



CARLETON  
HIGH SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

## #GETCAUGHT READING

Carleton get caught up in the Twitter craze for reading in strange places.

## LEST WE FORGET

Our beautiful poppy display for Remembrance wows students, families and visitors.

## THE HISTORY OF CARLETON

Who might you recognize in the 'back in the day' Carleton photos? A glimpse back into our past.



As the end of a busy term approaches, it's time to reflect on the past and look forward to the New Year ahead.

Although it seems like a lifetime ago, it has been just over a year since I proudly accepted the position of Head of School at Carleton High School. The last year has been a period of unbelievable success for our school and at this special time of the year I want to thank all staff, students and parents for your unwavering and continued support.

At the start of term, I wrote to you all to share the fantastic news of the outcome of our Section 5 Ofsted inspection, where Carleton was rated a 'Good' school. The journey from special measures to good in 12 months is something that rarely happens in the education world, and I am so proud that our school has achieved so much in such a short space of time. Our journey so far has been incredible and I am excited by what lies ahead for Carleton High School in 2020.

In addition to this the 2019 GCSE results were 'record breaking', with students achieving above national in all key headline measures. Since this time, we have received further information that lets us know we are ranked in the top 25% schools in the country for progress. We are also one of the highest performing secondary schools in the Wakefield authority and one of the most improved schools in the country! Thanks must go to all our incredible staff who push themselves to the limit, and live by our motto 'whatever it takes' to make sure every student achieves their best. It was an amazing team effort!

I am pleased to share that these achievements have not gone unrecognised, I was delighted to receive a letter from the Rt Hon David Curry and the former Secretary of State for Education, Lord Blunkett, asking Carleton High School to be featured in the prestigious Parliamentary Review. This annual publication recognises the very best in educational excellence up and down the country and it was an honour to be asked to be featured in it.

In addition to this, I received a personal letter from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, who congratulated us on our most recent Ofsted inspection. It was great that she took the time to recognise the dedication of all involved stating 'the progress your school has made is the result of hard work and commitment on the part of many people' and 'the progress made by you and your team will benefit every pupil at the school'. Thanks Amanda, I couldn't agree more!

In other news, we have packed a great deal of activity into our first term here at Carleton and students and staff have created some magical moments. From our fantastic 'Open Evening' attended by a record breaking number of prospective students and their families, to our truly amazing Christmas Craft fair organised by our PTFA, we are justifiably proud of every member of our school community.

Our students in particular have worked fantastically well again this term, and continue to be great ambassadors for the school and the town. They provide endless enthusiasm, energy, humour and commitment. On the subject of positivity, since September, we have awarded a staggering 46,907 Epraise points (that's an average of 50 per student), with the school's top performer, Annie Wortley accumulating a staggering 120 Epraise points. Well done Annie.

Again we have seen students participating in a wide range of visits, events and extra-curricular activities. There are too many to mention here so please follow us on Twitter @PATCarletonHigh for all that goes on at Carleton on a daily basis.

I must congratulate our Year 7 boys rugby team who have qualified for the National Cup competition for the first time in five years! Well done lads!

Finally, I continue to be impressed by the incredible generosity of our school community. On Monday, 2 December we launched our very own 'Random Acts of Christmas Kindness Advent Calendar' and we have certainly made the world a little kinder this Christmas. We have received an overwhelming number of donations to the Pontefract Food Bank and the Yorkshire Children's Trust Christmas present appeal. In addition, there has been an incredible amount of support for our Year 7 sponsored Santa Dash to help raise funds for our chosen charity, The Salvation Army. Thank you to everyone who has donated to these worthy causes.

All that remains is for me 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, 14 November we welcomed our most successful Year 11 cohort ever to our annual GCSE Presentation Evening, where the class of 2019 were presented with their GCSE certificates.

