



# Calday Grange Grammar School

## Parents' Newsletter

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Mon	12 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7 football trials (after school)
Tues	13 <sup>th</sup> September	
Weds	14 <sup>th</sup> September	
Thurs	15 <sup>th</sup> September	Mouth guard fittings
Fri	16 <sup>th</sup> September	

### MESSAGE FROM MR RODAWAY

Welcome back to a new academic year at Calday Grange Grammar School. I extend a warm welcome to those parents who are new to the school, be that as a parent of a Year 7 or a Sixth Form student.

In August, students received the results of their GCSE and A level examinations. Against a backdrop of declining national standards (the press reported that the key measure of 5+ A\*-C inc English and maths is at the lowest level since 2008 and that the gender gap has increased to almost a 10% difference between boys and girls – with girls being more successful), I am pleased to report that at both GCSE and A Level, students achieved outstanding results.

At GCSE level the percentage of students who gained the threshold of 5+ A\*-C inc English and maths has risen to 98.2%. We always have a number of students who, for a variety of reasons, struggle during Year 11. We work hard to support these students and ensure that their wellbeing is a priority, sometimes over their academic performance. From the table below, you see that the percentages of the top grades also improved.

The measure of a schools' success is moving from an attainment model (percentage of students meeting 5+A\*-C in EM) to a Progress Model. Our progress figure is currently +0.3. This means that, on average, students at the school achieve GCSE results that are 1/3 of a grade better than what would be expected, based upon their prior attainment. In other words, we **add value** to a student's education.

### GCSE Results – Historic Data

	A*	A	B	C	A*-C
<b>2016</b>	24.1	30.7	31.3	11	97.1
<b>2015</b>	22.4	29.8	30.2	13.8	96.2
<b>2014</b>	21.1	28.8	29.7	16.1	95.7

	5+ A*-C (inc E&M)	% Achieving EBacc
<b>2016</b>	98.2	84.85
<b>2015</b>	96.2	88
<b>2014</b>	96	83

Particular mention should be made of the six students who achieved the highest possible grades of 10 or more A\*'s – Ben Broadbent, Patrick Moran, Ben Newman, Gautham Ravichandran, Ben Siebertz Willett and Matthew Underwood. At Advanced level, students gained an excellent set of results. For the first time in many years we had a 100% pass rate across all subjects (excluding General Studies).

### A level Results – Historic Data

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A*-E
<b>2016</b>	12.8	21.3	26.9	22.7	13.1	3.2	100
<b>2015</b>	12.5	20.9	30	20	12.8	3.2	99.2
<b>2014</b>	10.7	20.1	21.2	21.6	15.2	9.1	97.9

The majority of students received offers from universities, either as part of their initial applications for through clearing, or gained access to Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Notable individual success includes;

- **Daniel Lawson** who gained 5A\* grades, an A\* for the EPQ (worth 0.3 of an A level), to go with the 3A\* grades awarded in Year10/11/12.
- **Shakthival Ravichandran** 5A\*'s
- **Alex Prescott** 4A\*'s
- **James Taylor** 4A\*'s and 2 A's
- **Alexander Craig** and **Tom Williams** who both gained 4A\*'s and 1 A

I congratulate all of the students on their success. **Well done.** Your hard work has resulted in your gaining the results you deserve. I thank all the parents for their support and on your behalf thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication.

We have welcomed 208 new Year 7 students to the school and of the 165 students in last year's Y11, 145 have decided to return to the Sixth Form. Those students who left us are continuing their education at other institutions or through the apprenticeship route. **I wish them well in their futures.** At the time of writing, 70 students from other institutions have joined the school Sixth Form. We are currently still accepting requests for places in the school. This means that we have 215 Sixth Form students joining 206 students in Y13.

The numbers in each year group are below.

Year	Males	Females	Total
Year 7	208	0	208
Year 8	190	0	190
Year 9	180	0	180
Year 10	168	0	168
Year 11	204	0	204
Year 12	167	48	215
Year 13	165	41	206
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1282</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1371</b>

Parents may be aware that a number of building projects are taking place over the forthcoming term.

The old caretakers house has been demolished to be replaced by additional car parking. It is our intention to close the parking area opposite the school main entrance. This has necessitated closing the exit route at the front of school, resulting in cars entering and leaving site via the same exit. Please be careful when driving in to the school. **I remind parents that they must not stop on the zig-zag lines at the front of school. This causes significant congestion at the start and end of the day and places children at risk.**

The old wooden windows in Glasspool are being replaced by double glazed units during the next few weeks. We will ensure that disruption to teaching and learning is minimised. Scaffolding has been erected to facilitate the work and we will closely monitor the work to ensure that no student is at risk. We look forward to warm, draught free rooms.

A number of parents have requested 'time off' from school so that their child can attend sport or art based activities (normally Music). As a school, we support the development of a student's talent. However, we have to balance this against the impact that absence has on academic outcomes. We expect all of our students to have a minimum attendance of 95%. As I frequently remind parents/students, an attendance rate of 90% (which some people think is good) means that an individual has had half a day off each week! School policy affords parents the opportunity to take 15 half days per year to facilitate the development of their child's talent. This allows them to maintain an attendance rate of 95%.

