

CALDEW NEWS

WINTER 09



Dear Parents

As I write this I am looking out over a serene, snowy landscape and our school, like most others, is closed for the day. I am sure our pupils are taking full advantage of this holiday bonus and as I was out walking earlier in the distance I saw some children building a huge snowman and sliding down a bank on improvised sledges. It hardly feels like the Spring Term with such wintry scenes and it is hard to believe that we are almost exactly half way through the thirty eight weeks which make up the school year. But we are!

It seems like quite a while since we had what everyone now seems to describe as a "snow day." It used to be a fairly predictable annual event. What is totally unsurprising, on the other hand, is the prominent place the weather is occupying in the national news today: top billing on both TV and radio. The South East grinds to a halt and we all have to know about it. Things certainly seem to have a different perspective from London.

I will not dwell, for example, on the decision made many miles away, somewhere in the Department for Children Schools and Families, which insisted on Carlisle's Central academy being accelerated to open in September 2008, but I hope those responsible now appreciate the almost impossible task this represented for the people on the ground who were charged with carrying it out. We have every sympathy for the staff, children and parents who have all found themselves in a very difficult predicament, leading to the extraordinary events of recent weeks. We wish them all well in setting about the immense challenge which now faces them. One thing is clear: Carlisle needs effective schools. We all now have to work very hard to ensure it has them.

Another stroke of the pen in Whitehall which came as a total, but generally more welcome, surprise was the Secretary of State's decision to abolish SATs for Year 9 pupils.

Last year's tests were hopelessly administered and, given the effort which pupils put into their preparation for the exams, scandalously unreliable in outcome. If that was to be their future, then no-one will mourn their passing. I for one welcome the entirely sensible focus on the 'real' qualifications at 16+ which will now be the major goal of every secondary aged pupil.

However, SATs have been a helpful staging post and a good opportunity to practice taking exams. We will miss them in that respect and will need to decide how to replace them. It seems likely that we will arrange our own internal tests for English, maths and science in the summer term, maybe using the national papers and mark schemes which should be available to us for one more year at least. Parents will still also receive a report setting out an end of Key Stage 3 teacher assessment in all the subjects of the national curriculum, including English, maths and science, at the end of the year. A good foundation for success at Key Stage 4 will continue to be extremely important.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Whilst new building work; perennial problems with parking; our forthcoming changes in uniform; and changes to national policy continue to preoccupy, it is good to see that school life goes on as normal. In particular, it is very exciting to see the progress of our badminton team. Already county champions, it will be a brilliant achievement if they can achieve even greater success at regional level. Good luck to them.

Yours sincerely

Andy Abernethy
Head Teacher

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MAKING SWEET MUSIC WITH MATHS

Students in Mr Connor's maths classes have been participating in a new merit scheme that rewards engagement and excellence in lessons. Student contribution is rewarded with a paper merit that goes into the end of term prize draw.

The winning ticket was drawn by our Headteacher, Mr Abernethy, in the last week of term. The lucky winner of the autumn term prize draw was year 7 student Adam Braddock, who received a white iPod shuffle. He assures Mr Connor he would not play it in any of his lessons! More prize draws to follow at the end of the spring and summer terms.



BOWLAND MATHS INVESTIGATIVE WORK

Last term three classes taught by Mr Connor were involved in an exciting, revolutionary project that is designed to engage and promote successful group work.

The students took part in the team challenge "Alien Invasion." This was a two week project that enabled students to further develop their speaking and listening and group work skills by relating mathematics to a 'real life' scenario.

The successful team winners were:

8 DEW1 - Luke Andrews, Alexander Hendley, Andrew Hill and Kieran Parrinder

9 CAL2 - Jade Robson & Jack Mitchell

9 DEW2a - Kyle Rankine, Rhys Pattison and Jonny Hedley

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ART

As part of their Year 7 Natural Forms project, pupils visited Tullie House Museum at the end of last term. Each class enjoyed a half day work shop working with a textile artist and produced colourful felt work. These were inspired by the work of William Morris and Arts & Crafts Movement exhibits that they saw within the museum.

Many thanks to Miss Bainbridge for all of the work she put into organising this trip which was enjoyed by all of Year 7.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to see what courses and options they have in the Sixth Form at our recent Year 12 Open Evening. As well as talking to their teachers about the content of courses, they also had the chance to gain advice about their career aspirations from representatives of Connexions and the University of Cumbria. If you were unable to attend you can see all course details on our website or contact Mr James or Mr Barclay at the school.



