



# Calday Grange Grammar School

## Parents' Newsletter

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Mon	16 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Drama Practicals (all week)
Tues	17 <sup>th</sup> January	
Weds	18 <sup>th</sup> January	
Thurs	19 <sup>th</sup> January	
Fri	20 <sup>th</sup> January	

Happy New Year and we hope that you and your family had a well-earned break. Please find below a list of forward planning dates for your information:-

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Study Skills Evening
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Year 9 Options Information Evening
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Group Photographs
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	CAPs Quiz Night
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 Immunisations
	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	CAPs Annual General Meeting
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	House Music Competition (Concert in evening)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Non Uniform Day
	School closes for half-term break

### STUDENT SUCCESS

#### Swimming



Many congratulations to Nathan Young (Year 12) who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Deaflympics in Turkey later this year. Nathan, who is profoundly deaf as a result of a genetic condition, holds a number of GB Deaf swimming records and his most recent achievement was at the recent North West Regional Championships where he gained a GB National Youth record in 50m Backstroke and an English National record in 50m Freestyle.

#### Hockey (written by Ms Trotter)

From January 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> representatives from the Calday 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> XI hockey teams travelled to Barcelona to take part in the Los Reyes International Hockey Tournament where, led by Co-Captains Tom Thorne and Mike Smith, they played brilliantly alongside a very high calibre of opposition from the U.K., Holland, Belgium, France and Italy.

From the first match on the Friday right through to the playoffs on the Sunday, the boys displayed admirable skill and teamwork, both on and off the pitch, and were a joy to watch and support from the side-lines. Although every single Calday player did themselves proud and proved just how talented they are, they selected their Player of the Tournament as Mike Wood – well done Mike! The host club, RC Polo de Barcelona were excellent; helpful and enthusiastic about the sport and the boys' participation, and this really ensured the entire experience was a resounding success.

It wasn't all hard work though on the pitch – cultural downtime around Barcelona was insisted upon!! With the assistance of Dan Millard's GCSE Spanish skills, the boys explored the delights that old and new town Barcelona has to offer, all the while sampling gourmet delights such as seafood soup, peas & Iberico ham and of course, Spanish ice-cream from the little stall on *La Rambla* (it's a cultural 'must!'). No trip to Barcelona is complete without a tour around the amazing Camp Nou stadium, home to footballing greats FC Barcelona – an experience the boys greatly enjoyed. Being a strongly catholic country, the team also experienced the 'real' Barcelona at the '*Cavalcada de Reis Mags*', a huge city-wide parade to celebrate The Epiphany, marvelled at Gaudi's architectural masterpiece, the incredible *La Sagrada Familia*, as well as the stunning *La Catedral* in the central old town, before moving onto the iconic *Basilica de Santa Maria del Mar*. The day was finished with a beautiful panoramic sunset overlooking the city from the wonderful *Park Güell*.

## Hockey (cont/d..)

Matthew Jenkinson in U6H3 summed up the trip by saying *'Playing against opposition of different nationalities was a unique experience, complimented further by the Real club de Polo's hospitality and excellent club grounds. In addition to success on the pitch, we got a chance to experience Barcelona culture with our whole team which was fitting. Overall it was a trip that will never be forgotten and we owe a thank you to Miss Trotter and Mr Oakley.'*

Mr Oakley and I have led many school trips, both local and international, but this one was a true privilege to be part of and is one that will stay with us for a long time. The boys were a true joy to be with and so we too would like to thank the Calday hockey players all for their hard work and high spirits, and congratulate them on their skill and teamwork. You are a credit to the school. Well done lads.

Please [click here](#) to access an article from The Hockey Paper regarding the team.



## ADVERSE WEATHER

Due to recent weather warnings, we have included, at the end of this newsletter, a copy of the procedure which will be used should we be affected by adverse weather

## SAILING

If any students are interested in being part of a school sailing club, please ask them to attend a meeting with Mr Bosworth on Monday (16<sup>th</sup> January) in the gym for further information.

## INFORMATION SESSION ON APPLYING TO OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE

An information session will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 1.00 pm in H13 for any Year 12 students who are interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge. This does not commit you to anything and no one should be intimidated. Oxford and Cambridge want very good candidates as much as our students want to go there. In the past years an average of 5/6 Calday students have been successful in applications, so it is not impossible!

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY LECTURE

There are 10 places available for an evening lecture "How chemistry can shape your future and our world" arranged by the Royal Society of Chemistry to be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, from 4.00 pm - 6.30 pm in Manchester. Students will hear from a range of speakers about how they now use the skills and knowledge gained from their chemistry degree and be able to speak to representatives from local university chemistry departments. Any students who are interested in attending this event should see Mrs Boyle by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

## VACANCIES

We are seeking to appoint a HR Manager. Full details can be found in the vacancies section of the school website.

