



Caldy Grange Grammar School

Newsletter (23rd October 2020)

Calendar

Mon	2 nd November	All students return
Tues	3 rd November	
Wed	4 th November	
Thurs	5 th November	
Fri	6 th November	

MESSAGE FROM MR GRAY, HEADTEACHER

Please see letter at the end of the newsletter.

MRS LYNN MONTGOMERY

Mrs Lynn Montgomery, Futures Advisor, will be leaving us on 31st October after 15 years at the school. We wish her all the best for the future.

GAMES AND SPORT

Message from the PE Department

On returning after half term, we aim to return to an augmented provision for curriculum Games lessons. We will re-start using our facilities at Glasspool opposite Caldby Rugby Club for Hockey, Rugby, Handball and Running and traveling there on our Games bus. We will also return to Swimming lessons taking place in our attached pool. **Note: Monday's Year 9 Group 4 will be on Swimming on the 2nd November, our first day back. They will also be emailed directly.**

To make these transitions, students need to be aware of the following please:

- All students will now attend school in full uniform each day and bring their Games kit in their school bags changing at school for lessons.
- Students need to wear masks whilst on the Games bus traveling to and from the Games fields.
- Please note from the list below the activity your child will be on the first week back.

Furthermore, we anticipate a return to a fuller extra-curricular revision approximately two weeks after our return, meaning the return of lunchtime and after school clubs and teams. 'Bubbles' will still be in operation regarding changing rooms and areas of practice.

Lastly, we would like to add a thank you to all the students who cooperated with us so fully over this difficult half-term showing a great deal of maturity, understanding and positive energy throughout our greatly adapted curriculum.

Games lesson activities on return after half term:

Monday Year 9
Gp1: Rugby
Gp2: Indoor
Gp3: Hockey
Gp4: Lifesaving
Gp5: Handball

Monday Year 11
Gp1: GCSE
Gp2: Football
Gp3: Indoor
Gp4: Outdoor

Tuesday Year 9
Gp1: Rugby
Gp2: Indoor
Gp3: Hockey
Gp4: Lifesaving
Gp5: Handball

Wednesday Year 7
Gp1: Rugby
Gp2: Running
Gp3: Hockey
Gp4: Swimming

Wednesday Year 10
Gp1: GCSE
Gp2: Indoor
Gp3: Outdoor
Gp4: Football
Gp5: Handball

Wednesday Year 8
Gp1: Rugby
Gp2: Indoor
Gp3: Hockey
Gp4: Running
Gp5: Football

Thursday Year 7
Gp1: Rugby
Gp2: Running
Gp3: Hockey
Gp4: Swimming

Thursday Year 10
Gp1: GCSE
Gp2: Indoor
Gp3: Outdoor
Gp4: Football
Gp5: Handball

Thursday Year 8
Gp1: Rugby
Gp2: Indoor
Gp3: Hockey
Gp4: Running
Gp5: Football

Friday Year 11
Gp1: GCSE
Gp2: Football
Gp3: Indoor
Gp4: Outdoor

FUNDRAISING FOR MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Well done to our Year 7 students who have raised a fantastic £1232 for Macmillan Cancer Support by baking items to share with their families. Donations can still be given via ParentPay until 31st October.

NEWS OF FORMER STUDENTS

Quiz Fame!

Adding to the kudos of being a contestant on Radio 4's Brain of Britain earlier this year, our erstwhile Senior Quiz Team Captain Daniel Lawson appeared on BBC 2's University Challenge this week as captain of the Magdalene College, Cambridge team - available to watch on iPlayer! Well done Dan - what a fantastic role model for all our young quizzers!

