



Calday Grange Grammar School

Newsletter (9th October 2020)

Calendar

Mon	12 th October	A Level exams (all week)
Tues	13 th October	
Wed	14 th October	
Thurs	15 th October	
Fri	16 th October	

Mon	19 th October	A Level exams (all week)
Tues	20 th October	
Wed	21 st October	
Thurs	22 nd October	Students being taught at home remotely (due to 11plus test in school)
Fri	23 rd October	Students being taught at home remotely (due to 11plus test in school)

MESSAGE FROM MR GRAY, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parent/Carer

As Week Six of the half-term nears its end, I have a number of updates for you.

Student Attendance

I would like to thank you for your support in helping us to maintain high levels of attendance since our return in September. Our overall attendance rate is down when compared to last year, but this is to be expected in the current situation. Some commentators feared that school attendance would be decimated due to the pandemic, but our rate has held up well. It currently stands at 95.5%, compared with the pre-pandemic national average of just below 95%. Over four hundred students have been absent so far this year due to self-isolation. I am very pleased with our attendance rate and we will continue to support students and their families in order to maximise it.

The current situation

To date, three members of staff have tested positive and thirteen students. Anybody showing symptoms has been instructed to self-isolate whilst awaiting a test. We try to maintain social distancing as much as possible and we constantly refine our procedures to improve the operation of the site.

From Monday 19 October, we plan to introduce a split break and lunch in the school. It is proposed that students will go to their first lesson as soon as they arrive in school and we will move form time alongside the morning break. While one group of students has form time, the other will have break and then the groups will swap. Lunch will also be split. This will enable us to give students more access to school food and it limits movement and contact between students. The Year 10 and 11 students will no longer go across to the sports fields from this date, everybody will be based on the main school site. More details will follow.

It is likely that we will continue with the new arrangements for the remainder of this academic year. Since March, we have usually planned for the short-term, in line with other public bodies (hoping that the situation will improve), but we have now taken the decision to look more long-term.

Currently, I feel that the situation is under control in school. However, as we all know, this could change very quickly. We have faced serious challenges to staffing lessons across the school at times but have managed to do this so far. This is mainly due to staff having to self-isolate due to suspected cases in families. We are taking steps to prepare for the worst-case scenario and will do everything that we can to keep the school fully open. However, there may come a time when students need to be educated on some form of rota, with some in school while others work remotely. A great deal of work has gone into developing remote learning across the school and I feel confident that students will maintain curriculum continuity if we recourse to this. Please be assured that there are no plans to do this and I am only outlining our contingency plan.

I hope that you have a pleasant weekend and I will be in contact again next week.

Kind regards
Mr Gray

MFL NEWS

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.

The winners from 2nd October were:
Heath Evans in Year 8 who is studying Russian
Ellis Bennett in Year 9 who is studying French

The winners from today (9th October) are:-
Jack Mann Year 10 studying German
Gabe Barker Y8 studying Spanish

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

TRFC PROGRAMME COMPETITION

All Tranmere supporters below the age of 16 are welcomed to enter the 'Design a Programme' competition for the Tranmere v Morecambe game on 31st October. The design must be Halloween-themed. Entries can be passed to Mr Phillips via your FT (or scanned and by email) by 21st October.

More info and template:

<https://www.tranmererovers.co.uk/news/2020/october/swa2-halloween-competition-design-our-programmes-cover/>



Last year's winner was Tom Kenyon (9BW) - can we make #2inarow from Calday??

MACMILLAN WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

We usually take part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning with the Year 7 students and they have a cake sale with all the proceeds going to Macmillan cancer support. This year we have been unable to support this as we are keeping our students in their separate bubbles.

What we would like to do is to still support this charity who have supported many of our staff and students over the years. We would like students to bake a cake at home and share it with their families - they can take a picture and share it with us via the form here. There will be prizes for the best looking cakes and a form was emailed home in the week to enter.

Additionally if you would like to make a donation to Macmillan then there is a link within ParentPay that you can use and the school will make that donation to the charity in one lump sum.

