



**CARLETON
HIGH SCHOOL**

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

YEAR 11 ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE

Mock exams complete and looking ahead to success.

OFSTED REPORT

Ofsted recognises there have been 'significant improvements' to the school.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

More rewards than ever for improving attendance.



It is with great pleasure that I write to you at the end of a very enjoyable, successful term as we quickly approach the festive season. I realise how busy this time of year is, preparing for the Christmas period (I have three of my own children!), so thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter.

You'll be aware that I have been working across the two secondary schools in the Trust since May. It's been a real pleasure to get to know the students and staff in our schools and it is clear that there is so much high quality learning going on. I have introduced a number of systems and training in both schools to ensure that staff build on the strengths in the schools and move towards being Outstanding. The mantra of culture + consistency = excellence, ensuring students achieve their full potential and they know what to expect, is starting to pervade everything that we do although we, of course, know that there is still work to be done.

Up until recently, my time has been disproportionately spent at Carleton High for obvious reasons - the school is in Special Measures and needs far more support, has a new Head of School etc. However, following a very successful monitoring visit from Ofsted, it is clear that CHS is in a strong place and has improved significantly and I have every confidence in the leadership to take things forward without my daily support.

The progress at CHS means that I have been able to spend significant parts of my working week at The King's School, which has been a real pleasure. There are so many talented staff at the school and the students have been really welcoming. Kings' parents will be aware that Elaine Briggs, the Head of School, is moving on. I am disappointed for the school because she has contributed so much, not least the improvement in exam outcomes this summer, but I am pleased for her; it's a promotion to a bigger school, Darton Academy in a bigger academy trust, Delta and they are very lucky to get her. Delta were desperate for her to start as soon as possible but we've managed to keep her until February half term. We will work closely together over the coming term to ensure that there is a seamless transition between the two of us and, in the meantime, the Trust will advertise for a new Head of School. I will, of course, still have the capacity to continue to strategically support Mrs Cross at CHS (who is doing an outstanding job).

Next term will see us evaluating the curriculum to ensure that our students receive a broad, balanced and engaging diet which results in opening as many doors of opportunity as possible to them in the future. Whilst we, of course, will continue to focus on getting the best exam results for our students, we are also keen that they develop in a much wider sense, as individuals. Making sure they have opportunities, both in and out of the classrooms, to develop their wider skills and knowledge will also be a priority. An area that we will also continue to target is Inclusion and ensuring that all our learners with additional needs receive the support they need. Over last term, we have tried hard to communicate more effectively with parents of children with SEND needs and this work will continue next term.

All that leaves me to say is "Have a Happy Christmas."

Yours faithfully

James Franklin-Smith
Executive Director of Secondary Education
Pontefract Academies Trust

WELCOME

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our newsletter.

As the busy term draws to an end, everyone at Carleton High School is looking forward to Christmas and a well-earned break. All students are working extremely hard in the run up to the end of term. Students have been involved in a range of activities, including shows, presentation evenings, sporting fixtures and various charity fundraising events. All of these are described in more detail later on in this newsletter.

We have had much to celebrate and be proud of with our most recent (November 2018) Ofsted monitoring report. I was delighted that Ofsted recognised that there had been 'significant improvements' to the school since the last monitoring visit in May. To be honest, with the hard work of our students and staff, I had every confidence that the inspectors would see a totally different school compared to their last monitoring visit, and they saw just that, quoting: "The school has been a hive of purposeful activity since the previous monitoring inspection".

Students have only one opportunity to receive a first class education and I feel very proud that the report fully reflects the significant improvements that have taken place in a short space of time so that outcomes for our students are swiftly improved. I am pleased to share some of the key comments from the report: "Leaders have successfully remained focused on keeping the school's improvement journey on track." "Leaders have an accurate view of what is working well and what needs to quickly improve. "The quality of teaching continues to improve." "Leaders have improved the targets set for pupils. This is helping teachers 'up their game' and understand that their pupils are capable of far more than they may have realized." "Significant improvements in the whole-school behaviour policy. This has led to an improved learning environment in which teachers can get on with teaching." "Behavioural issues are now dealt with consistently across the school." "New Trust leaders have achieved much in a short space of time."

In other news, as part of Remembrance Sunday, we were extremely proud to be asked by the Royal British Legion to take part in the Pontefract Remembrance parade, where we had the opportunity to take part in the procession and lay a wreath to honour the fallen. Carleton High School was also honoured to be asked to do a reading at St Giles' Church. Head boy, Taylor Wood and Head girl, Ellanna Duncan, did an amazing job and were a credit to the school.