Generally, students at the school look immaculate. The only issue appears to be a small number of students who have ignored details in the Caldeian, the uniform code in the Respect leaflet and the details I placed in the school newsletter at the end of term. We do not allow students to wear trainers/or trainer like shoes to school. I will be writing to those parents of students who continue to ignore the uniform code.



## Up and Coming Events (Sept-Oct Half Term)

- 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> September – DofE Basic Training 1
- 16<sup>th</sup> September – Y7 CAT's testing
- 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> September DofE Gold/Silver Expedition
- 19<sup>th</sup> September – 11+ testing
- 19<sup>th</sup> September – Y7 Literacy testing
- 20<sup>th</sup> September – Full Governing Body meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> September – DofE Basic Training 2
- 21<sup>st</sup> September – Staff Inset Day (No students in school)**
- 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> September – New Y7 Open Evenings
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Open Day
- 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> September – DofE Basic Training 3
- 28<sup>th</sup> September – Macmillan Cake Sale
- 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> October – DofE Basic Training 4
- 7<sup>th</sup> October – Gideon Assembly
- 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> October – DofE Basic Training 5
- 12<sup>th</sup> October – Student Finance Talk
- 13<sup>th</sup> October – Bikeright Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> October – Bikeright Day
- 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> October – DofE Gold /Silver Expedition
- 21<sup>st</sup> October – End of half term**

We have welcomed a number of new staff to the school;

### Teaching

- Mrs Wiseman - Teacher of Spanish
- Mrs Dewis – Teacher of Maths
- Mr Slattery – Teacher of Latin
- Mrs Oakley – Teacher of Art
- Ms Banfield – Teacher of English

### Catering

- Mrs McArthur
- Mrs Jones
- Mrs Hughes

### Learning Support

- Mr Austin
- Ms Weston

### Learning Mentor

- Mrs Sorrentino Ryan

### Learning Resource Manager

- Mrs Eckford

### Lunchtime Supervisor

- Mrs Fowler

### Sports Coaches

- Mr Galley
- Mr Simmons
- Mr Sevillano

We have had a good start to the academic year and look forward, with your support, to its continuation.

Mark Rodaway  
Headteacher

## STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Will Colwell of Year 9 who made his Cheshire County Cricket Board debut in the 2016 season. He was the only squad member to have been selected for all 14 county fixtures, including games against Lancashire, Warwickshire & Surrey amongst others.

Will finished the season as the number #1 ranked batsman in the U13's County Squad of 15 players. He amassed a total of 357 runs, averaging 30. He also managed to notch his maiden county fifty, scoring 67 against Yorkshire at The Taunton Festival. Additionally, he finished the season as the number #2 ranked fielder, taking 7 fielding wickets (catches & run-outs). Well done Will.



## FORMER STUDENT VISITS SCHOOL

Former student Nicola Jane Chase came in to speak the 6th form on Thursday 8th September. She was discussing her new book 'Tea and Transition' which charts her journey from a Calday student, international DJ, heterosexual man to transgender woman. Staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the talk and had an opportunity to ask questions about what it was like to come back to Calday after such a long time and under such different circumstances. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet Nicola and she left copies of her book for the school library.

## CHANGES TO 83A BUS SERVICE

The 83A bus service from the Birkenhead/Prenton area to West Kirby has recently been changed by Avon Coaches.

Students using this service can still get to Calday Grange Grammar School via the 83A service which arrives at West Kirby town centre at 08:19. This bus then changes into the number 80 service which is a West Kirby/Newton circular route. The bus then leaves West Kirby town centre at 08:22 and arrives at Calday Grange Grammar School, Column Road at 08:24.

In the afternoon students may board the 80 bus at 15:54 on Column Road, the bus will arrive in West Kirby at 16:08, change into the number 83A service and proceed to Prenton/Birkenhead at 16:11. MyTravel, Solo and Trio passes are valid on all routes. Timetables for these routes can be viewed on the Merseytravel website at <http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/travelling-around/timetables>

## WIRRAL EARTH FEST 2016

Wirral Earth Fest is an earth and people-friendly festival that takes place this weekend. It brings together a wide range of local organisations, charities and business with a concern for the environment and people.

There is a festival launch on Friday night with a guest speaker and live music at St Bridgets Church and Saturday sees a field full of exhibitors, visitors, performing arts, and food and drink. For more information check out their facebook page Wirral Earth Fest.

## KERATONCONUS

We have recently been asked to make parents aware of a serious eye condition called Keratoconus. This condition tends to manifest itself, mainly in males, during puberty and into the early twenties, and can become severe in as little as six months or it can be a slow onset. Regular eye tests are extremely important throughout the secondary school age. For more information, please visit <http://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/condition/keratoconus>

## FUNDRAISE FOR THE SCHOOL WHILST SHOPPING!

Thank you to all those who have used the easyfundraising website as last month we raised a fantastic £100. Parents and staff have commented on how easy it is to use. To sign up and help us raise funds for the school please visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>



Calday Association of Parents & Staff

If you want to lend your support to CAPS and get involved in fund-raising events to raise funds for the school, please get in touch with us: [caps@calday.co.uk](mailto:caps@calday.co.uk)

## PARENT VIEW – YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT

Parent View offers parents the opportunity to tell Ofsted what they think about their child's school which in turn provides the school with valuable information to help us improve. Last year only a small number of parents (approximately 20) provided their feedback so we would be grateful if you could take the opportunity to visit [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) to complete the short questionnaire.