Entries for the cake competition need to be submitted before half term 23/10/20 when we will share some on our social media channels. The link to donate to Macmillan through ParentPay will be open until 31/10/20.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Tomorrow is World Mental Health Day- look after yourself on Mental Health Day

Start by setting some goals for the day, eat a good breakfast, do some exercise, have some human contact- chat with a friend or family member, read a book, take a 20 minute nap, practice meditation.

WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS

Could we please remind students that they must wear face masks whilst in communal areas within school and on public transport. When they are wearing their PE kit for the day, please ensure that they remember their face masks and also their ID card for the purchase of food.

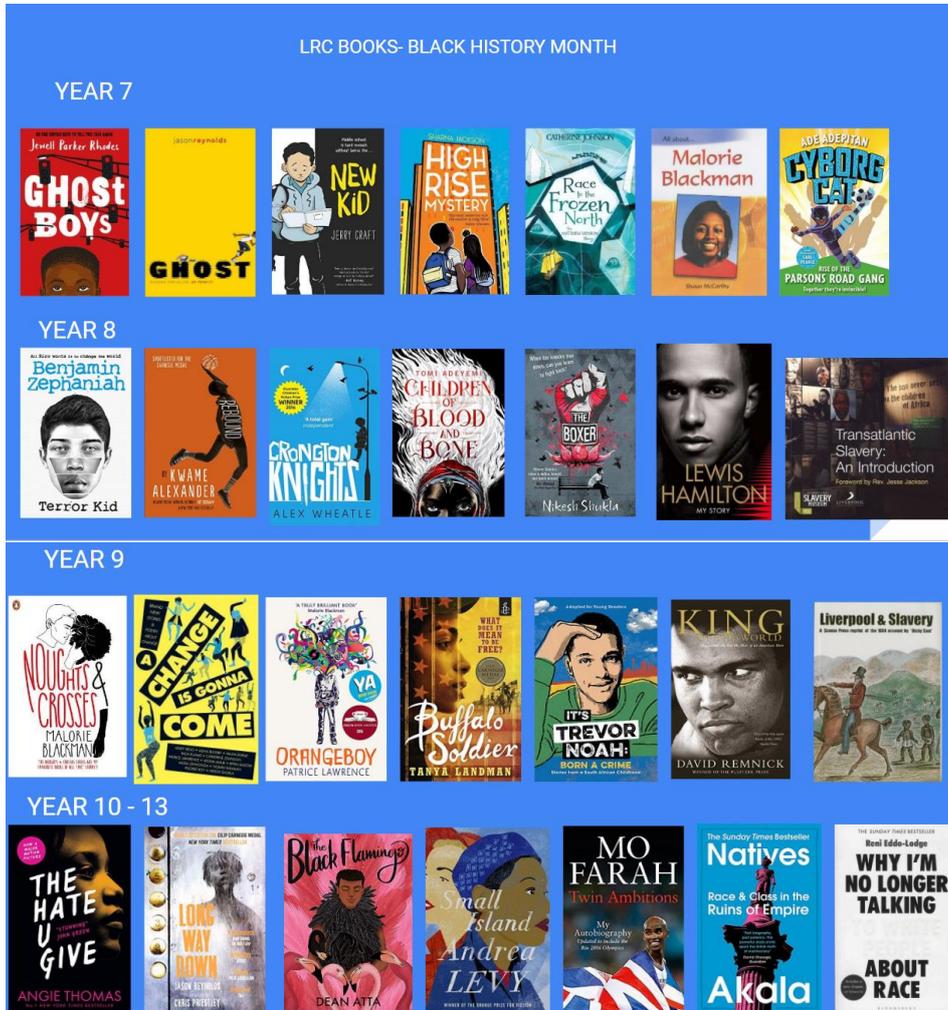
16-19 BURSARY

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.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Black History Month

To complement Mrs Storey's assembly shown last week, here is a small sample of books available to borrow from our library. Some are fiction books by British and American Black authors, others are non-fiction, covering the themes of slavery, racial oppression and prejudice or celebrating great achievements.



There are also some fantastic resources available at the following websites. Why not check them out?