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

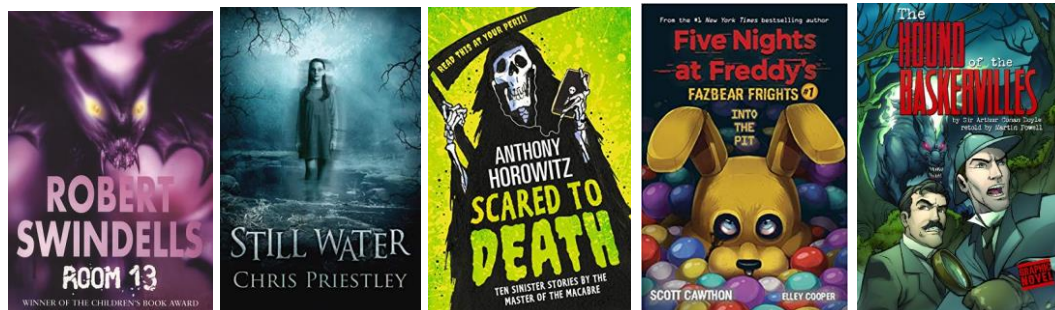
Students aged 16-19 who might struggle with the cost of full-time education can apply to receive a Calday Grange 16-19 Bursary. Full details are available at <https://www.calday.co.uk/bursary>. Year 13 students who received the bursary in Year 12 will need to reapply.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

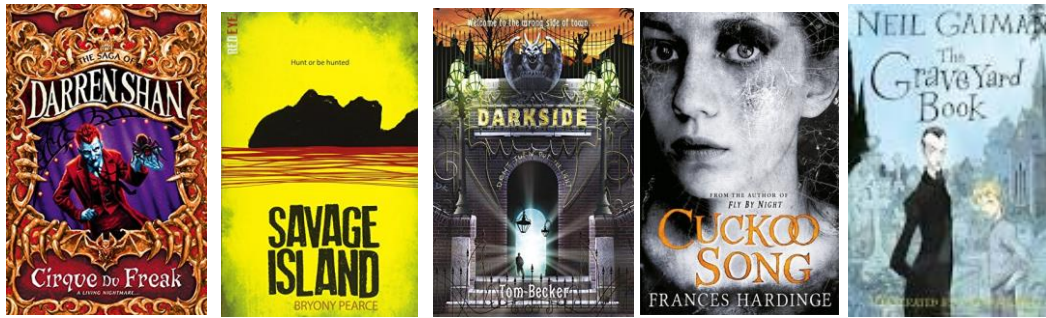
TRY A SPOOKY READ THIS HALLOWEEN

Why not try a chilling read over half term? Here are some great ideas if you dare...

Year 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10 +



Here are some more ideas from the Book Trust:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/bookfinder-results/#/?cat=2592,2594&sortOption=Relevance&pageNo=1&pageSize=48>


READING CHALLENGES

FOR YEAR 7 ONLY - 6 books in 6 weeks challenge

When we come back after half term, we would like to challenge the Year 7 boys to borrow and READ 6 books from the school library before we break up for Christmas. Anyone who completes the challenge by Wed 16th December will receive a prize (there may be chocolate/sweets involved).

FOR YEAR 8 upwards

Remember this?

 20 books to read in 2020! Can you read one of each type of book this year? In the box, write the title of the book you read!						A book with magic.	A book which has been made into a film.
A book written by a BAME author.	A funny book.	A graphic novel.	A biography.	A book with a name in the title.	A book with an evil character.		
A historical fiction.	A non-fiction book.	A poetry book.	A book written before you were born!	A book someone recommended to you.	A fantasy book.		
A mystery book.	A book which makes you think.	A book AND its sequel.	A book with an animal character.	A book from another country.	A book you would recommend to others.		

For anyone who has already started this in January or February, we are happy to consider entries to this Bingo type challenge. Understandably, some students may not have been able to borrow 20 books from our library but if a student can prove they have borrowed at least 10 from school and read a further 10 other books from home between January and 16th December 2020, they will be eligible for a prize. If anyone wishes to have a copy of the challenge sheet, please email me directly at rachel.eckford@calday.co.uk.

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

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.



