



**CARLETON
HIGH SCHOOL**

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

MAGIC BREAKFAST & HEALTHY EATING

Carleton High school has joined the Government's National School Breakfast Programme.

TOP IN THE AUTHORITY FOR ATTENDANCE

Thank you for your continued support in educating your children as to why it is so important to be in school every day.

COMIC RELIEF

Students were thrilled to bits to get the opportunity on Comic Relief Day at Carleton to pay to 'Sponge the Teacher'.



Time certainly doesn't stand still at Pontefract Academies Trust and, whilst in many respects it only seems like two seconds since I wrote my piece for the last newsletter, in many ways it feels like much longer than three months given how much has gone on in our schools. Both secondary schools continue to move from strength to strength and it continues to be a pleasure to work with the young people and staff in our schools. Both schools continue to work closely with one another and collaborate to share best practice and professional development.

My time has been spent predominately at The King's School this term and it has been great to really get to grips with my understanding of the school and knowledge of the people. Taking ownership of the leadership of the school on a daily operational basis has really helped me to evaluate the strengths (of which there are so many) and areas for improvement. Mr Pinto takes up his position as Acting Head of School with immediate effect and we have both had conversations about The King's School now feeling like it is on a real journey towards being outstanding.

The improvement journey at CHS continues, the addition of a number of high quality, well qualified and experienced staff in January has really accelerated progress. Leaders are very confident that the school is now embedding good practice day to day and students are getting a great deal. The work that the staff have done at this school from May until now is extraordinary and the school is transformed. Now that some of the basics are embedded, leaders are developing every aspect of school life, including extra-curricular activities so that all young people have great experiences in and out of the classroom. I'm sure that students going to New York this week will certainly have some stories to tell when they get back.

I'm pleased to say that behaviour in both secondary schools is now exemplary and the feedback from visitors who have been before, and staff returning from maternity has been 'wow is feels really different, it's so quiet and calm'.

Attendance is also a huge area of progress and both schools are now running well above average on a weekly basis with CHS having the best attendance in the authority. There has been more positive work carried out around SEND provision and the schools had a joint twilight CPD session on this to raise the profile in this area to ensure that students are getting the best provision and support.

Next term is a crucial one for Year 11. As they approach their exams the work being put in place by staff to support students is phenomenal, with daily after school sessions, Saturday morning lessons, holiday workshops, residential revision sessions, online tutoring and revision evenings for parents all ongoing. Please help us to help them at this critical time; we believe firmly in working closely to support our young people.

Yours faithfully

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

WELCOME

A warm welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter which covers a range of activities, events and information about what has been happening at Carleton, which I hope you enjoy reading.

It has been another fantastic term, with lots of new learning and experiences such as the hilarious 'El Viejo Saloon' Spanish theatre production, the SEND Outwards Bounds Wildlife Adventure Day, a visit from 'ZooLab' as part of National Science Week, and even a talk from the winner of BBC1's 'Young Apprentice'!

Over the last few months I have been delighted at the continued pace of change, which will ensure that we deliver a first-class education to all students at Carleton High School, allowing all students to make outstanding progress. Everything has moved on; progress tracking of all students is now firmly embedded, which is essential, so we can be sure that all students excel. Improvements in teaching and learning are clear to see. Teaching staff are very ambitious for their students, and our students have a real appetite for learning.

It is clear that the new systems and processes that we have implemented to promote positive behaviour and the highest quality of work in the classroom are having a huge impact. Our most recent staff survey revealed that 99% of staff thought CHS had 'significantly improved'; this would not have happened without the hard work of staff and students alike. I am so proud when I show visitors around the school, all of who comment on how fantastic our students are, from the way they respect each other to their impeccable attitude in lessons, and the pride they take in the school itself. It is clear that our mantra of 'Culture + Consistency = Excellence' is delivering results.

The recent successes of Carleton High School have meant that we have had a 60% increase in the number of applications from parents of prospective Year 6 students. We were named as a preference on 308 applications compared to 195 named preferences in the previous year. This is a clear sign of our growing reputation amongst the local community that Carleton High School is on its way to becoming an outstanding school, and this exciting journey is one that students, staff and parents have embarked upon together.

It has been good to talk to so many parents about their child's education at the various school Parents' Evenings this term. It has been great to hear that you recognise the positive steps that Carleton has taken to improve your child's education and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to support your child's learning. The combination of home, school and students here at Carleton will prove to be unbeatable.

