on Thursday 23 April.

Congratulations to all students who have taken part in extracurricular and sporting activities. There are so many successes and I urge all students to get involved. Please encourage your child to ask their form tutor for further details – there are numerous clubs to choose from!

Mrs McGuiness

Year 8

A very long but successful autumn term was concluded with a celebration assembly and Christmas party. Mrs Wallace and Ms Gimenez's form were winners of the Christmas competition, filling their form Christmas tree with the most stars. The attendance prize was won by Mr Sharpe's form and the most achievement points went to Mr Beedie's form. Corey Hoodless in 8/CEW was the student who was rewarded with the most achievement points last term. Many individual prizes were won in the prize draw for students who had been awarded stars in lessons.

It is pleasing to see a number of students playing sport for the school teams and many have had success at city and county level. Lottie Marsh and Harry Cross competed for the city at the County Schools Cross Country Championships – running against students in Year 8 and Year 9 from across the county.

Last term – registration time focused on positive relationships. Students shared their ideas on what makes a good friend and considered how they would make a new student welcome in school.

I am very proud that Year 8 had the highest attendance in Attendance Week. We look forward to seeing what else they can achieve this school year.

Miss Atkinson

Year 9

Year 9 made a fantastic start to 2020 by doing their very best in their exams. Several members of staff came to tell me how impressed they were with their behaviour and attitude, and, as always, they have made us very proud. I look forward to celebrating their successes with them over the coming weeks. Miss Morrison will be celebrating alongside us, but she has decided to step down from the role of Joint Head of Year. I'd like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication last term, she cares passionately about the wellbeing and progress of our students, and we are sorry to see her step down. I will continue as Head of Year 9, and will be now be working on Tuesday mornings, so will be available Monday to Friday should you have anything you would like to discuss. The spring term promises to be an eventful one as we prepare students to choose their options for their GCSEs. We have a number of events planned, including a visit from the Royal Navy in Design and Technology lessons, a talk from Peter Bakare, Olympic Basketballer, and Future's Day on 30th January when the whole year group will visit a college or university. We then have a week of options assemblies where students will be introduced to our wide variety of GCSE subjects before our Options/Parents Evening on Thursday 27th February. This evening will give you the opportunity to discuss the progress and attainment of your child and find out more about the subjects at GCSE. I hope to see as many as possible of you there. I am also pleased to be organising our adventure activity trip to Lockerbie Manor in July and look forward to a weekend of fun and challenges. This is an exciting term for Year 9 and we have a lot to look forward to!

Mrs MacFarland

Year 10

The focus of Year 10 during the Spring Term is to prepare for the Year 10 exams that begin Tuesday 14th April 2020. The biggest way parents/carers can support preparation is by ensuring their child is in school every day.

The topics students will be completing during registration to support exam preparation are 'Plan... What if it goes right' and 'If it was easy...'. Both topics introduce students to revision strategies, time management and highlight that plenty of preparation prevents poor performance. Students continue to update me with how they are progressing with the optional challenge, '50 things to do in Year 10 at Caldew School'. It would be a fantastic achievement to complete all 50.

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

Mr Clarke

Year 11

Year 11 have all been receiving their mock exam results. The focus shouldn't be on the grade they got but on the feedback they receive from their teachers and the specific details of the areas they need to work on to maximise their success in the summer. If students have done well it is because they have worked hard, revised and taken on board all the advice that was given. These students fully deserve their success and should be commended for their efforts. For those students who revised and worked towards their mocks and were disappointed by the grades they received they need to remember that mock exams are a learning exercise and that if they do things differently for their summer exams they will have every chance of success. There will be of course a minority of students who didn't revise and prepare themselves and so got results which reflected this, to those students I urge you to think about how you would feel if you opened your envelope on results day and those were the grades you received. Would you be able to take the course you want in September? Would you get that apprenticeship you are applying for?

Don't forget it is Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 5th February. This will be the last formal opportunity to sit down with each subject teacher and find out what needs to be done, what revision should be in place and what support is on offer.

You will receive the next Year 11 newsletter soon which will also offer careers advice and support, can you ensure we have a current email address to send this to.

Mr McArdle

Year 12

Year 12 sat exams almost as soon as they returned from the Christmas holidays. As ever teachers and tutors will be on hand to support students in improving their grades. Although students have settled into their subjects and the ways of working at A level, the realisation of just how much work is needed for their targets is a shock to some. For most subjects there will be an AS exam this summer which does not count towards the final A level to be taken in summer 2021. The AS grade will give students a measure of how much more work they need to put in to achieve their target grade.

As a bit of light relief some students got together for a bowling trip to AMF bowling on 30th January.

Mrs Hill

Year 13

Year 13 completed mock exams in early January and form tutors are in the process of working with students to support them after they received their results from subject teachers. This involves reflection on where students were successful as well as setting targets to improve. Mock exams are a chance for students to really see where they have got to with their Year 13 studies, as well as how much of their Year 12 work they have successfully revised. This reflection will become the focus on the areas and skills that need to be improved in the final months before the summer exams. Every year the vast majority of students successfully improve their grades from mocks to final exams.

Those Year 13 students wanting to go to university have completed their applications. This has been a big task which started last May and involved many hours of discussions about choices, the writing and re-writing of personal statements, making sure application forms are filled in correctly and writing references for each student. The students have had to spend a considerable amount of time themselves completing their applications as well as subject teachers spending time providing subject information to help tutors and the sixth-form leadership team to complete these references. So far there have been lots of offers made from the universities showing how successful this whole task has been completed. We wish every student the best when they eventually go to university next year. Those students not applying to university will be helped and supported in a similar way with their applications for apprenticeships, employment and FE courses.

Mr James

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime 12.30 - 12.55pm	Years 10-11 Fitness (Multi Gym) MAB		Year 10/11 Bodypump (Gym) MAB	Years 10-11 Fitness (Multi Gym) MAB Year 7 fun club (AVN)	Badminton Club (All years) MAB Years 10-11 Fitness (Multi Gym) OWB Year 7/8 Gym/Dance (AVN)
After School 3.30 - 4.25pm		Games Night (All years) Rugby Football Hockey (OWB, MAB, JRB, JOA)	Advanced Gymnastics (JOA)	Netball years 7-11 (AVN)	