The recent performance of our Christmas pantomime, 'Beauty and the Beast,' was another example of the talent

we have at school, with so many exceptional performers; a big congratulations to all students who took part in the show, which was a great success. A special mention to our students who played leading roles: Liam Gee, George Copley, Josh Booth, Olivia Butterfield, Dylan Booth, Joe Costello, Lauren Bartram and Taylor Bruce, who were outstanding. I would also like to thank Mr Ashley who not only made it all happen, but brought out the absolute best in all the talented students. Thank you!

The Year 11 mock exam period has ended, with the deadline for college applications fast approaching. Year 11 effort and behaviour both in lessons and in their Achieve sessions this term has been exemplary, and we look forward to them receiving their mock exam results on 17 January - good luck Year 11!

Again, we have seen a wide range of visits, events and extra-curricular activities this term, which has provided many memorable experiences. Five of our Year 10 students won the Wakefield Schools 5-a-Side Football Championship; students in all year groups enjoyed a performance by 'New Kings Order'; some students spent the day at York University as part of our 'Shine' programme. Thirty Year 7 students even took part in a fun-filled 'Halloween Library Sleepover,' courtesy of Miss Eddy and the English team. We also hosted our annual PTFA Christmas Craft and Gift Fair, and a 'Science Spooktacular' event for our community, enjoyed by all.

Another special mention to our Year 7 Christmas Choir students and our Year 11 Ambassadors who visited Carleton Court care home this week. Year 7 students sang Christmas carols to the residents and some of our Ambassadors spent time talking to the residents over a cup of tea. It was a great experience for our students and the residents of Carleton Court enjoyed the visit too!

There is so much going on at CHS, so if you haven't already done so, please sign up to follow Carleton High School on Twitter. We're @PATCarletonHigh, and we use the account to keep everyone up to date with key school events and announcements.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Carleton High School.



Mrs J Cross
Head of School



GCSE PRESENTATION EVENING

On Thursday, 8 November we welcomed over 200 guests to our annual GCSE Presentation Evening, where the class of 2018 were presented with their GCSE certificates. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their achievements and many students were awarded additional special prizes. Amongst the winners was Tamsin Ederies who won an 'Outstanding Attainment' award for achieving seven grade 9s, one grade 8 and one grade 6.

Making the award presentation evening extra special were our special guests, Wakefield Wildcats RLFC player Kyle Woods, and ex-Carleton High School student and professional footballer Paul Green, who gave out awards along with our Chair of Governors, Elaine Shepherd.

Thank you to everyone who attended the evening; it was an absolute pleasure to celebrate our former students' achievements. We are now setting our sights on this year's results which, given the significant changes the school has made, are on track to be the best results ever!

Mrs J Cross (Head of School)



Mrs J Cross
Head of School

ONLINE SAFETY & MENTAL HEALTH

On Tuesday, 27 November CHS students were visited by the band, 'New Kings Order', who were on X-factor in 2015. The band entertained all year groups but, most importantly, delivered some important messages.

The band performed songs by One Direction and Little Mix amongst others, and spoke to students about cyberbullying and staying safe online, including privacy settings and looking out for each other online - an important message that we repeat regularly to our students. They talked about things you shouldn't post online or send using apps such as Snapchat, and also explained how a person's digital footprint would never disappear and would stay online forever. The group also explained how your social media posts and/or messages could impact on future jobs in 5, 10 or 20 years.

The group wanted students to understand how cyberbullying could affect people and impact on mental health, and that speaking to someone (a family member, teacher or friend) was a great way to get help to start making things better.

Lastly they asked students to promise them two things:

- Never send anything to anyone you wouldn't show to your mum.
- Always talk to someone if you are a victim of cyberbullying or struggling with your mental health.

We would like to thank New Kings Order for coming into school. The students really enjoyed the performance and we appreciated their positive messages.



Mr A Dean
Assistant Headteacher

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attendance at Carleton High School is on the rise! This was recognised during our latest Ofsted visit; "There have been improvements to the attendance of disadvantaged pupils." We are proud that attendance at Carleton High School is now above national. What is even more impressive is that 452 students have managed to attend EVERY day since September! Well done to those students and thank you to parents and carers for your support.

Outstanding attendance is really important to help students do their very best, and coming to school regularly enables our students to learn new things and retain new knowledge and learned skills. As a result, we believe that if students are on time and attend every day, they have a greater chance of being successful in school. This means that they will make more progress and go on to achieve considerably better GCSE results, increasing their life chances when moving on to college and employment.

We reward great attendance in a number of ways. Our students receive Epraise points for weekly 100%

attendance, and students with 100% attendance this year will receive a chocolate selection box in the final week of term. Our students are also entered into draws for amazing prizes such as tablets; these are to reward students with exceptional attendance. At the end of this term, students with 100% attendance will watch a Christmas film on Friday, 21 December as part of our Carleton High School Christmas day.