Our class of 2019 have really 'set the bar' for the future here at Carleton and it was great to celebrate their achievements, with many students being awarded additional special prizes. Amongst the winners was Kenton Reynolds who won an 'Outstanding Attainment' award for achieving a phenomenal eight grade 9s and one grade 8.

Making the award presentation evening extra special was our special guest, Wakefield Trinity RLFC player Joe Westerman, who joined us to congratulate our class of 2019.

Thank you to everyone who attended the evening, it was an absolute pleasure to celebrate the achievements of our former students and hear about what the next part of their journeys' entail.

We are now setting our sights on this year's results which, are on track to being 'record breaking' once again!



# MOCK EXAMS UPDATE

Hats off to our Year 11 students who have now completed their mock exams. They have worked hard, prepared well and set a superb standard for future years.

They have been well supported by their teachers who have provided high quality revision resources and delivered ongoing Achieve sessions, but what has been really impressive is the maturity and dedication they have shown throughout.

In addition, we'd like to thank all of our students for their impeccable behaviour during the examination season. Our younger students have been very respectful towards the Year 11s by moving around school silently and adapting to changes to PE arrangements, necessary to accommodate the exams.

This process provides the school with an indication of current progress and enables us to further sharpen the focus of preparation in the remaining time until the actual 2020 GCSE Summer exams.



**Mrs H Norman**  
Assistant Headteacher



## ‘LEST WE FORGET’

Remembrance this year for Carleton was an important event, with more students involved than ever. If you were lucky enough to see the art display of poppies leading up the main block central stairs, you’ll know the photos on Twitter don’t do it justice. Inspired by the recent ceramic poppy work at the Tower of London, hundreds of student poppies in ceramics, paint, pencil, crochet and more made up the swathe of poppies for our remembrance tribute.

Our Head Girl, Abi Rushton, and Head Boy, Liam Gee, were proud to accompany Mrs Cross to the Remembrance Ceremony in Pontefract on Sunday, taking part in the time-honoured tradition of laying a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the school. Seeing so many generations together commemorating the sacrifices made for us in the past is always a humbling experience, and we are proud to be part of Pontefract’s contribution to the national Remembrance events.

Finally, on the MFL trip to France in October, Year 8 students were lucky enough to visit Terlincthun British war cemetery. All students were fully engaged and rightly, very respectful. It was a sobering experience for students but one that they felt grateful to have experienced.



**Mrs J Crewe**  
Deputy Headteacher

# AN EXCEPTIONAL OPEN EVENING

In September, Carleton High School was quite the talk of the town and our annual open evening was a HUGE success! It was a very busy evening with a lovely atmosphere, and an opportunity for those attending to learn about and experience first-hand why Carleton High School is a special place to be.

Each department relished in showing off their skills and expertise through exciting hands-on activities, challenges and tasks. The Science department's methane bubbles demonstration is always extremely popular!



The feedback from families was very positive and there were so many compliments for our students, who were, as always, a true credit to the school. Whether they were helping in the departments, taking families on tours or serving refreshments. All took great pride in showing off their school to our guests.

A special mention to our Head Boy, Liam Gee and our Head Girl, Abi Rushton who together with two of our incredible Year 7 students Lottie Jennison and Darcy Merrill spoke to a packed out theatre about their experiences of being a student at Carleton High during my Head of School welcome.

All four students gave phenomenal speeches and reminded me once again why I am so proud to be Head of School here at Carleton. Our students are quite simply first class!



**Mrs J Cross**  
Head of School

## READING MATTERS

Reading remains a big part of every student's life at Carleton this year. 'Drop Everything And Read' is second nature now, and the quiet atmosphere across school for half an hour every week as we all down tools and get into a good book is a wonderful demonstration of how much we value reading at school. We were thrilled to show on Twitter recently some of our Year 8 and Year 10 Reading Buddies. During DEAR, selected Year 8 students read aloud to their Year 10 reading buddy; we're proud that our older students are helping and supporting younger developing readers.

