



Calday Grange Grammar School Parents' Newsletter

4th September 2015

Mon	7 th Sept	
Tues	8 th Sept	11+ practice test
Weds	9 th Sept	
Thurs	10 th Sept	
Friday	11 th Sept	11+ practice test

MESSAGE FROM MR RODAWAY

Welcome back to a new academic year. I extend a particular welcome to the 186 new Year 7 students and those who have made the transition from Year 11 to Sixth Form. I am confident that, with the hard work of staff and students alike, we will be celebrating the success of your sons and daughters in the future.

Academic standards continue to be high. 98.9% of students gained 5+A*-C at GCSE level, with 96.2% gaining 5+A*-C including English and Mathematics. **51.5%** of all GCSE grades were A*/A, with **82.2%** of all grades being awarded in the A*-B category. This is an improvement on the previous year's results. However, it is the progress figures that highlight the success of the school and will be used by OFSTED to form any future judgment. This year 94% of students made expected progress in English (the national figure in 2013-14 was 70%), whilst 70% made better than expected progress (the 2013-14 national figure was 34%). Similarly, in Mathematics 90% made expected progress (national – 65%) whilst 58% made better than expected progress (national – 29%). This means that the school continues to add value academically.

Results at A2 were the best the school has achieved in the past 5 years. 99.2% of grades were in the A-E category, with 33.1% being the very highest grades (A*/A), and 62.9% being A*-B grades. All students who had applied for university were successfully placed (the majority gaining their first choice), with an increasing number of students successfully embarking on degree level apprenticeships.

These results, both GCSE and A level, have been achieved against a background of central government intervention both in relation to curriculum and standards. I congratulate students and staff for their hard work and effort and thank parents for their continued support.

These results reflect the impact of the schools continued 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. In response to feedback received from parents completing a questionnaire when attending school events, there will be a particular emphasis of homework, marking and feedback. Our aim is that all parents will be able to monitor their son or daughters set homework via an internet based system (Sims Learning Gateway). Passwords will be being issued during the forthcoming half term.

Upon returning to school the majority of students look immaculate. However, a small number of students have chosen to disregard the school uniform code (and the reminder that I sent out at the end of the year) regarding black training shoes. These are not allowed in school. They do not set the correct image for the school and do not provide protection in such a busy environment. **Contrary to what your son may have told you, the school uniform code, the RESPECT leaflet issued to all students (available via the school website) and the reminder contained in the July newsletter all detail that the uniform code is black school shoes, with trainers not being permitted.**

I draw your attention to the fact that on the first day back at school (Y7 and L6 only) the local authority traffic enforcement vehicle was positioned on Grammar School Lane. If you 'dropped' your son or daughter off immediately outside of school (on or opposite the zig-zag lines or in the bus lanes) you are likely to receive a fixed penalty notice. These regulations are in place to protect the children at the school. The front of the school is extremely busy at the start and end of the day. **Please, do not stop at the front of school as this causes congestion and increases the risk to your children.**

Attendance

As previously communicated, the DfE/Local Authority 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 came in to force on 1st September 2013. Amendments to 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 expected to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to parents who remove their children from school in term time for the purpose of holidays.*

To help 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)

As a school we are committed to developing the talents of all our students. Often, this will involve them in activities and events which take place during school time. However, it is important that these activities do not have a negative impact upon the academic progress of a student in school. For this reason, the Governors have established a policy that allows students up to 15 half days per academic year to involve themselves in activities during school time. This allows students to develop their talents whilst maintaining an attendance rate of 95%. Absence beyond this threshold will not be authorised. Authorisation will not be granted if the attendance rate of a student is already below 90%. Legitimate requests should be put in writing to the Headteacher.

I trust that you will find this clarification helpful.

We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year. 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. We will be holding a parents evening on 22nd October for Year 12 and Year 7. This evening will provide parents with an opportunity to meet with Form Tutors and reassure themselves that their son or daughter has settled in to life at Calday Grange Grammar School.

Mr M Rodaway
Headteacher

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 15th September	11+ Real Test 1
Friday 18th September	11+ Real Test 2 Jeans for Genes Non Uniform Day
Wednesday 23rd September	Staff Development Day (school closed to students) Open Evening (6.00 pm to 8.00 pm)
Thursday 24th September	Open Day & Open Evening
Thursday 22nd October	Year 7 & Year 12 Tutors' Evening
Friday 23rd October	School closes for half term break
Monday 2nd November	School reopens for all students
Weds 11th – Fri 13th November	School Play
Thursday 19th November	Open Evening for prospective Year 12 students (non Calday)
Monday 23rd November	Year 11 mock examinations commence
Wednesday 9th December	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Monday 14th December	Senior Awards Evening
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Concert
Friday 18th December	School closes for Christmas break

VACANCIES

We currently have the following vacancies:-

- Learning Support Assistant (30 hours per week)
- Catering Assistant (25 hours per week)
- Cleaner (10 hours per week)

If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in any of these vacancies please ask them to visit our website for full details.

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

There have been minor updates to the Behaviour Policy. If you wish to view the changes, the policy can be found in the 'About Us' section of the school website. Please email any comments for the attention of Mr Twist to theschool@calday.co.uk.

DATES FOR DofE EXPEDITIONS

September

Gold Practice Expeditions
Morocco: Friday 11th - Sunday 13th
Arete/Wales: Friday 11th - Monday 14th

Silver Assessment Expedition
Wales: Monday 21st - Wednesday 23rd

Gold Assessment Expedition
Arete/Wales: Friday 25th - Monday 28th

October

Gold Assessment Expedition
Morocco: Tuesday 20th October - Wednesday 28th October

CHANGES TO MERSEYTRAVEL'S PORTFOLIO OF PRE-PAID TICKETS

Please find below information which we have been asked by Merseytravel to forward to parents.