Reminder: school will be open as normal on Friday, 21 December from 8.50 am to 3.05 pm. Attendance is required by all students. Buses will run, as normal, at the end of the day. School will re-open to all students on Monday, 7 January 2019.

CAREERS UPDATE

Our Year 11 students have been busy completing their College applications during form time, after school and at home. These are a really important part of the “next steps” process, particularly as local colleges are already interviewing prospective students.

Year 11 also received some very informative assemblies from a number external providers, including the benefits of apprenticeships, along with an overview of where the skills shortages are in our local area. There are a huge number of apprenticeship opportunities available locally, accessible using the link below and also via the Careers section of our website. A current list will be available in the Careers section of the Library. <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

A Post -18 event is taking place at Ackworth School on Tuesday, 15 January 2019 from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. The free event is suitable for Year 11 students and their parents

to attend. Refreshments will be provided. There will be a wide range of universities and apprenticeship providers; with talks taking place throughout the evening on university life, choosing a course at university, apprenticeships, student finance and work placements during your degree.

Students can sign up using the link below, found on the website <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/post-18-options-evening-tickets-5169799509>



Mr T Marks
Assistant Headteacher



PTFA CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR

The PTFA Christmas Craft and Gift Fair was a lovely community event on the 18 November, raising £500 for the PTFA. PTFA funds are applied for by departments in school, to be spent on extra items and events that benefit students.

Christmas shoppers had the chance to get some artsy and original presents, all wrapped up for the season. We were very proud of our Student Ambassadors' help the day before in setting up, and on the day itself, with student-baked goodies flying off the shelf. We would welcome more parent volunteers to join our PTFA. Please email carleton.ptfa@gmail.com for more info or if you would like to get involved.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PANTOMIME

Adding to the festive build up, the school production of 'Beauty and the Beast' ran to critical acclaim on 4 and 5 December. The cast included more experienced students from older year groups, but also some fantastic new stars of the show from Year 7. It's always exciting to see new talent and new faces on the stage at Carleton, and they shone brightly for both evening performances, and the matinee for primary school children too.

Months of preparation and practise after school paid off, as students, mums, dads, grandparents, aunties, uncles, friends and neighbours of the school loved the bad jokes and great entertainment.

Special mention must go to two Year 10 students who really went above and beyond with their support for the performance. James Bamford helped choreograph as

well as starring in a memorable role as Broomhelga, and also Will Stogden who designed the programme, poster, tickets, designed the sound, operated it, did the video and helped choreograph too! A great team performance from Performing Arts.



Mrs J Crewe
Deputy Headteacher



YEAR 11 UPDATE

Year 11 have just finished their three week mock exam period, to support them in their preparation for their GCSE exams this summer.

There will be a Mock Results Day in the second week back after the Christmas holidays. Mock Results Day is always successful in inspiring those students who have achieved good results to keep working hard. It also gives those students who have not achieved the results they are capable of another chance to realise that they are in the most important year of their academic journey to date, and that they need to do something about it immediately before it is too late.

Year 11 Parents Evening follows shortly after on Thursday, 17 January. This is an important date for the diary for Year 11 students and parents, and an opportunity to have extremely valuable conversations with staff about how students can achieve the very best GCSE results they are capable of.

If you would like any guidance about how to best prepare your child for their GCSE exams in the summer, or have any concerns about their current progress, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.



Mrs H Norman
Associate Assistant
Headteacher



CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Our Head Girl, Ellanna Duncan is leading our fundraising activities for the Rory James Embling Foundation at CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), having worked with the charity in the past. Carleton High School has decided to support the charity after a former Carleton High School PE teacher, Chris Embling, from Ackworth, lost his son Rory at the age of 26 due to a sudden and dramatic arrhythmia to his heart.

Chris Embling visited the school and spoke to Student Ambassadors about his son, and why he passionately believes that young people should be able to attend free screenings that could identify an undiagnosed heart condition. Chris and his wife campaign tirelessly to raise both funding and awareness for CRY. Every week, 12 young people die from an undiagnosed heart defect which could be prevented in 90% of cases if free screening was available to young people.

The primary aim of the Rory James Embling foundation is, therefore, to raise money so that young people can benefit from free heart testing by CRY. The foundation

has kindly contributed £3000, and it is the aim of our Ambassadors to raise a further £2000 so that we can offer a free heart screening test to 100 CHS students. To support the fundraising, our Ambassadors have already organised a cake bake, a bag pack at Morrisons and a festive jumper day on the last day of the term, with all funds being donated to the charity.