## 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 are available via ParentPay

## NEWS FROM THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Happy New Year from the Learning Resource Centre! Please have a look at our updated webpage here for the latest information: <http://library.calday.co.uk/>

This includes details of this term's Scholastic Teen Book Club. You can browse the full selection here <https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/calday-grange> and order directly from the Teen Leaflet. Every order over £10 earns the school rewards to spend on books for the library. A big thank you to those parents who ordered just before Christmas - those orders are now in school ready to go home with your children.

## HOUSE MUSIC

The House Music Festival will take place for students during the school day on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February and parents are invited to attend a concert in the evening at 7.00 pm. Tickets are priced at £4.00 and will go on sale via Parentpay on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. The ticket sales will close at 4.00 pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February and tickets will then be ready for collection by students from the Music Department at break-times on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February. Please be aware that no tickets will be available to buy on the door.

## CAREERS

Just a reminder that Dr Howse, a Consultant at the Royal, along with one of his patients will be in school during the lunch break on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January (1.00 pm in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Quiet Study) to deliver his very interesting talk about a career in medicine. All Year 11, 12 and 13 students considering a medical career are welcome to attend

## CHINESE EXCHANGE

There are still places available on the Chinese Exchange programme. Any student who is interested in taking part or would like to know more before making a commitment, should see Miss Lu or send an email to [yishan.lu@calday.co.uk](mailto:yishan.lu@calday.co.uk)

## POSTER COMPETITION TO CELEBRATE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR (The Year of the Rooster)

This year, the Chinese New Year falls on 28<sup>th</sup> January and hence there is a poster design competition being held by the Chinese Department. All Year 7 and Year 8 students are invited to take part and the winner, along with his siblings and parents, will be treated to a free lunch at TaiPan Buffet in Liverpool city centre on 29<sup>th</sup> January. The poster should be A3 size and its content should promote the Chinese New Year. Students should take their completed post to Ms Gan or Miss Lu by 23<sup>rd</sup> January, with their name and form written down on the back of the poster.

## PARKING & DROPPING OFF STUDENTS

We ask that parents do not drop-off their children at the bottom of the school steps or within the school car park, as this causes unnecessary congestion. Grammar School Lane also becomes congested, especially at the beginning and end of the day with buses arriving and departing and therefore we also 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. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated

We would also like to remind parents and students that parking on some parts of Column Road is illegal and that cars parked inappropriately may be ticketed by the police who are now conducting regular checks on the area. Please ensure that cars are parked sensibly elsewhere and that they do not block access for those who live in the vicinity of the school. Thank you for your assistance.

## 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](http://www.calday.co.uk/freeschoolmeals)

## 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.



# Calday Grange Grammar School

## Procedure to be used in the event of adverse weather conditions

We are committed to minimising disruption to the education of our students and we will always endeavour to keep the school open wherever possible but there are rare occasions when we will find it necessary to close the school. These are usually occasions when adverse weather means that the school site is unsafe and poses health and safety risks to the school community.

Decisions on whether or not to close the school are never taken lightly. They involve both the Senior Leadership Team and representatives of the school's Governing Body. The first consideration is always the safety of the students and staff. If, due to adverse weather conditions the staffing complement is too low, health and safety risk assessments may mean that we cannot open the school to all year groups.

Our aim is to avoid, as far as possible, any uncertainty and confusion in the event of possible school closure. We believe that the best way to do this is to communicate as fully as possible with our parents.

### **In the event of adverse weather prior to the start of the school day:-**

A decision will be made between 6.00 am and 7.00 am as to whether the school should be open or needs to be closed. In the event of closure, by 7.30 am (wherever possible), the school will ensure that:-

- an automated text or email message is sent to parents and staff via the SchoolComms system
- the school website has been updated
- an update is available on our social media sites

**Note:** Please be aware that during bad weather the school will run all external examinations at the published times and students should continue to monitor the school website for details.

### **In the event of adverse weather during the school day:-**

If the school is open in the morning but the weather conditions deteriorate during the day, we will continually assess the risks. The decision whether to close the school will be made taking into account:-

- School transport (these are often cancelled during periods of snow and ice)
- Condition of the local roads
- Weather updates through the local authority and MET office

Should the decision be taken to close the school we will inform parents via:-

- an automated text or email message sent from the SchoolComms system
- a notice on the school website
- information on our social media sites

We understand that it may be difficult for some parents to collect their child and therefore contingency plans will be put in place to ensure that the school remains open until all students are collected.

In the event of prolonged closure due to weather, parents should continue to monitor the school website as it will be updated on a regular basis with the latest information.

As we draw students from a large catchment area, parents should always assess if it is safe for their children to leave for school based on their local weather and their safety in travelling to and from school. If you decide not to send your child into school we ask that you notify the school on the day of absence via the absence line or email. This will then ensure that the absence is recorded as authorised.

We will always do everything in our power to avoid school closure and would greatly appreciate your support during these difficult times.