- From 1 September 2015 the age eligibility for Young Persons tickets will increase from 15 years old to 18 years old, which in affect means that a customer aged 18 up to the date of their 19th Birthday is eligible to purchase a Young Persons Ticket. From 19 years plus the customer will require an Adult ticket.
- Previously 16 to 18 year olds could only purchase a Young Persons Ticket if they could prove they were in full time education or work based training. However 16 to 18 year olds can purchase a Young Persons Ticket and do not need to prove that they are in full time education or work based learning moving forward moving forward.
- The Solo paper weekly and monthly ticket will be phased out and will not be available to purchase from 7 September 2015. From this date there will be a weekly and 4-weekly Smart Solo ticket available to purchase. Rather than a paper ticket being issued for the Solo Ticket, a card will be issued which will have the chosen product or products loaded onto the card.
- The Smart Solo weekly and 4-weekly products will be anonymous, so a photograph is no longer required. As the weekly and 4-weekly product will be anonymous there will be no replacement if the card is lost or stolen.
- The card will only activate when it is first placed on a bus reader. This product will then run consecutively from the first time it is used until it expires, i.e. 1 week or 4 weeks later.
- More than one product can be placed on the Walrus card at any time, allowing customers to purchase tickets in advance. We would also encourage customers to retain their card for future use, as a charge for the cards will likely be introduced in the future.

Further review of Merseytravel's Ticket Portfolio is currently ongoing and any further changes or updates will be communicated in due course.

A UNIQUE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 11 & 12 STUDENTS

Former Calday students and friends of nearly 40 years, Robin MURRAY (1977-1984) and Martin PALMER (1977-1984) are sponsoring an exciting new competition that seeks to find and support a technology or tech-related product or service.

Robin is now based in California where he works in technology venture capital. Martin is based in the UK and is a management consultant.

The objectives of the competition are:

- To promote technology and entrepreneurship at Calday Grange Grammar School
- To fund early stage start-up of the business with a prize of £5,000
- To provide mentor support for the winner(s)
- This is NOT a business case competition; it is a competition to help a Calday student(s) launch their dream business.

100 YEARS OF CADETS AT CALDAY GRANGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

2016 will see the centenary of the formation of the First Cadet Unit at Calday Grange Grammar School



In the spring term of 1916 a unit of the Officers' Training Corps (OTC) was established to help train young men to take their place in the ranks of the Army embroiled in the First World War. The successor to this OTC unit is today's Combined Cadet Force Contingent which has both a Royal Navy Section and a Royal Air Force Section.

The CCF has clear objectives; to develop leadership qualities amongst its cadets, to foster a team spirit, to develop personal qualities of self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance in cadets and to instill a commitment to service.

To celebrate this event there will be a parade at the School on the morning of Saturday 19 March 2016, during which a new Contingent Banner will be dedicated. This will be followed by a buffet lunch and demonstrations of cadet activities in the afternoon. We also hope to install a stained-glass window to mark the anniversary and this will be unveiled during the day. Guests are invited to arrive at 09:30. The daytime event will finish at approximately 15:30.

There will be a formal dinner at HMS Eaglet in the evening. Further details will be promulgated later. The day will also serve as the Contingent's Biennial Inspection when a senior officer of one of HM's Forces assesses the efficiency of the Contingent and confirms its value for money.

You are invited to attend either or both of the day's events. Please get in touch with Major Adcock via ccf@calday.co.uk. Please inform your friends and relatives of the event.



CALDAY ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS AND STAFF (PTA)

Would you like to join a friendly group of parents and teachers in planning and organising events to benefit the students in the school and the community at Calday? For more information please email CAPS@calday.co.uk or visit www.calday.co.uk

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME



Whilst Calday Grange Grammar School attempts to ensure that almost every sport and extra-curricular activity that students wish to partake in is made available, the financial pressures of delivering them to 1400 students has become ever more problematic.

Since the launch of the School Fund this academic year we thank those families who have made the donation of £40, however we still need to look at raising the level of funding to cover the ever increasing costs of transport, materials and equipment.

With this in mind we are pleased to announce our new Sponsorship Programme which we believe provides great benefit to our students and, of course, to all of our sponsors. The program will allow sponsors to purchase annual sponsorship signage as seen below which will be used at all sporting events from year 7 through to the sixth form.

The format of the sponsorship will be using Sail Banners which will allow us to ensure maximum exposure for the company and also for them to be moved to different areas of the school sports facilities.

We will supply the banner with your logo for the cost of £500 per Banner. This will entitle the company to 12 months sponsorship at CGGS home matches. The total number of games for which this sponsorship will give each company access is in excess of 100 with regular fixtures in 10 sports.

The deadline to be part of this fantastic opportunity for next season is June 5th with logos to be submitted by June 12th. If you wish to help support the school please email the outreach office on geoff.bosworth@calday.co.uk

FUNDRAISE FOR THE SCHOOL WHILST SHOPPING!

We are always looking for opportunities to maximise the impact of our fundraising activities and would like to draw your attention to a donation website we are currently signed up to where we can benefit from your shopping.

The easyfundraising website rewards shoppers who purchase from various online retailers by making donations to good causes. Calday Grange Grammar School qualifies as a good cause and by using this site one of our parents has already contributed £37 for 6 months of shopping. Imagine the impact on funds if a significant number of others followed suit!

Could we please ask you to take 5 minutes of your time to take a look at the following link and sign up to the website via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>

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 to complete the short questionnaire.