



Calday Grange Grammar School

Newsletter (11th September 2020)

Calendar

Mon	14 th September	
Tues	15 th September	
Wed	16 th September	
Thurs	17 th September	
Fri	18 th September	

Mon	21 st September	Year 13 exams (all week)
Tues	22 nd September	
Wed	23 rd September	
Thurs	24 th September	
Fri	25 th September	

MESSAGE FROM MR GRAY, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parent/Carer

We have now completed the first full week of the school year. It is great to be back and see so many happy, smiling faces coming into school.

As we try to re-establish some form of normality, I am pleased to announce that our newsletter is back. This will be published every fortnight, alternating with an email update from me.

On a personal level, it has been nice to meet the students in person. The students have been an absolute credit and have adapted to the new procedures really well. For example, they have stayed in their bubbles and moved around the site sensibly. The students also look really smart and the standard of uniform is excellent.

I am in regular contact with the Local Authority and other public bodies about the current situation. As you will be aware, Wirral infection rates are rising and we have had members of the Calday community diagnosed with the virus this week. Appropriate measures have been taken and I will keep you updated regularly. As I am sure that you can appreciate, this is a balancing act; I do not want to create panic amongst people and at all times we are taking a measured response to events.

I include a useful link from the Government's website regarding what you should do in the event of somebody in your household being diagnosed with coronavirus:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906663/20203007_Easy_read_household_isolation_v3.1.pdf

Just to remind you, please do not send children with coronavirus symptoms into school. If your child does have symptoms, please arrange a test and do not send them back into school until they have a negative test result.

On a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to forewarn you that the school will be closed on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 October, due to the 11+ testing arrangements. The tests are held at the school, so it will not be possible to open to our students. I realise that this arrangement is not ideal but it is beyond our control and I apologise for any inconvenience. We are currently in the process of making arrangements for students to follow their timetables online from home.

I hope that you have a pleasant and relaxing weekend.

Regards
S Gray
Headteacher



We would like to thank our cleaning team for their continued hard work. They have done an amazing job in ensuring that the school site is kept clean and safe.

STUDENT SUCCESS



A huge congratulations to Alejandro T Campos (8BX) who is one of two runner-ups for the Guardian & Football School Young SportsWriter of the Year competition in the 10-12 category. The judges were impressed with his entry that they found to be incredibly original and compelling. Alejandro won a full collection of the Football School series books written by Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttleton. His entry is below.

The Olympic Swimmer by Alejandro T Campos, age 12

The instant I hear the whistle, I dive in at an unrecognisable speed. My limbs move at their own accord, and I weave in and out of the water as though this were intimately my home.

But it is my home. Ever since my toes first met the water it has been my home. And I know it. Yet at the same time I feel nervous. There is still a voice inside that says I can't. That says I never will. I have learned not to listen to it. But this time it calls out louder than ever, begging me to give in, to give up. As I feel the water smoothly rubbing against my slender skin, I feel powerful, alive, young spirited. Home. The cheers of joy and despair, happiness and sadness from the eager crowd vanish. It is just me and the water. Again and again I weave in, weave out, and before I know it, I have reached the end. At first, I dare not see if I have won or lost, since I am scared that I am not prepared for the worst. But then I realise that whatever may have happened, or in that case, whatever will ever happen, I have won. I have won because of the experience. Because of the joy and thrill this brings me. Because of the mere privilege of being in such a grand tournament, of being recognised by the world's best, of knowing what it is, what it feels like to be here now. I have won.

NEWS OF FORMER STUDENTS



Ben Evans, who left Calday in June 2019, swam the English Channel today (Friday 11th September) to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Trust. Ben, an aspiring doctor, swam in memory of his grandmother who he lost to cancer two years ago and both his grandfathers who he lost this year. We would like to congratulate Ben on this amazing achievement.

If you would like to donate towards this worthwhile cause, please visit

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/ben-evans37>

WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS

Could we please remind students that it is mandatory to wear a face covering on public transport and that they should not remove them at any point during the journey. We also kindly request that parents speak to their child about the importance of following these rules.

Additionally, as guidance is constantly under review, it may be advisable to have a supply of face coverings available for your child for future use in school if required.

ART PACKS

We are still awaiting some of the stock to arrive from suppliers. As soon as the packs are available they will be distributed during art lessons.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Students who are new to the school in Years 7 and 12 will shortly be issued with their school photograph proof by their form tutor. All orders should be completed on line within the next three weeks. Please click on the link to order

<https://fraserportraits.com/>

16-19 BURSARY

Students aged 16-19 who might struggle with the cost of full-time education can apply to receive a Calday Grange 16-19 Bursary. Full details are available at <https://www.calday.co.uk/bursary>. Year 13 students who received the bursary in Year 12 will need to reapply.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Could we please remind parents that the inset day scheduled to take place on Monday 21st September has been cancelled as the 11plus tests are no longer taking place on this date.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS



Well, it may all be a bit different in the library this term but we are determined to keep the library service going, albeit remotely, as you have seen from the email sent earlier this week.

