



Friday 5th September 2014

Mon	8 th Sept	
Tues	9 th Sept	11+ Practice Test
Wed	10 th Sept	
Thurs	11 th Sept	
Fri	12 th Sept	11+ Practice Test

MESSAGE FROM MR RODAWAY, HEADTEACHER

Welcome to a new academic year at Calday Grange Grammar School.

Students who completed external examinations received their results during the summer break. I am pleased to report that at GCSE level 96.07% of students achieved the important threshold of 5+ A* - C including English and mathematics. Of all the GCSE grades awarded over 50% were at the very highest levels of A*/A. 83.15% of our Year 11 students achieved the English Baccalaureate measure (achieving A*-C in English, Mathematics, Science, a Humanity and a Modern Foreign language). Four of our students achieved 10A*'s (Matthew Jones, Daniel Lawson, Matthew Miller and James Taylor), with a further 25 students gaining all A*'s or A grades.

At A2 Level, 97.8% of results were in the category A*-E, with 52% being A*-B and 30.8% of all results were A*/A grades. Of particular note are the results for Joseph Dodwell and Nicholas Hare (3A*'s), Jack Cundall (4A*'s and 1A), James Riordan and Philip Yung (3A*'s and 1 A) and Shuja Ahmed (2A*'s and 2A's).

I congratulate all students on the achievement of an excellent set of results. I have thanked the teaching staff on your behalf and thank parents for supporting your son or daughter over what can be a stressful period.

These results reflect the impact of focusing 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. Within this there will be a particular emphasis of marking and feedback given to students. It is vital that all students understand where they are in relation to examination criteria and most importantly, what they need to do in order to improve their performance.

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 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.

Punctuality

You son or daughter may have informed you that we have re-introduced a bell system in school. All students are expected to be punctual to lessons, with a 3 minute interval being given to allow students to travel from one lesson to another. Arrival after this 3 minute interval will be recorded as 'late'. We will be trialling these timings during the first two weeks of term to ensure that a reasonable time has been allowed for students to move from one end of the school to the other.

We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year at Calday Grange Grammar School. 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. The Year 7 appear to have settled in to school life. We will be holding a parents evening on 23rd 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.

We welcome the following new staff:-

Miss McClure	Teacher of Physics
Mr Robinson	Teacher of Mathematics
Miss Sutton	Teacher of Mathematics
Mr Holden	Teacher of Geography (Maternity cover)
Mr Griffiths	Teacher of RE (Maternity cover)



Mrs Diane Crawley
Mr Craig Cordall
Mr Daniel Breeze

Learning Support Assistant
Learning Support Assistant
Network Manager

We wish them every success in their new roles.

Mark Rodaway
Headteacher

LORD OF THE FLIES

Next week (10th - 13th Sept) the dance company **New Adventures** will be bringing *Lord of the Flies* to the Liverpool Empire. This production is by the country's foremost choreographer, Matthew Bourne. For six months the company have carried out auditions throughout Merseyside and, after seeing nearly 1,000 boys, chose 22 to be in the company alongside the professional dancers. This company includes two Calday students, our Head Boy Felipe Pacheco and Stuart Dagnall, who has just left U6.

Tickets are available from the Liverpool Empire – click on the link to see the trailer or put "Lord of the Flies New Adventures" into Google. We hope to see you there!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNazBK6rwrq>

OPEN EVENINGS & OPEN DAY

We will be holding our Open Evenings on Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th September from 6.00 pm until 8.00 pm. Mr Rodaway will speak at 6.15 pm and 7.15 pm. We have also planned an Open Day on Thursday from 10.00am – 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm – 3.15 pm.

Could we please remind parents that Wednesday 24th is a staff development day and therefore students are not in school during the day although some students have volunteered to assist on the open evenings and will be expected to arrive at school for 5.30 pm (if a tour guide) and 5.45 pm (if assisting in subject areas).

CONGESTION & SAFETY

Could we please ask parents to avoid dropping-off their children at the bottom of the school steps, as this causes unnecessary congestion in the car park. Grammar School Lane also becomes congested, especially at the beginning and end of the day with buses arriving and departing. We 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.

Sixth Form students with cars are also reminded that they should respect our neighbours and in particular should not park in Bramhall Close or Calday Grange Close. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

PARENT VIEW

Parent View provides parents with the opportunity to tell Ofsted what they think about their child's school. Parent View asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of your child's school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. By sharing your views you will be assisting the school to improve and you will also be able to see comments from other parents.

Please take the opportunity to visit Parent View at www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk