



PARENTS' NEWSLETTER 19th December 2014

Mon	5 th Jan	All students return
Tues	6 th Jan	
Weds	7 th Jan	
Thurs	8 th Jan	
Fri	9 th Jan	

MESSAGE FROM MR RODAWAY, HEADTEACHER

As you may be aware, we have recently re-established a school/parents association. We have agreed that it will be a parent and staff association, with all parents and current staff being automatically enrolled as members. The Calday Association of Parents and Staff (CAPS) will hold their first General Meeting on **Monday 2nd February at 6.30pm School Hall**. A copy of the proposed constitution has been posted on the school website (parents – CAPS) for members to review.

During the meeting the constitution will be ratified and members elected to the key posts of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested in holding any of these key positions, you should inform the school via the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Debbie Ellis (debbie.ellis@calday.co.uk) by **Monday 12th January**. If more than one person expresses an interest in taking up these key posts, the school will invite them to compose a simple pen portrait which will be published, and an election held on the evening of 2nd February.

During the final week of term (Monday 15th December) we held our Senior Awards Evening. Dr Benjamin Twist, a former student presented awards for performance at GCSE, AS and A2 level. It was a real pleasure to welcome back former students who had 'left' school in the summer.

The school Christmas Concert (Wednesday 17th December) was a well-attended event that highlighted the wealth of musical talent that exists in the school. A packed hall experienced a mixture of traditional carols and modern tunes, co-ordinated by the Music Department. I congratulate and thank all the students who took part. I would also like to thank Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Powell on your behalf for an outstanding evening's entertainment.

Mrs Brenda Gott, Examinations Officer, will be leaving the school at the end of term after 28 years' dedicated service to the school. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Gott for her significant contribution to the life of the school and to wish her a long and happy retirement. Miss Joanna Atkinson, currently employed at Liverpool University, will be joining the school in January to take up the post of Examinations and Data Manager.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school and to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Please see document at the end of the newsletter for the procedure which will be used in the event of adverse weather conditions.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Matthew Kitteringham who has secured a place in the prestigious National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, playing bassoon. He will be performing at the Barbican in London and Leeds Town Hall in early January after an intensive course of rehearsals over the Christmas holiday. After passing grade 8 on the flute with distinction Matthew took up the bassoon and after only two years passed grade 8 bassoon with distinction and gained a place at the Royal Northern College of Music Junior School.

Matthew has been offered a substantial scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music and a scholarship for the Guildhall School of Music in London. He also has offers for the Royal Northern College of Music and one of very few places to study on the joint course between Manchester University and Royal Northern College of Music. A very successful Autumn term's work!

SPORTS NEWS

Well done to the Year 8 (see report below) and Year 9 football teams who are in the last 32 of the English Schools Cup.

Year 8 Football Team

The Year 8 Football team progressed to the last 32 in the country in the English Schools FA Cup this week. They beat St Monica`s School Bury by 7 goals to nil. This was particularly pleasing as St Monica`s beat us last year on penalties in the same competition. The goals came from Josh Quarmby 2, George Nugent, Luke Robinson, Jake Bickerstaff, Matthew Webster and Tom Jordan.

The next round is against Canon Slade School in Bolton which will be in the New Year.

Year 7 Basketball Team

The Year 7 Basketball team beat Ridgeway in the Wirral Schools Group Stages . This means that the team have now won all their group matches and qualify for the Wirral Final.

E-SAFETY

We want all of our students to have a safe and happy Christmas. No doubt your son/ daughter will increase their time spent online over the holidays and many of them will receive new phones as presents. Many parents believe that their child will never be involved in sexting however, unfortunately, this issue is on the increase. Please see the link below to the NSPCC which provides information on:-

- How to discuss sexting with your child
- How to respond if your child is affected by sexting
- How to set parental controls on your child's mobile phone

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/sexting/>

CHARITY

As you are aware, the school is regularly involved in events and activities to help raise funds for local charities and those in need. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students and parents for their continued support. *Mrs Rowlands (Charity Co-ordinator)*

House Charity

Thank you to all students who came to watch the Physics band. The total amount raised for the Wirral Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted was a fantastic £397.80.



Mission Christmas Appeal

Once again, many thanks to all those who have supported this year's Radio City Mission Christmas Appeal by sending in presents. We received 108 gifts which were collected by 'Santa and his helpers' on Monday morning.