In addition this term, we've been encouraging all teachers to take part in #FirstChapterFriday. Teachers bring in a book they love and are keen to share, tell students about it, and read the first chapter with students. It's a great way to remind students that reading for pleasure is a lifelong love affair, and for passing on a great read recommendation.

Not content with that, December has seen the start of the Carleton 'Get Caught Reading' campaign - joining in the Twitter craze of being photographed reading in strange or unusual places. Early entries from Mrs Disney, Mrs Pickering, Miss Senior and the English department have set the bar high! Join in the fun on Twitter, tag us with @PATCarletonHigh and the hashtag #getcaughtreading



**Mrs J Crewe**  
Deputy Headteacher

# ODD SOCKS FOR ANTI-BULLYING AWARENESS DAY

Students and staff have been working their socks off to raise awareness about bullying in November and the results have been extremely stylish!

Students and staff donned outlandish and odd socks for the day as part of a nationwide campaign to encourage children to embrace their differences. Highlights ranged from Spiderman socks to brightly coloured knee highs. The day was part of Anti-Bullying Week, which the school supported. A key aim of the campaign is to help empower children and young people to celebrate what makes them different.

The week began with assemblies where students considered how bullying can have a lasting impact on lives and discussed the ways they can express themselves and take a stand against bullying in a positive and proactive way.

Our Odd Sock Day was a fun way to raise awareness of Anti-Bullying week. Difference adds variety to life- it's what makes every individual at Carleton special, and we want our students to be confident in who they are.

## REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

At Carleton, we celebrate and recognise the achievements of our students in a variety of ways, including our Epraise reward system. Students have been really enthusiastic about earning Epraise points this term, and there is fierce competition on the student leaderboard.

Students can earn points for a whole host of reasons; excellent behavior and attendance, making excellent progress in lessons and also having a positive attitude to learning to name a few! Epraise points are celebrated in our termly rewards assemblies and students are presented with certificates which can then earn them a place on our rewards trips that take place later in the year.

Our current top 5 students are Annie Wortley, Nathan Spence, Berry Haihambo, Izzy Hardman, and Dylan Lynch. This amazing achievement is indicative of the excellence and commitment of our students day in, day out. Well done to all! Please ask your child about their Epraise points total, and encourage them to log any points that they have received.



**Mr R Pool**  
Assistant Headteacher

# 'HELLO YELLOW' WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

This year, the UK'S leading children's mental health charity, Young Minds, called on schools to say #HelloYellow on World Mental Health Day and Carleton High School didn't disappoint!

The day got the full Carleton High treatment as we really wanted all students to be able to get involved in the point of the day - to think about how important it is for everyone to talk about their mental wellbeing and to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health.

All Year 7 went out onto the field to spell out the slogan for the day, #hellowyellow. It was something of a military operation, but raised awareness of the catchy slogan and looked great! All students were given yellow bracelets to wear during the day, and had the chance to have some of our hair and beauty students paint a nail yellow to spread the #hellowyellow message that, whatever students are going through, they can talk to someone if they're struggling to cope.

In addition, Year 10 attended a talk from State Of Mind, which provoked some really useful discussion amongst students about how exercise, diet and getting enough sleep are also really important in keeping us mentally healthy.

We were also excited to get involved with the ITV campaign led by Ant and Dec #BritainGetTalking. Since World Mental Health Day, ITV have been in contact and have asked to use some of photos from the school's Twitter account in a TV advert in the New Year... so watch this space!



**Mr A Dean**  
Assistant Headteacher

# SKILLS YORKSHIRE CAREERS FAIR

In October, all Year 11 students visited the Skills Yorkshire and Humber Careers Fair at Centenary Pavilion, Elland Road, Leeds. The annual event, hosted by Prospects Ltd, is the region's largest careers, jobs, skills and apprenticeship event. The event has been created to inspire young people and open their minds to the range of employment, training and learning options available in our area.

