



Friday 6th September 2013

Mon	9 th Sept	
Tues	10 th Sept	11+ Practice Test 1
Wed	11 th Sept	Year 7 Target Setting CATS tests
Thur	12 th Sept	Year 7 Target Setting CATS tests
Fri	13 th Sept	11+ Practice Test 2 Year 7 Target Setting CATS tests

MESSAGE FROM MR RODAWAY, HEADTEACHER

Welcome to a new academic year at Calday Grange Grammar School.

Students who completed external examinations received their results during the summer break. I am pleased to report that at GCSE level 98.9% of students achieved the important threshold of 5+ A* - C including English and mathematics. This is an improvement of the previous year's figure of 94.66% and is the highest percentage in the last four years. Of all the GCSE grades awarded over 55% were at the very highest levels of A*/A. Again, this is a significant improvement on the previous year's 46%. 82% of our Year 11 students achieved the English Baccalaureate measure (achieving A*-C in English, Mathematics, Science, a Humanity and a Modern Foreign language). Four of our students achieved 11A*'s (Niall Flanagan, Joe McCrave, Luke Needham and Sakib Rahman), with a further six students achieving 10A*'s and 1A (Michael Horner, Michael Jamieson, Felipe Pacheco, Matthew Page, Mrinank Sharma and Jonathan Tam). A further 23 students gained all A*'s or A grades.

We were aware of changes in university admissions policies and therefore were pleased to learn that the majority of our students were successful in obtaining their chosen university place. We wish all the students who have left Calday all the very best for the future.

At A2 Level, 99.33% of results were in the category A*-E, with 60.3% being A*-B and 30% of all results were A*/A grades. Again, these results are an improvement on previous years. Of particular note are the results for Matthew Kemp (4A*'s and 2A's), Callum Prior (2A*'s and 3 A's), Conor Flanagan (3A*'s and 1 A) and James Quirk (2A*'s and 2A's).

I congratulate all students on the achievement of an excellent set of results. I have thanked the teaching staff on your behalf and thank parents for supporting your son or daughter over what can be a stressful period.

These results reflect the impact of an improved focus on the quality of teaching and learning. We aim for every lesson in the school to be outstanding. During the forthcoming academic year we will continue to focus on the quality of teaching and learning, especially at Sixth Form level. Within this there will be a particular emphasis of marking and feedback given to students. It is vital that all students understand where they are in relation to examination criteria and most importantly, what they need to do in order to improve their performance.

We are currently in the process of upgrading both our school website and our wireless network. The aim is for students to be able to log on to the wireless network with a device brought from home. This will allow staff to make more effective use of the opportunities offered by e-learning. Of particular importance is the use of prior learning activities. We aim to provide materials/activities prior to a lesson that ensure that students are well prepared and 'switched on' to the focus of that lesson, particularly at Sixth Form level. We will also be looking at providing students with materials in an e-format as well as investigating the academic apps currently available. We aim to create a vibrant learning community where students are engaged and actively participate in their education. This is a major investment by the Governing Body of the school. A system that allows over 1500 people to log on to a network at exactly the same time (without slowing down the service) does not come cheap!

We have recently undertaken a review of the school's Code of Conduct. We have clarified what students can expect from the school and what the school expects of them. We aim for Calday to be a civilised society based on mutual respect. All students will be issued with a 'Respect' leaflet, which will form a focus of Form Period and PSHE lessons.



A copy of this leaflet is attached (PDF). I would welcome constructive feedback and appreciate your support in this area of school life.

We continue to monitor student engagement during each lesson during a day. As parents are aware, students are awarded a grade from 1 to 4. At the end of the day, Form Tutors review these grades, identifying positive and negative aspects. Form Tutors will have a discussion with individuals identifying what they need to do to improve their engagement in lessons. The Senior Leadership Team reviews these figures on a weekly basis, identifying any patterns. On Monday of each week, we identify individuals, groups, lessons, subjects or times of the day when additional input may be required. A member of the Senior/Middle leadership team will 'visit' these classes to ensure that learning is not disrupted.

As indicated, we have introduced a PSHE/Careers lesson for all students at the school. This provides an opportunity for the school to address the pastoral needs of its students. All students will have their PSHE lesson Week 2, Friday, Period 2.