As well as our highly attended Parents' Evenings, can I thank those of you who were able to make the Year 11 Revision Festival on 27 March. We hope that you have been able to take some useful hints and tips away with you. As Year 11 prepare for their exams, a number of subjects are offering revision boosters over the Easter holidays. These are proven to have a positive impact, and it is essential that students attend these very important revision sessions.

I am also very impressed at the commitment shown by a large number of our Year 11 students who have been attending Saturday morning Maths boosters every Saturday this term. I know how grateful the students are to Mrs Varley and Mr Loftus for giving up their time every weekend to ensure that students achieve the Maths grades they deserve. Hang in there Year 11; continue to work hard and prepare to succeed. Go for it!

In other news, students have been engaged in a range of lessons and activities in all areas of the curriculum and have shown a real pride in their achievements. There have been several highlights during the term, including fifteen students scoring top marks on the Mensa IQ test; as a result they have been offered Mensa membership for having an IQ in the top 2% nationally. A special mention to Finlay Byrne and Joshua Siddons who both scored 162 points, which is two points higher than the phenomenal Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein. We are incredibly proud of them all; what an amazing achievement. We thrive on helping each student nurture their own individual talents, whether that be on the sports field, playing a musical instrument, on stage in the drama studio, or with artistic creations, as well as with academic achievement.

I continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm of our students to participate in the wide range of opportunities on offer to them. During this term, students have enjoyed many sporting opportunities, such as the Year 7, 'Just Dance' house competition alongside the House Football Competition at the A1 Football Factory. At the start of the Easter break, the History department are taking a group of Year 10 students to New York to explore civil rights, and see some Vietnam War relics, both of which they have been studying in class. These trips are a great opportunity to broaden horizons and provide new experiences and knowledge, and I would like to thank all of our dedicated staff who provide these once in a life time experiences for our students.

A special mention to our Student Focus Group who have organised an Easter Egg appeal for the Yorkshire Children's Trust. Students and staff were encouraged to bring in Easter eggs, which will be given to children who are going to be in hospital over the Easter period. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this worthy cause.

Our newsletter only captures a small amount of what is happening at Carleton High School, so please follow us on Twitter @PATCarletonHigh for daily updates.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy Easter and hope you all have a lovely relaxing break.



Mrs J Cross
Head of School



YEAR 11 UPDATE

With the start of the GCSE 2019 summer exam season nearly upon us, students have been working extremely hard in lessons and are continuing to boost their learning by attending Saturday morning Maths boosters and after school Achieve sessions. We are also very proud of our '5pm Club' students who have studied for an additional hour to ensure they are completing at least two hours of meaningful learning per night to further maximise their progress.

Our Year 11 students should already have started their revision for their summer exams and we recommend that all students should be spending a minimum of 2-3 hours per school night, 2-3 hours at weekends and 2-3 hours per day over the Easter holidays revising for their summer GCSE exams. We must stress that this is our minimum expectation. We are really impressed at the number of our students who are already dedicating more time to their school work than our minimum expectation and know that this hard work will pay off when they receive their GCSE results on Thursday 22 August 2019!

To further support Year 11 and following on from the success of the February Half Term booster sessions, our dedicated staff are offering revision sessions throughout the Easter holidays. Your child will have received a letter if they are required to attend any of those sessions.

As well as the subject specific revision sessions, the Senior Leadership Team are also running a supervised

revision room 9.30am to 11.30am every day over the Easter holidays to support our Year 11 students with their revision. The supervised revision room will ensure your child completes the minimum of 2 hours of revision per day. We appreciate that with work commitments it can be difficult to ensure that your child is revising over the Easter break, and know that this opportunity will be welcomed by many families. Please speak to Mrs Norman if you would like to sign your child up to the supervised revision room.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and remind families that Year 11 students are expected to attend school as normal during May half term; this will ensure they are fully prepared for the exams which follow immediately after that week.

As always, if you would like further advice on how best to support your child prepare for their GCSE exams, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.



Mrs H Norman
Associate Assistant Head



NEW STAFF

Our new found reputation as a school that is on an 'exciting journey' to being a good school has ensured we are now able to recruit outstanding staff who want to work at Carleton High School and be part of the Pontefract Academies Trust. As a result, we have made some fantastic appointments, most of whom started with us in January.

Mrs Ashton joined us as a very experienced SENCO, and along with our new Assistant SENCO, Mrs Gregge, they are making huge and swift improvements to SEND provision at the school.