A quick reminder of the link to the google form to request books:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfv-4ktslhLAGGQui9axrgnPfAg5U6PwIC1QkesM1jZ_jdpPw/viewform?usp=sf_link

I am delighted that several students have already done this, including new Year 7s and books have been delivered to their classrooms. Loan period is 2 weeks. If you need inspiration, look at the recommended reading lists on our website here: <https://www.calday.co.uk/lrc>

Returning Books

As you can imagine there are hundreds of overdue books (partly due to the “panic borrowing” back in March!) so please remind your children to bring books back and post them into the Library Return boxes at the following locations:

- Year 7 outside pastoral office
- Year 8 outside G4
- Year 9 outside H14
- Year 10/11 outside W13
- Sixth Form upstairs in LRC

Summer Reading Challenge



We have displayed a selection of the fabulous book reviews from students that I received over the summer. Well done to Luca Seresini 7BX, Luke Husain 7BX, Harry Marshall-Hose 7HS, Oliver Beedles 7HS, Jack Maher 7HR, Dylan West 7GY, Alonso Maddock 8GZ and Andrew Smith 9BX! Prizes on their way...



SCHOOL SHOP UPDATE

The school shop has been busy issuing students with Blazers and PE kits. A large number of orders have now been given out. We are currently waiting for further deliveries of some items, please bear with us if your order has been delayed.

A collection rota for the shop has been introduced to observe separation of year group bubbles. Students who wish to make an exchange should return the item/s to the shop on their allocated collection day. If a replacement size is not available students will be notified when it arrives in school.

We are doing our best to provide an efficient service but naturally the process is a little slower due to the current circumstances. PE Staff are aware of the situation and understanding to students affected. If a student has not yet received all of their PE kit he may wear a suitable similar alternative.

The shop will be open at break and lunchtimes for students to collect online orders and to exchange or return items at the following times.

Day	Year Group
Monday	Year 7
Tuesday	Year 8
Wednesday	Year 9
Thursday	Year 10 and 11

Students in sixth form may collect orders during their free periods or should email the shop to arrange a convenient time.

MFL NEWS

The new school year has begun and so has the weekly Star Language Learner Raffle! Each week, students are awarded raffle tickets for outstanding contributions in their languages lessons. On Friday, two winners are drawn out and are awarded a prize for their efforts.

This week's winners were:

Ryan Swarsbrick in year 10 - Ryan is learning German
Joe Macbryde-Jaggard in year 9 - Joe is learning French

Well done, Boys - your prize will be making its way to you next week! Congratulations to all students who were awarded a ticket this week. From the MFL Staff

OXBRIDGE APPLICATION

At this time of year Mr Byrne and Mrs Montgomery normally meet up with members of the new Year 12 who are interested in the possibility of applying to Oxford or Cambridge. Many of our students think that this is a mere dream, and 'not for the likes of us'. Everything is different, but if you are thinking about this even vaguely, please email Mr Byrne at leo.byrne@calday.co.uk for more information. We normally have weekly discussion meetings and take students down to stay overnight in college, but we will obviously be operating differently this year.

CAMHS UPDATE

CAMHS now have a new all age crisis line which has been developed across Cheshire and Wirral which is available 24/7 and is open to people of all ages including children and young people. CAMHS are encouraging young people to contact this crisis line if they feel they need to talk to someone if their emotional state worsens. There is a CAMHS practitioner available on this line. The free telephone number is **0800 145 6485**

DROPPING AND PICKING UP STUDENTS

We would also like to remind parents that they should not drop-off their children 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 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.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

At Calday Grange Grammar School, we are committed to treating everybody with respect and courtesy, and to giving you a polite and effective response should you contact us. Our staff also have the right to work in a safe environment, free from verbal abuse and other intimidating behaviour directed at them. We will take effective measures to support any employee who is subject to any inappropriate behaviour. We therefore ask that parents respond to this by showing polite, respectful behaviour when in contact with our staff either in person, in written correspondence or via a telephone conversation. Thank you for your support.

SAFEGUARDING

If parents have an urgent safeguarding concern outside of school hours they should call the Local Safeguarding Board Central Advice and Duty Team on the following numbers:-

Monday to Friday 9-5 606 2008

Outside of these hours 677 6557

In an emergency please call 999

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. We would be grateful if you could take the opportunity to visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to complete the short questionnaire.