The DfE/Local Authority has recently amended their regulations regarding attendance. This indicates that;

*School attendance data is scrutinised by the DfE annually through the school census and the current level of absenteeism nationally is a cause for concern. In response the DfE has redefined persistent absenteeism as attendance of 85% or below and the government has changed the legislation relating to authorising student absence during term time; the new regulations come in to force on 1st September 2013. Amendments to the The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that the **Headteacher may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances**; in addition schools are increasingly expected to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to parents who remove their children from school in term time for the purpose of holidays.*

To help to maintain good working relationships between parents and school I have set out below some circumstances for which we are unable to grant leave of absence:

- Leave of absence to attend holidays which overlap term time.
- Leave of absence to attend 'important' family celebrations
- Leave of absence to attend sporting events as a spectator
- Leave of absence to attend festivals
- Leave of absence to gain 'valuable experience'.
- Leave of absence where the student is or would have if an absence were granted an attendance of below 85%
- Leave of absence where the student is on a contract (sixth form) or behaviour plan (years 7-11).
(*not an exhaustive list*)

Examples of exceptional circumstances **may** include:

- Circumstances precipitated by health issues directly impacting on the family unit
- Recognised religious observances
- Work circumstances restricting annual leave (evidence required)

I trust that you will find this clarification helpful.

We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year at Calday Grange Grammar School. As always, we have welcomed a number of new students in to the Sixth Form. To those parents who have previously not had a relationship with the school I issue a warm welcome and look forward to working with you during the next two years. For parents of Year 7 students, again welcome to the school. The Year 7 appears to have settled in to school life.

We will be holding a parents evening on 17th October for Year 12 and Year 7. This evening will provide parents with an opportunity to meet with Form Tutors and reassure them that their son or daughter has settled in to life at Calday Grange Grammar School.

Mark Rodaway
Headteacher



NATIONAL CITIZENS SERVICE AWARD

We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Elliott Wood (LGB1) who has been awarded the National Citizens Service Award. He was presented with the award at the Town Hall by the Mayor of Wirral. This award is endorsed and signed by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon David Cameron and is co-ordinated by Wirral Borough Council.

There is another programme that students can sign up for beginning in October half-term. It is open to all 16 – 17 year olds and costs £50 per student. Any remaining costs are subsidized by Central Government. The contact at Wirral is Zoe McNee on 07557 980968

OPEN EVENINGS & OPEN DAY

We will be holding our Open Evenings on Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th September from 6.00 pm until 8.00 pm. The Headteacher, Mr Rodaway, will speak at 6.15 pm and 7.15 pm. We have also planned an Open Day on Friday 27th September from 09.00 am – 11.30 am and 2.00 pm – 3.15 pm.

CONGESTION & SAFETY

Could we please ask parents to avoid dropping-off their children at the bottom of the school steps, as this causes unnecessary congestion in the car park. Grammar School Lane also becomes congested, especially at the beginning and end of the day with buses arriving and departing. We request that parents do not set down or pick up their children in the proximity of the school and certainly not in the areas with zig-zag road markings. To do so may cause serious traffic congestion and endanger lives.

Sixth Form students with cars are also reminded that they should respect our neighbours and in particular should not park in Bramhall Close or Calday Grange Close. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

PARENT VIEW

Parent View provides parents with the opportunity to tell Ofsted what they think about their child's school. Parent View asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of your child's school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. By sharing your views you will be assisting the school to improve and you will also be able to see comments from other parents.

Please take the opportunity to visit Parent View at www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Please note that the Staff Development Day scheduled to take place on 24th February 2014 has now been moved to 25th September 2013. This is due to unavailability of a training provider on the original date.

STANDARDISED SCHOOL TERM DATES

From September 2014, Wirral Council term dates will coincide with other North West Authorities. Calday will therefore be adhering to the following:

- October half term will always be the last full week of October
- February half-term will always be the third full week in February
- Easter break is renamed the Spring Break and will always be the first two full weeks in April. Easter will always be observed via the bank holiday for Good Friday and Easter Monday.
- Whitsun half term break will be for one week.
- Five inset days will be designated by the individual School Governing Bodies

It's now also the main mechanism for parents to give their views about the school to Ofsted inspectors at the