The Science Department have been joined by three outstanding colleagues. Mrs Allman is the Director of Science over Carleton and The King's School, but is spending the majority of her time at Carleton this year. Mr Smith and Mr Smyth have also joined the Science team as Lead Practitioners.

Mr Loftus joined the school in January as the Director of Maths, again working with Carleton and The King's School, but spending the majority of his time here at Carleton this year.

After Easter, another outstanding teacher, Miss Tarmey will join the English Department as a Lead Practitioner of English and Mr Jones will join as Teacher of Computing. After a term working with us, here's what a few of our new colleagues had to say.

'Moving from a British school in Spain was a big but very exciting leap for me. Carleton have provided me with an amazing opportunity to help develop the teaching and learning in Science so we can support your children even more to reaching their individual goals. The community here has been incredibly supportive and I am truly excited to see how this journey to excellence develops.'

Mr Smith (Lead Practitioner in Science)

'Thank you to all the students, parents and staff I have met so far for making me so welcome and helping me get started here in January. I have enjoyed the first term and I am really pleased with the positive reception I have had from my new classes. I am excited to see how well Year 11 can do and to see the animals visiting during Science Week!'

Mr Smyth (Lead Practitioner in Science)

'You can see on a daily basis how students and staff alike buy into the ethos of culture and consistency, and the resulting positive impact that this has had on the school. It's evident that the staff and senior team have worked hard to instil these standards and continue to do so. Clearly CHS is on the up and I'm glad to be part of its journey towards good and beyond.'

Mr Loftus (Director of Maths)

'I've loved being at Carleton – the students are amazing and are incredibly hard working, they have made my first couple of months here really enjoyable! As many students can probably tell from my accent, I'm originally from 'down south' and was working as Head of Science in a large secondary school in Hertfordshire before moving to Yorkshire to start at Carleton.'

Miss Allman (Director of Science).



Mrs J Crewe
Deputy Headteacher

COMIC RELIEF

Students were thrilled to bits to get the opportunity on Comic Relief Day at Carleton to pay to ‘Sponge the Teacher’ – especially when they learned that the Head of School and Deputy Head had volunteered for the job, along with other members of staff. Mrs Cross and Mrs Crewe definitely took one for the team, and raised plenty of funds for the cause.



Mrs J Crewe
Deputy Headteacher

Other events during this non-uniform day included a Cake Bake sale, a tombola to win prizes, and even a Staff Versus Students sports event after school. A fantastic amount was raised on the day; we’re really proud of the way students always come up trumps for charity fundraising events. Well done Carleton staff and students.



CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Monday 4 February was the start of Children’s Mental Health Week. Assemblies were delivered to all students in order to raise awareness and give advice. The theme was ‘Keeping Yourself Healthy – Inside & Out’. Students learned how a healthy diet, exercising, using electronic devices responsibly and getting the right amount of sleep can all contribute to a positive state of mind!

Students were also made aware of the wealth of support that is available at Carleton High School to students who

are concerned about their own or others’ mental health. Kooth, Future in Mind, School Nursing, The Rosalee Rylie Foundation and the School Chaplaincy Services are all external agencies who provide counselling and support for our students.

Students are even more aware of the need to maintain good mental health, with a Year 8 student telling us, ‘I learnt things that may help me to spot symptoms of mental health problems which may help other people.’

MAGIC BREAKFAST AND HEALTHY EATING

Carleton High school has joined the Government’s National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP), which is being delivered by the charities Family Action and Magic Breakfast. The programme aims to provide all students with a free, healthy breakfast before the start of the school day so that students have the right fuel for learning. Alongside our established breakfast service, as an NSBP school, we are now able to offer a free toasted bagel for all students between 8.30am and 8.50am every day!



Mrs H Grandfield
School Business Manager



CHS REVISION FESTIVAL!

We hosted our first ‘CHS Revision Festival’ at the end of March. The evening was a huge success and it was fantastic to see so many students and parents there. Students received everything they need for successful revision including equipment, revision timetables to help them organise their time, strategies and tips to support ever more effective revision, and specific subject revision guidance, as well as some little extras to support with motivation over the upcoming months.

We were also excited to welcome Positively Mad into school in March to deliver workshops to our Year 11 cohort to support them with revision strategies and top tips. This was extremely well received by students who certainly found the day informative and motivating. We extended the stay of Positively Mad into the evening and they delivered a ‘Parents’ Seminar’ at our Revision Festival on how to

support Year 11 students at home with more effective revision. We hope those who attended found this useful, and we look forward to inviting Positively Mad back into school next year to work with our Year 10 students and parents at Revision Fest 2020!



