



PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

16th December 2016

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|------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mon | 19 th December | Senior Awards Evening (7.00 pm) |
| Tues | 20 th December | |
| Weds | 21 st December | School closes at 1.00 pm |
| Mon | 9 th January | School reopens for all students |

MESSAGE FROM MR RODAWAY

At the time of writing, we have three days left before the end of term and the start of the Christmas Break. We will close the school at 1pm on Wednesday 21st December and return (at normal time) on Monday 9th January 2017.

Thank you to all the parents/guests who attended the Magical Musical Christmas on Wednesday and Thursday night. Due to the overwhelming demand for tickets we broke with traditional and put on two performances. Judging by the numbers who attended, a ticket for the event is one of the hottest tickets to be had.

The quality of the music was outstanding. The sheer numbers of students taking part is testimony to the high quality support and guidance that the students receive from the Music Department. Mrs Powell and Mrs Gilbert work extremely hard to maintain the very highest standards across a range of musical ensembles. This event always gets me in the 'mood' for Christmas (other than the temperature in the hall).

As always, the year has been busy and successful. The school has involved itself in a wide range of activities during the year. Details of these activities can be found on the school website via the Twitter feed.

During the forthcoming term, Mr Brian Thompson will be reducing his timetable with the view to retiring at the end of the Spring term 2017. Mr Thompson started working at Calday Grange Grammar School in September 1982. He has devoted himself to the school, with this dedication being recognised by generations of students. He has occupied the positions of Teacher of Physics, Head of Technology and Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for the Curriculum and Timetabling. He has assisted with school plays, musical events and the successful school quiz team (to name just a few). I am sure that you will join me in wishing him a well-earned retirement.

As some parents may also be aware Mr Chris Todd has retired from his position of Director of Hockey. Chris started working at the school in 1975 as a Teacher of Chemistry and occupied positions in the CCF and as Director of Music. He was instrumental in the success of the school Hockey Teams and I thank him for all his hard work and dedication.

Mrs Joan Cooper (Receptionist) is retiring in January 2017 having worked at the school since 2006. Once again, I thank her for her hard work and commitment to the school. Her post as receptionist will be undertaken by Mrs Giardelli. Other appointments to the Administration/Finance Teams are Miss Rachel Chong and Mrs Jodie Gates.

We have recently appointed to the posts of Teachers of English, with Miss Banfield and Mrs Williams being successful in their applications.

In January, Mrs Magee will be starting her maternity leave. Her role as Head of Year 12 will be undertaken by Ms Gill, with her Chemistry teaching being covered by Mr Elliott. Ms Gill's role as Curriculum Co-ordinator in the Business and Logic Faculty will be undertaken on a temporary basis by Mr Alcock. Mrs Mounsey has been appointed to the permanent position of Curriculum Co-ordinator for Business and Logic.

Mrs Button (Biology Technician) is also due to go on maternity leave. Her role as technician will be covered by Mrs Humphreys.

We will be seeking to appoint a qualified HR/Employment Law Manager to the school. The details will be posted on the school website in January.

We have recently applied for funding to make important improvements to the school. A bid has been submitted to continue the work of replacing all the old windows in Glasspool Building. We have also submitted a bid to construct a new front entrance to the school. This will allow easier access for visitors as well as improving site security. The plan (see below), includes bringing all members of the Student Services team into a central hub, allowing easier access for our students. We are currently at the planning stage and hope to start construction before Summer 2017.



We are still pursuing plans for the building of a four court Sports Hall. We will be appointing a professional fundraising team to help us generate the £1.7M for its construction. They may contact alumni for assistance in this important project.

Thank you for all your support and I wish you a Merry Christmas.

M R Rodaway
Headteacher

STUDENT SUCCESS



Congratulations to all of our computer science students who took part in an international computational thinking competition during November. We have recently received notification that Adam Stoddart has been recognised as one of the top scoring students and has been placed amongst the best in the country. Adam will now take part in the second stage of the challenge at the University of Oxford. Well done Adam.

HSBC CHINESE SPEAKING AND DRAMA COMPETITION

Many congratulations to the Chinese Drama Team of Omer Khan, Stephen Scott-Myers, Alastair Carswell, Joseph Vilela, Ben Mathot and David Cracknell who recently competed in the HSBC Chinese Speaking and Drama Competition and are successfully through to the finals which will be held at the British Museum in London in February.

We would also like to congratulate Daniel Ogram-Hayes who competed in the Speaking section of the competition. Daniel performed extremely well but came up against tough competition and therefore unfortunately did not proceed to the next stage of the competition.

FESTIVE FUN!



The sixth form prefects have been providing some festive fun for our year 7 and 8 students. They have had the opportunity to take part in a Christmas treasure hunt all week, with clues dotted around the school each day.

Today the prefects judged the 'Best Decorated Form Room' competition. Form groups were also invited to wrap up a prefect (developing the skills needed to wrap up those awkwardly shaped presents!) and winners will be announced next week.

EVERTON SUPPORTERS' CLUB



On Tuesday, 13th December 10 lucky students received a pair of free tickets for the Everton v Arsenal match courtesy of the club's 'Secret Santa' gift for our branch of the Everton Supporters' Club. All our young Evertonians are welcome in H20 on Week 1 Fridays for team news, match reviews, activities and the chance to be next on the list for any great Everton freebies! See Ms Weston for further details or just come along!