A group of Caldew School, Dalston students late last year came up with yet another enterprising idea to raise money for the charity NSPCC. Following on from positive market research exercise that they carried out, the Year 11 students organised and sold over 100 bowls of Hyacinths and Narcissi to friends and staff at school. The bowls, which made perfect festive gifts sold for £6 each and were planted up by the students in October last year and delivered in time for Christmas. A total of £275 profit was made for the NSPCC. Ashley Cooper, Community Appeals Manager for the NSPCC in Cumbria visited the school in late January and was presented with a cheque from the students involved. Ashley told the group that all the money that is raised locally is spent locally which delighted the group.

The students were Chris Fisher, Jess Hunt, Jack Lucock, Sophie Bird, Andrew Hughes, Dan Fleming, Cameron Gordon and David Irving alongside CoPE teacher Mrs Hill and Miss Rooney.

NSPCC



PUPIL NEWSPAPER



Some thought it would never happen! But hot off the press is the new pupil newsletter. Written for the students by the students the termly newspaper is full of news, reviews, photographs, events and activities. It also includes its own agony aunt column and is packed with games, cartoon and shout outs! The newspaper, which is overseen by Mrs Robinson has a host of talented writers from all year groups.

Anyone can submit an article, illustration, provide a puzzle or write a review.

If you would like to include an article or if you have any ideas for the next edition, please see Mrs Robinson in the Library Resource Centre.



SCHOOL HEALTH

Ronnie Stockdale, our school Health Advisor has now been based in Caldew School for a year. During that time there has been the opportunity to offer support to many of the young people in the school through the drop in service.

We have been able to build on relationships between health and school staff to better support the needs of the pupils in Caldew.

We are hoping to develop further health

promotion strategies in this New Year, which will reflect the needs of the pupils in this school.

Any parents who wish to discuss issues around the health of their child can contact Ronnie on (01228) 711634.

Any pupils who would like advice on their general health or who require support with emotional issues, can attend the drop in service or make an appointment with Sandra at Reception.



**“Drop in” Tuesday Lunchtimes in the Bowman Room (front Reception)
This is a confidential service to all pupils.**

FILM CLUB

Great movies are now showing at Caldew School after school on Mondays.

Filmclub, which was piloted for six weeks prior to Christmas, has now been extended following a positive response. The membership only club is held every Monday in the Library giving students FREE weekly access to thousands of popular films.

Films shown over the last few weeks include The Dark Knight, Casino Royale and School of Rock. The members have chosen to watch Crouching Tiger, Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging and Beowulf over the coming weeks. To sign up to FilmClub, see Mrs Robinson in the Library Resource Centre for a membership form.



MERIT AWARDS

Caldew merits are awarded to students for good behaviour, consistently working hard, working as part of a team, being polite or representing the school. Our first gold winners of this academic year were awarded recently to two Team Campbell students Danielle Bell of C/JTC and Cathrene Mieras of C/FMM. The Gold certificate is awarded to students who have gained 150 merits in total.



ASD RESOURCE

The newly built ASD Resource opened in January this year. Designed to fit with existing school buildings and to have its own entrance and drop-off point, you will find the centre at the end of the “Street”, yet central to many classrooms. The centre which is a dual purpose base for Autistic Spectrum Disorder pupils and the Learning Support team has been overseen by Chris Allason (SENCO). Ruth Coates has been appointed as Teacher in Charge of ASD, working alongside the Literacy and Numeracy team and Teaching Assistants within the school.

The building, which is centred around an ambient central social space, has been designed to the needs of autistic pupils taking into account, colour, lighting, sound and most importantly creating a calming atmosphere, essential to pupils with autism.



There are two literacy/numeracy rooms, one with computers and an interactive Smartboard, and a learning room with individual learning pods which support TEACCH, an autism teaching method, and also an interactive Smartboard. A fully fitted kitchen/life skills area complete with washing machine, cooker, microwave, kettle and ironing board which will improve the independent skills of the students has also been introduced. Next door to the kitchen is a craft and science room overlooking the secure outside space, which again will be an invaluable life skills area for the students.

There is also a calm room where students can escape to if they are agitated or upset – eventually the team are hoping that they can acquire a sensory trolley for the room.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Did you know Caldew School has a School Council ?