Mrs H Norman
Associate Assistant Headteacher



LITERACY UPDATE

We have been delighted with the impact of all our combined efforts with reading so far this year. The school has invested heavily in the literacy programmes; Accelerated Reader (AR) and Lexia. Year 7 and Year 8 have all been accessing the AR programme, which encourages reading for pleasure while guiding students to read books at the right reading age for them. Some students are also accessing the Lexia programme in our new learning support base 'The Bridge'; where they receive additional literacy support from Mrs Clarke.

We have been blown away by the improvements that students have made, with both Year 7 and Year 8 making significant improvements to their reading ages. Some students saw their reading ages leap not just by months, but YEARS! We also have our first reading 'millionaires'! A special mention to Angel Greaves, Oscar Orr, Jake Gartside and Ellie Mai Lloyd who received Head of School certificates for reading one million words - what an achievement!

Years 9, 10 and 11 are not missing out either. One of the loveliest sights in school every week is Peer Reading

during Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) - where Year 9 and 10 students act as reading mentors to younger students, listening to them read, and discussing what they are reading with them. Students read in tutor time, in DEAR, for homework in Year 7 and 8, and any chance they can! Mrs Eastell, our librarian, is also taking special orders from students for books they are desperate to get their hands on - a few surprise orders that we know other students (and staff!) will want to borrow too. We are looking forward to some better weather next term, so students can get the chance to use the outdoor quiet area to read at social times too.



Mrs J Crewe
Deputy Headteacher

TOP IN THE AUTHORITY FOR ATTENDANCE!

May we take this opportunity to thank all our students and their families for their support with attendance at CHS. There is very clear evidence that good attendance has a positive impact on progress and success; it makes sense that the more a child is in school, the more they will learn and the better progress they will make.

We have employed lots of strategies this year to improve our attendance and I am pleased to say that it is now significantly better compared to this time last year; it is now above the national figure, which is a fantastic achievement. Currently, we are also joint first place for attendance when compared to all other Wakefield secondary schools, which is a massive achievement. A special mention to Year 7 who achieved 100% attendance for a day this term

which was a great accomplishment - well done! We continue our #attendancematters drive to ensure all our students are in school and do not miss out on their learning.

Thank you for your continued support in educating your children as to why it is so important to be in school every day.



Mr A Dean
Assistant Headteacher

NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP SERVICE

Our Year 11 students were lucky enough to be visited by staff from the National Citizenship Service (NCS) who delivered a session on the NCS summer programme. NCS is a government-supported programme that allows young people aged 15 to 17 to take part in residential and fundraising events, aiming to develop their personal and employability skills. We would really recommend this fantastic opportunity to all students in year 11 so if your child has not yet signed up, please visit <http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/> for further information. This is a fantastic opportunity for all of our students to develop confidence, independence,

teamwork and other employability skills for the future, as well as volunteer their time to help a local charity.



Mrs H Norman
Associate Assistant Headteacher

CARLETON HIGH SCHOOL - YOU'RE HIRED!

As part of our Careers and Enterprise Programme, Year 10 and Year 11 students welcomed Sir Alan Sugar's latest protégé, Ashleigh Porter-Exley into CHS. She talked to them about how she has succeeded in business and enterprise and how she impressed the business mogul himself - Sir Alan Sugar.

The talented entrepreneur from South Yorkshire told the students how she started work at the age of 13 and was always committed to doing her best. Following school, Ashleigh secured an apprenticeship in accountancy, and from there she applied for the Young Apprentice. Much

to her surprise she was chosen as the winner by Sir Alan Sugar and has since gone on to win 'The Queen's Young Leader Award.'

The students were absolutely blown away by how much Ashleigh had achieved by the age of 20, and it was really inspiring to see how her strength of character and work ethic had helped her achieve such great things. It was great to welcome her into our school and hopefully she will have encouraged many of our students to follow in her footsteps.

OPTIONS

After Easter, Year 8 students will begin the exciting process of being asked to make decisions about what options they would like to study in Years 9, 10 and 11. These are important decisions and will determine the curriculum that each student will follow during their next three years at school. By choosing options in Year 8, students are able to specialise in the subjects they enjoy and excel in. Our curriculum offer remains broad and balanced with a good mix of GCSE and vocational options available.

To help parents and students to understand more fully about the options available, we are holding an 'Options Evening' on Thursday 2 May. Here, teachers from each option subject area will be available to explain the nature and requirements of their courses and to answer any question.

ENRICHMENT - SCHOOLS OUT!