DofE SKILL & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRONZE AND SILVER

If your son has not yet decided what to do for the skill or volunteering sections of the bronze and silver award please go to the school website to learn about opportunities available through school. www.caldaygrangegrammarschool.co.uk/dofeopportunities. Thank you, the DofE team

OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

We will be holding an additional open evening for prospective sixth form students on Wednesday 25th February 2015. Further details will follow in January.

GCE RESITS SUMMER 2014

Entries must be made 12th to 16th January 2015 at the Exam office. Applications must be made in person and will not be accepted unless accompanied by a completed application form (available from Form Tutors from 5th January 2015) and the correct fee.

THE 2013 GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE AWARDS

The 2013 Good School Guide Awards were announced at the end of last week and we were informed that we had received the following awards. Many congratulations to all students and staff.

GCE A Level Award

Award for Excellence for boys taking Art & Design (Fine Art)
Award for Excellence for boys taking Electronics
Award for Excellence for boys taking Law
Award for Excellence for boys taking Russian
Award for Excellence for boys taking Spanish

GCE AS Level Award

Award for Excellence for boys taking Chinese
Award for Excellence for boys taking Drama & Theatre Studies
Award for Excellence for boys taking Russian

GCSE Full Course Awards

Award for Excellence for boys taking Chinese

IBO Higher level component

Award for Excellence for boys taking Chemistry

Merry
Christmas

VACANCIES

We currently have the following vacancies:-

Cleaner

10 hours per week – 7.00 am to 9.00 am each day. Please see website for further details.

Catering Assistant (Bank)

We are looking to employ bank staff who are able to provide cover as and when required. If you are interested in these positions please contact Mrs Ellis on 0151 6252727

Technician (Design & Technology)

This vacancy has been readvertised. Please see website for further details.

11 Plus FAMILIARISATION SESSIONS

Qualified tuition, small groups, individual feedback on course completion
Saturday and Thursday sessions available (£10 per week)

Places still available for courses starting January 2015. Summer term options also now available for booking, for further details and how to apply go to:

www.caldaygrangegrammarschool.co.uk/11plus

NEW SCHOOL SCARF



We have commissioned a new school scarf which is available for students and parents to buy. We currently have a limited number in school; further supplies will be made to order. The scarf is available in one size, (W23cmxL151cm) and made of 100% pure new wool, the cost is £18 per scarf. You can purchase a scarf by making payment via your school Scopay account; you will receive an email when your scarf is ready to be collected from the Community Office.

COMING SOON - our new online shop will shortly be added to the school website, please go to: www.caldaygrangegrammarschool.co.uk/shop

CHRIS SALMON POETRY COMPETITION 2014

The Chris Salmon Poetry Extravaganza takes place annually in memory of poetry-loving Chris Salmon, a student at Calday Grange Grammar School who tragically died from a rare streptococcal infection in February 2009 aged just 15.

The theme of the competition for 2015 is 'Light'. The closing date for applications is **15th January 2015**. Entry is free and there are cash prizes for all winners. Entry forms are available from www.chrissalmon.org.uk and should be returned to Diane Mitchell at Birkenhead Library or returned via email to dianemitchell@wirral.gov.uk. Alternatively, students may submit their entry to either Miss Sweet or Miss Jones in the English office but it must be attached to an entry form.

BAE SYSTEMS HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Do you have a son, daughter, relative or friend who might be interested in the chance to "earn while you learn" on our Higher Apprenticeship (HA) Trainee Scheme?

This is designed for A-Level or equivalent qualified individuals, offering the opportunity to learn on the job in a busy working environment. All HA Trainees are fully funded to study on day-release towards a Higher Education opportunity relevant to their function, providing local students with the chance to receive a university education without the burden of debt.

This year we will be taking on trainees in Finance, IMST (Information Management Systems and Technology), Project Management, Nuclear, Cost Engineering, Welding Engineering, Metrology, Naval Architecture and NAVED (Noise and Vibration Engineering Department). Applications are now open. Please visit <http://www.baesystems.com/careers> for further information.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER APPRENTICESHIPS

Jaguar Land Rover is looking for up to 200 new recruits to join the 620 currently undertaking the schemes across its five UK sites. To apply for an apprenticeship go to www.jaguarlandrovercareers.com/jlr-roles/apprentices/

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. You simply need an email address and a password to register. Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to choose answers to 12 short questions about the school.

Please remember that you can give your opinion through Parent View at any time during the school year. At the time of an inspection, you can refresh or resubmit your views and the facility will overwrite your previous response so that only one 'view' for each parent, per school, is held.

*Merry
Christmas*





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 compliment 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
- that an update is available on our twitter account (follow @CGGSNews)

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

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.