Our Deputy Head Boy, Kenton Reynolds and Deputy Head Girl, Jess Barr also organised a Christmas present appeal for the Yorkshire Children's Trust. Students and staff were encouraged to bring in Christmas presents, which will be given to children who are going to be in hospital over the festive period. Thank you to everyone who has donated a present to this worthy cause.



Mrs J Cross
Head of School

DEMOCRACY IS IN THE AIR!

Democracy themed assemblies this term were used as a platform to launch our 'Student Focus Group.' This is an exciting new opportunity for students to make positive contributions to the school through student voice.

Potential candidates were invited to produce an application or 'Manifesto,' giving details of why they would like to become part of the group and what skills they had to offer. All students read through the applications during tutor time as part of our literacy drive and selected a candidate. A full democratic vote was held, with students placing their voting slips into the ballot boxes. Congratulations to all those who were successfully voted into the group, which in 2019, will focus on specific areas such as 'What makes a brilliant lesson?' 'Developing links with the wider community' and 'How can we get more people involved in enrichment activities?' Staff are looking forward to working with the students to further enhance the school.



UNIFORM

Thanks again to all students and parents who supported our raised expectations with regard to uniform. It has been great to hear visitors to the school and members of the community commenting on how smart Carleton students are looking. Please check the website or your child's planner if you are intending to purchase new items of uniform during the Christmas break. Our school uniform guide also provides important information on jewellery, hair styles and make up.



Mr R Pool
Assistant Headteacher

CATERING

Please could we remind you that you are able to make online payments to your child's account. If you would like a reminder of your login details, please email Student Services at: finance@carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk

As part of our Carleton Christmas Day on Friday, 21 December, we hope that your child will be joining in the festivities, when a traditional Christmas lunch will be available.

Our Catering provider, Chartwells, are currently developing their new menus in readiness for the Spring term. As always, "taster pots" will be available for any student who would like to sample the new food range prior to purchasing. Please support us in encouraging your child to try the food which is available to them, as this will ensure that they have a nutritionally balanced meal during the day and will help to improve their concentration levels during lessons.

BUILDINGS UPDATE

Work is continuing on creating an improved learning environment for our students. The painting works to the three-storey teaching block will be completed during the Christmas holidays and we will continue to invest in new furnishings and classroom displays to inspire and motivate our students.

Our new Learning Support suite contains forty two computers and is now complete. This is a valuable addition to our IT facilities and there has been a real buzz in this place, with students completing homework and independent study.

It was also pleasing that our improvements to the learning environment were recognised in our most recent Ofsted report. The report states "Leaders have also taken effective steps to rebrand the school.

Along with the change in the school name, classrooms have been repainted, new carpets have been laid and – throughout the school – there are inspirational and motivating posters encouraging pupils to achieve. These actions are helping staff and pupils feel appreciated and that they are worth investing in."



Mrs H Grandfield
School Business Manager

CARLETON CHRISTMAS DAY

We are on our festive countdown to our 'Carleton Christmas Day' on Friday 21st December. Students have been working extremely hard this term and have remained focussed on their learning and this will continue to be the case on the final day, just with a little extra festive sparkle! Students have the option of wearing a Christmas jumper as part of their normal school uniform, with £1 donations going towards our CRY charity fundraising.

The day will include a whole host of festive fun while learning is still taking place in lessons. There will be a present prize draw in form time, with 'It's the most wonderful form time of the year.' Thanks to our Year 11 student, Theo Biddle for the catchy title on this one! At break time there will be a 'Where's Rudolph' question hunt, with prizes to be won and Carleton's very own Christmas photo booth.

In lessons, students will be learning, so there will be an 'SLT Elf Giveaway' throughout lesson time where SLT will be visiting lessons, catching students completing

good work and awarding prizes. We are also looking forward to our 'Deck the Halls Festive Feast' where there will be a festive lunch, table decorations in the cafeteria, and Christmas songs played throughout lunch time. We will finish our day with 'Frosty the Snowden's Christmas Quiz' (Thank you to Mr Snowden for putting the quiz together!) where classes will be competing against other classes in their year group for prizes.

Santa Claus certainly will be coming to (Carleton) Town on the last day, so we look forward to a productive day of learning while spreading a bit of festive cheer.



Mrs J Cross
Head of School

KEY DATES

Monday, 10 to Friday, 21 December
Friday, 21 December
Monday, 7 January
Thursday, 17 January
Thursday, 24 January
Thursday, 31 January
Friday, 15 February
Monday, 25 February

Year 11 Mock Exams
School closes
School opens
Year 11 Parents' Evening
Year 10 Parents' Evening
Year 7 Parents' Evening
School closes
School opens