The School Council are here to discuss issues that affect school life and might help improve the school. The Council is made up of elected representatives from all five pastoral teams and led by the five elected Team Captains. The Headteacher and a school governor also regularly attend.

The School Council meets half termly and recent discussions have included the implementation of the new school uniform, school meals, the merit system, log books, extending the Open Minds Programme to all year groups and improving communications. Notes from these

meetings are passed on to the School Governors so that they are kept aware of pupil opinion.

Three representatives (Jodie Foster Year 13, Neil Gillingham Year 10 and Annie Coupland Year 8) also sit on the Carlisle Joint School Council, a pupil voice for all the secondary schools in the Carlisle area.

If you have an issue you want to discuss or an idea that could improve something within the school, please contact your School Council representative.

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|-------------|---|
| CAMPBELL | Charlotte Senior Andy Butcher Bethan Daltrey (Team Captain) |
| GRAY | Luke Blacklock Rachael Head Ellie Whitfield (Team Captain) |
| HAMMOND | Kelsey Cant Jordyn Johnston Sophie Dowes (Team Captain) |
| MCBRIDE | Anastasia Coupland Neil Gillingham Sally Abernethy (Team Captain) |
| WORTHINGTON | Molly Greenaway Richard Holliday Jodie Foster (Team Captain) |

DALSTON

FESTIVAL 2009

As you may know, in September 2009, Caldew School will be 50 years old. To celebrate, we are putting together a photographic archive of the last 50 years.

We would be delighted if past students could get in touch with us and share their photographs and memories of what life was like at Caldew School.

The photographs will go on display during Dalston Festival week in August 2009 and then within the school from September.

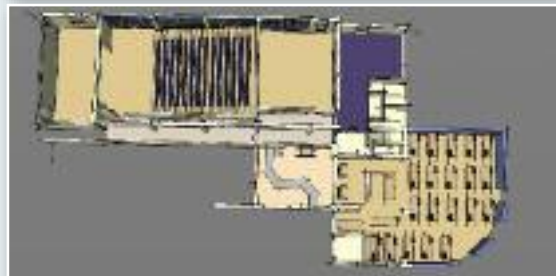
If you would like to share your photographs or any other memorabilia with us – please contact Cheryl Eastburn at the school or email ceastburn@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk.



PERFORMING ART SPACE

Work is about to commence on the new Performing space. The £2.4 million project will bring the school up to date with state of the art drama and music rooms, a much needed performance space and extended dining area. The main hall will have raked seating and stage and will seat up to 200 people.

Work will commence on the building at the end of March with completion in December 2010. Contractors Lambert Gill have been appointed to oversee the work.



SPELLING BEES

SPELLING
BEE

Starting in March 2009, with live local schools heats, is the UK's first national schools' Spelling Bee. Sponsored by 'The Times', the new national Spelling Bee aims to discover the UK's best young spellers, making spelling fun for pupils of all abilities while raising the profile of the skill of being a good speller.

The championship is open to Year 7 pupils only and all secondary schools are invited to enter the competition and put forward one team of three pupils plus a reserve.

Kicking off in March with the head-to-head local heats, all teams will be asked for spoken spellings. There are no written rounds. The winning teams will then progress to the Regional Finals which will be staged in May. The climax will be the high profile Grand Final which will be held in London in June with prizes for the winning pupils and their school.

Mrs. Robinson, LRC Manager at Caldew has organised a team of Year 7's to represent the school at the inaugural event. "I thought it would be worth doing as I think it is definitely a good way to motivate children to improve their spelling. Learning to spell can be so frustrating sometimes but it does help if you can spell well! I hope the pupils involved enjoy the experience, have some fun and hopefully learn something as well."

The team that will be representing the school is 'Caldew Buzz' made up of Kirsty Millburn, Catherine Hall, Laura Davidson and Kim Elliot.

Gud Look Evryone!





BADMINTON

Caldew Badminton Club attended the first round of the English Schools Badminton Competition at Richard Rose Central Academy in early January. The key stage 3 A team won all three games and were crowned City Champions after defeating Trinity School in the final. The boys then went on to represent the school at the Center Parcs County Badminton Finals (round 2) in Penrith late January when again they were crowned County Champions. Congratulations go to Ben Purdham, Chris Hetherington, Kieran Parrinder, Charlie McKerrell and Phil Carter who will now represent Cumbria in the next round in Merseyside at the end of February.