... But that doesn't mean it's over for the day, with plenty of clubs and extra-curricular activities on offer. At Carleton High School we are proud of the variety of enrichment activities we offer students. From tried and tested sporting pursuits like rugby, netball and football, to more unusual activities like Gaming Club, Languages Singing Club and Ping Pong World, there is something for everyone.

It's fair to say that the enrichment available now is better than ever, and we would encourage every student to get involved with at least one enrichment activity per

week. So, check out our enrichment timetable at https://carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk/?page_id=1293 and get involved!



Mr T Marks
Assistant Headteacher

SEND PROVISION

We are delighted at the ongoing improvements to our SEND provision since Mrs Ashton joined us as a very experienced SENCO, alongside our new Assistant SENCO, Mrs Gregge in January. Together, they are making huge and swift improvements to SEND provision at the school so that it is inclusive.

Mrs Ashton has delivered whole school CPD to all staff regarding special educational needs and this has supported quality first teaching in the classroom so that all students, no matter what their circumstances, make good progress. We have also invested heavily in literacy support; we recognise that weak literacy skills are a barrier to learning. Students who need additional support now receive bespoke literacy intervention through Lexia in our new learning support base, 'The Bridge'. Here a whole host of interventions take place, such as risk and resilience work, to support students who have additional needs.

SEND provision in school has seen lots of changes which are starting to show the benefits. Students are making more progress, attending more frequently and there is a closer working relationship between school and home, with greater lines of communication. This half term has seen a very well attended extra curricular programme including Homework club, Gaming and Cooking. Alongside this there has been a Team Building & Resilience day for all EHCP and MSP students who attend Carleton High, promoting teamwork and promoting social and emotional well being. This has been very well attended in which students did a range of bespoke activities developing their social skills and levels of independence.

Parents of SEND students have been encouraged to get involved in regular coffee mornings; it has been a great opportunity for families to talk to each other and staff about SEND provision. We are pleased that all our SEND students now have their lunch in

the cafeteria, which encourages an inclusive ethos; students then have the opportunity to develop their social skills in the SEND lunchtime club.

We are pleased that the attendance of SEND students has increased by a massive 10% this year in comparison to last year and, as a result, students are now making more progress. We have also worked hard to improve the relationship between school and home through greater lines of communication. This term also sees the launch of our new termly student SEND report; all parents of students with an EHCP (Education Healthcare Plan) will receive a termly progress report. We hope that this and our regular coffee mornings will further improve the lines of communication between the school and parents.

This half-term has seen a very well attended SEND Homework Club to further support students with their homework. We have also launched a range of extra-curricular clubs such as Gaming Club and Cooking Club, which give all students the opportunities to develop their social skills. Alongside this, there has been an Outward Bounds Wildlife Adventure Day for all EHCP students across Carleton and King's, promoting teamwork and social and emotional wellbeing, where students took part in a range of bespoke activities developing their social skills and levels of independence.



Mr A Dean
Assistant Headteacher

INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Tuesday 5 February was Safer Internet Day. Our Safer School Partnership police officer, PC Clewlow, delivered informative assemblies to all our students on how to stay safe online. But how can parents keep their children safe online? Please see the schools recommendations below:

Online Safety – How can parents keep children safe online?

Prioritise safety

Teach children not to give out personal information, like their name, address, telephone number, or which school they go to. Make sure they are not friends online with people they have not met in person.

Set parental controls

Agree a list of websites that your child is allowed to visit, and remember to check the minimum age limit on services like Facebook and YouTube. Make sure you know the login and password for each of the sites.

Discuss their activity

Take an interest in their online world. Talk to them about their favourite websites, videos, and their online friends.

Set boundaries

Establish time limits for activities such as using the internet and games consoles. Make sure to set aside time for “unplugged” family activity.

Be open

Let them know that they can tell you about anything that happens on the internet, and that you’ll listen, without judgement.

The NSPCC website has further information on how to talk to your child about online safety:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-your-child-staying-safe-online/>

Information on online games:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-gameshelping-children-play-safe/>

How to set up parental controls:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parentalcontrols/>



Mr R Pool
Assistant Headteacher

UNIFORM UPDATE

We are pleased to confirm that the trust have evaluated the feedback received from parents and, as a result of which the decision has been made to use local uniform suppliers in future. In addition, to ensure students have the correct material, style and length of skirt; all skirts worn from September will be branded. These skirts will have to be purchased from local suppliers. We are currently working with these suppliers and further details will be made available in due course.