Calday Grange Grammar School

Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you for your continued support in getting all students back into school safely over the half-term. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all students to school. The aim of this letter is to inform you about the progress we have made in the first half term and the plans that we have in place to support students in these unprecedented times. The letter will be published openly on our website and is being sent to our Governors. I have broken the letter down into different sections:

School Reopening

The school has successfully reopened for all students and year groups. So far, it has not been necessary to use 'rotas' for school attendance. Enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures are in place. Most of our positive COVID cases have been in Year 7, Year 8 and the Sixth Form. When positive cases have been identified, Mr Procter has worked with staff to identify close contacts and then notified affected families. In Years 7 and 8, that has involved isolating that class 'bubble' for fourteen days. We realise that this can inconvenience parents and carers, but it seems to have helped prevent any further outbreaks of the virus. At all times, we are trying to balance the operational needs of the school with public health guidance and the education of our students. This can be challenging.

We have developed a cohort of staff whom we can call upon at short notice, in order to cover classes and maintain the curriculum for students. The main cause of absence for both staff and students has been the need to isolate, rather than catching the virus itself.

As you are aware, we have kept the same start and end times for the school day and we are currently operating a split break and lunch, in order to keep year groups apart. The early signs of this are promising and it has eased congestion around the site.

Attendance

The whole-school attendance rate, from Year 7 to Year 13, is 95.9%. This is down when compared to this time last year, but is to be expected in a pandemic. The national average for school attendance during 'normal times' is usually around 95%, so this figure is pleasing. We realise that the pandemic has caused great anxiety amongst all age groups and we have sought to adopt a supportive approach when trying to get students into school. It has not been necessary to follow the legal route in order to enforce attendance.

Coverage of the curriculum

Students are covering the whole curriculum. We have not removed any subjects. It has been necessary to limit practical activities, but this is currently under review and we plan to reintroduce this element in subjects as soon as possible. Assessment is taking place in the traditional way and by using Google Classroom. Year 13 have done their mocks and the Year 11 mocks will take place in the latter part of the next half-term. Nationally, it has been announced that students will be given an extra three weeks to study before the GCSE and A Level examinations begin. In some subjects, the content has been reduced and the exact nature of examination papers is still being determined.

Initially, the focus of lessons was to identify any gaps in learning and then address them. The school has purchased software packages, such as 'GCSE Pod', in order to support students. Before the summer holidays, Mr Holt, Mrs Weston and Mr Wiseman were appointed to lead our 'Curriculum Recovery Team'. They are working closely with pastoral and subject leaders to identify student underperformance and put appropriate interventions into place. Their work covers all year groups, with an obvious emphasis on examination cohorts.

Remote Learning

We appreciate the feedback that you gave us when the school initially closed in March. Remote learning was a new development for students, parents and carers and the majority of teachers alike. The school had to adapt quickly. Through our dialogue with you, we learnt that you felt:

- There was inconsistency in the volume and nature of work set across subjects.
- Too many platforms were being used to upload work for students.
- Some of the work was monotonous in its nature.
- That you would have appreciated more teacher interaction with students.

We listened to and acted upon your feedback. The curriculum leaders worked with the staff in their faculties to address the points raised. A great deal of work has been done to improve remote learning. It is now embedded across the curriculum in all year groups. Work is uploaded onto Google Classroom in advance, in case the school has to close or send students home to isolate. Recent parental feedback has been much more positive.

Mental health and wellbeing

As I have stated in various communications with you, we were acutely aware that the pandemic would have a negative impact on the mental health of both young people and adults. We have invested in our mental health support and have trained staff and specialist counselling in place. Information is regularly sent to you in our school newsletter.

Supporting students on their return to school-based education has been our priority over academic performance. Staff received training on ensuring that wellbeing and recovery are at the forefront of our first half term back in school. We have also held School Council meetings with representatives from all year groups to give students an opportunity to articulate what is going well and what they would like to improve over the next half term to enhance their school experience. In addition, a range of activities have been delivered across all year groups.

We are proud that Calday has been recognised as a CAMHS 'Accelerator School', due to the range of support we offer to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of our students.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Mr Stephen Gray
Headteacher

23 October 2020