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

<https://100greatblackbritons.com/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-histories/>

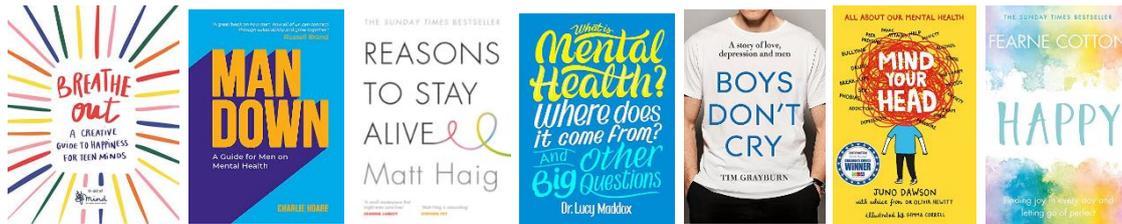
New Books



We have recently received over 150 brand new books into the library, many of which are recent publications or have been specifically requested by both students and staff.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS (cont/d)

Reading to support good mental health



This Saturday 10th October is World Mental Health Day (see <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk> for details). Recently, we have updated our collection of books about supporting young people's mental health and created our SHELF HELP display shelves. Titles include:

- *Man Down* by Charlie Hoare
- *Reasons to Stay Alive* by Matt Haig
- *Boys Don't Cry* by Tim Grayburn
- *Mind your Head* by Juno Dawson
- *Happy* by Fearne Cotton
- *Breathe Out* by The MIND charity
- *What is Mental Health?* by Dr Lucy Maddox (great for younger readers)

Overdue Books



Partly as a consequence of panic borrowing back in March, we are currently running an overdue books total of around **550** books!! We are starting to email reminders to individual students and parents. In order to be able to run an effective service, it is important to have books in the library available to borrow so please remind students to put them in the returns boxes placed in bubbles around school. Thank you for your support.

MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE FROM MRS STOREY

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and yours are coping in these difficult times. I just wanted to remind you of some of the agencies that have new mental health and wellbeing initiatives available to support our young people.

CAMHS: The CAMHS MyMind website has resources and guidance for young people who are experiencing anxiety and low mood. CAMHS also provide support for young people with moderate to severe mental health problems: families or professionals can make a referral to CAMHS through the referral form on the MyMind website: <https://www.mymind.org.uk/services-and-contacts/wirral/wirral-camhs-0-18-service/>

There is a telephone line helpline for anyone who may need support in a mental health crisis in and across Wirral and Cheshire. Wirral CAMHS provides a 24/7 Crisis Line - telephone 0800 145 6485

Kooth: an online counselling service (they have updated their support for the new term). Please visit kooth.com or [click here](#) to access their Returning to School after lockdown tips and advice for students.

Childline – 0800 1111

The Open Door- <https://www.theopendoorcentre.org/>

Rockpoint Community for students living in New Brighton Instagram: [@rockpoint.community](https://www.instagram.com/rockpointcommunity)

In school, Year 7 are starting mindfulness sessions with Mrs Gaston this term and Year 12 and 13 are holding Friday lunchtime wellbeing drop in sessions with Mrs Borodin and the Year 13 CAMHS ambassadors starting next week. We also have a series of events planned throughout the year for years 8-11.

We continue to offer face-to-face counselling 3 mornings per week and have the services of Learning Mentors and a motivation coach. If students or parents would like to contact me, please email me on vicki.storey@calday.co.uk for further details.

GUIDE TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Please [click here](#) to access a copy of the student guide to Google Classroom, written by Mrs Mounsey. It explains the basic features such as how to login, how to join a class and how to submit work. Most students understand these features but we thought it would be beneficial for parents and students to have the instructions available at home.

SUPPORT FOR YEAR 7

We have a new section on our school website that our new Year 7s may find useful: www.calday.co.uk/y7support Here students can find subject overviews for the year, links to additional resources and tips, and will be updated with study skills advice and revision support later in the year.



NHS COVID-19 APP

Protect your loved ones with the official NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app. For more details please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/nhs-covid-19/>

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.