THE SUPER WHITE CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Tranmere Rovers have been into school again today to collect another large selection of toys which have been kindly donated by our students and staff. We would like to thank everyone for their support.

GUIDANCE TO PARENTS

A consortium of local schools would like to issue the following statement:

As the school holidays approach we would like to raise awareness of potential risk-taking behaviours of young people and highlight drug-related issues within our local communities, both in and outside of school.

Through our work in partnership with the Merseyside Police, Wirral Youth Service and the Wirral Schools Drugs Adviser, it has become apparent of the increased availability and low cost of high-strength **Ecstasy** both in pill and powder forms. (Its chemical name is **MDMA** also known locally as E, Tablets, Pills, Magic, Blue Transformers, Gold Bars and Yellow Barcelonas.) **Ketamine** (a powerful general amnestic) and **New Psychoactive Substances** (formally known as legal highs) and **Alcohol** are also prevalent.

Whilst we believe that our students are sensible and have some knowledge and understanding of the risks and dangers associated with substance misuse, it's important to acknowledge that some young people may face greater exposure to vulnerability and risks during the holiday period.

Our advice for parents:

- If your child presents under the influence of a substance including alcohol and you have concerns, please do not hesitate to seek expert advice and call England NHS helpline on 111.
- If your child is unresponsive or presents as a risk to themselves, call emergency services on 999 immediately.

Worried about your child?

- Talk to them - In general, most young people, especially those under 16, trust their parents/carers and will respond to any information and support offered to them.
- Find out the facts before hand – Visit www.talktofrank.com for accurate, up-to-date information about different types of drugs.
- Make the time to have the conversation.
- It's important to stay calm and open-minded.
- If you're sure there's a problem and your child refuses to talk to you, try not to panic.

Where to go for help?

- **Response** – Wirral Children & Young People's Department. The agency offers advice, guidance and support to young people aged 13 - 19. Please call 0151 666 – 4385 or visit their website, www.response@wirral.gov.uk
- **Adfam** is the national charity working to improve life for families affected by drugs and alcohol. Please visit www.adfam.org.uk
- **Talk to Frank** is a free, confidential service for all ages. Visit www.talktofrank.com or call 0300 123 6600
- **GP** – Contact your Doctor



END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

The school will close at 1.00 pm on the last day of term, Wednesday 21st December. The buses organised by the school to Wallasey (C1 & C2) and to Ellesmere Port/Chester area (W1, 2, 3 and 4) will leave at the earlier finish time of 1.00 pm. However, we have now received confirmation from Merseytravel that unfortunately the bus companies are unable to change their pick up times and will be running as normal (i.e. 3.35 pm pick up). We would therefore be grateful if parents could make alternative arrangements for their children to get home.

If you are unable to make alternative arrangements and would like your child to remain in school until 3.35 pm could you please contact Mrs Ellis either via email Debbie.ellis@calday.co.uk or 0151 6252727.

CAREERS

Dr Howse, a Consultant at the Royal, has kindly offered to come into school during the lunch break on Wednesday 18th January to deliver one of his very interesting talks about Medicine. This will be suitable for students considering a medical career. All Year 11 and 12 students are welcome to attend but must ensure that they register their interest with Mrs Montgomery.

EXAMINATION CERTIFICATES

Official examination certificates for GCSEs and AS Levels from the summer will be issued to students via form tutors before the end of term. When they are brought home, please ensure that they are kept in a safe place as it is becoming increasingly common to be asked to present these for future jobs/university places.

'A' Level students will be able to collect their certificates at the lunch on Tuesday 20th December. Anyone unable to attend this, or any GCSE students who have now left the school, can collect their certificates from reception. If collecting on behalf of someone else, a letter of authorisation will be required.

SAVE THE DATE! - CAPS QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 3rd February 2017 in the school hall.

Doors open & bar from 7pm, quiz to start promptly at 7.30pm.

Entrance £10 - includes Marigold's Fish & Chips Supper

Tables of 6-8 or join a team on the night. Tickets on sale from Friday 13th January 2017 via ParentPay



VACANCIES

We currently have the vacancies listed below. Full details can be found on the school website.

- Catering Assistant (required as soon as possible)
- Teacher of Geography (required September 2017)
- Lunchtime Supervisors (required as soon as possible)
- Administration Apprentice (required as soon as possible)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please note that the **Free School Meals daily allowance has increased to £3.20 per day** which will allow eligible children to enjoy a snack and a drink at breaktime and a hot meal and drink at lunchtime. To find out further details of how to apply please follow the link to our Free School Meals page www.calday.co.uk/freeschoolmeals

DRESSMAKING AND SEWING SKILLS COURSE – starting January 2017

As part of our popular family & adult evening class programme bookings are now being taken for a new dressmaking and sewing skills class starting in January. The group meet for two hours on a Monday evening, the cost of the 10-week course is £80 per person. More details can be found on the school website at: www.calday.co.uk/eveningclasses or go straight to the on line school shop to enrol and pay at: shop.calday.co.uk