NETBALL

The Year 7 netball team beat William Howard 4-2 last week. The team consisted of Jordan Cleminson, Claudia Hill, Lauryn Jamieson, Molly Giles, Rebecca Lightowler, Amy Tait, Beth Whitfield, Hollie Ghorst. The Year 8 netball team beat Austin Friars 8-6 last week. The team consisted of Daisy Glendinning, Hayley Wilson, Abby Glendinning, Annie Coupland, Lucy Dalgliesh, Emma Dixon, Chloe Atkinson, Zoe Campbell, Beth Robinson.

COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to Sam Windess and Josh Usher who have been selected to represent Cumbria in the North of England Cross Country meeting.

ARTS CAFÉ

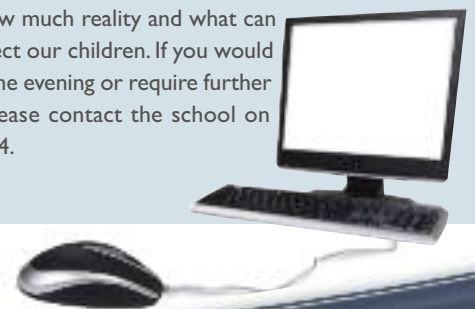
Another hugely successful Arts Café was held last Friday at the school. Organised by Mrs Curtis and her many helpers, the evening raised £400 for school projects and the Macmillan nurses. The evening started off with a folk metal band, a great beginning, closely followed by Joanne and Richard Turner, showing their excellent singing and guitar skills. Leonie Jones gave the audience two piano pieces, followed by Kate Swindlehurst who took everybody by surprise! Genevra sang a lovely folk song accompanied by Mr Muller, Rhys Davies, Charlie McKerrell and Huw Pearson. After the interval, where food was served by Mrs Mason and Mrs Wood, Caitlin Godfrey and Jennifer Rogers sang two very different songs including one from Les Miserables. Holly Buttram followed Caitlin and Jennifer, singing "Love Song" by Sarah Borellis, followed by Cathrine Duncanson – both performances were excellent. Before the second interval our guests Jack Swindlehurst and Laura James, accompanied by Andrew Stride, took to the stage. Before the final curtain came down Mr Campbell gave a rousing performance on the harmonica with the evening finishing off with "The Pineapple Grenades".

Thank you to all the helpers, both staff and students who made the evening possible. If you would like to perform at the next Arts Café in the Summer please contact Mrs Curtis at the School.

INTERNET SAFETY

DO YOU KNOW WHO IS TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ON THE INTERNET TONIGHT ?

We extend a warm invite to all parents to a special Parents Forum Meeting on Tuesday 10 February 2009 from 6.30pm. The evening is an information evening for parents, presented by experts on Internet Safety. We know this is a major and growing concern amongst parents, including those of primary aged children as well as parents of more mature people – therefore we are extending our invitation to all our local primary school parents too. Come along and find out how great are the risks, how much is myth and how much reality and what can we do to protect our children. If you would like to attend the evening or require further information please contact the school on (01228) 710044.



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RADIO



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Any Questions?

It's your chance to ask a question and influence the debate with BBC Radio 4's **Any Questions?**

Any Questions? follows the 8pm News every Friday. On Saturdays **Any Questions?** is repeated after the **One O'Clock News** and is followed at 2pm by **Any Answers?** If you have any comments for **Any Answers?** please call 03700 100 444.



As part of Caldew's Anniversary celebrations for next year – we are delighted that the Radio 4 programme **Any Questions?** which is hosted by Jonathan Dimbleby will broadcast live from Caldew School on Friday 27 March 2009.

The programme which will be broadcast from the main hall has a panel of four speakers which are yet to be announced. Questions will be taken from the audience, focussing on the current issues of the day – in other words, the issues that get people talking!

Tickets are FREE for the event. The minimum age limit for audience members is 14 years.

for further information please contact Cheryl Eastburn on (01228) 710044 or email ceastburn@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk.

Dates for the diary

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|------------------|--|
| 11 February | Parents Forum Internet Safety (6.30pm) |
| 16 - 20 February | Half Term |
| 23 February | School returns |
| 4 March | Year 9 Courses Evening |
| 9 - 13 March | Languages trip France |
| 3 April | End of Term |
| 20 April | Summer term begins |