The students really engaged with the day and enjoyed demonstrating their employability and communication skills. They needed to introduce themselves and interact with the exhibitors in order to find out as much information as possible. Accompanying staff were also on hand to encourage, advise and direct students as they engaged with different stalls. Students met face-to-face with exhibitors including potential employers such as the British Army, Ernst & Young, Leeds United, NHS, Northern Power Grid, RAF and many more.

As ever, we were really proud of Carleton students as they got talking to stall holders and made the most of the opportunity to explore the range of careers and futures open to them.



**Mr T Marks**  
Assistant Headteacher







## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO (CARLETON) TOWN...

The Student Focus Group have been busy making sure our annual 'Carleton Christmas Day' on Friday 20 December goes down a storm. Once again, students will have the option of donating £1 to wear a Christmas jumper with their uniform. All contributions will be donated to The Salvation Army.

The day will include a whole host of festive fun, including a present prize draw in form time, with 'It's the most wonderful form time of the year'. At break time there will be a 'guess how many baubles are on the Christmas tree' competition and a 'Where's Rudolph?' question hunt! Carleton's very own Christmas photo booth is back and better than ever with lots of props so students can get a fun, festive photo with their friends! Carleton Style!

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.

In lessons, students will be learning and 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 will finish our day with 'Frosty the Snowden's Christmas Quiz of the Year.' (Thank you to Mr Snowden for once again putting the quiz together!)

Our students have been amazing this term and we look forward to a productive final day of learning whilst spreading a bit of festive cheer.



**Mr A Dean**  
Assistant Headteacher

# THE HISTORY OF CARLETON HIGH SCHOOL

As most of you are aware, I am local to the area having been brought up in Knottingley all my life. What you may not know, is my Dad, back in the day, actually attended Carleton High School when it was known as 'Pontefract Boys Secondary Modern'. So with that said, I thought it would be interesting to learn more about the history of Carleton High School and share a flavour of this in our newsletter.

In around 1906, before there was a school, the Pontefract Union erected children's cottage homes at Carleton which could accommodate 120 children. These homes were located on Moor Lane and comprised two double cottages, an infants' nursery, and an administrative building referred to as 'Top Home' where the matron had her quarters and older children lived. Whilst at the homes, the boys would attend the St Michael's church at the end of the road for lessons in between work they completed at the home.

Prior to becoming Carleton High School, the site was home to Pontefract Boys Secondary Modern. One of the last Headmasters here was called Joe Lynch. Following Mr Lynch, the first Headteacher of Carleton High School was Bryn Haworth. He oversaw the education of thousands of pupils of Pontefract spanning three decades up until 1986, including female students who attended the school from the mid 1970s. He was nicknamed 'Batman' by pupils because he often wore his scholar's gown around the school.

The photo below was taken in July 1978 when Pontefract Boys Secondary Modern closed down before reopening in the following September as what we now know as Carleton High School.



Reverend Wright, originally from Castleford, followed in the footsteps of Mr Haworth and came to the school from a headship in Eastmoor, Wakefield in 1987. He was often known to come out and play rugby at break and lunch, Reverend Wright was also known for impassioned speeches to students in assemblies.



A late 1970s/ early 1980s staff football team, with (back Row) Pat Cuthbert, Barry Howell, Arthur Adamson, Stuart Lonsdale, John Walker, Steve Wood, (front row) Pete Davis, Derek Pine, Frank Brown, Chris Embling and Eric Bradley.

In more recent times, one of the most significant events in Carleton's history was the fire in October 2008. Overnight, a huge raging inferno completely destroyed the main central building of the school, including the famed bridge linking to the teaching block. Teaching spaces across the community were organised, using The King's School, Pontefract Racecourse and Carleton Grange to house lessons for all year groups. The use of porta-cabins became a long standing feature at Carleton as the site rebuilt from the ashes of the fire. As with all new builds, it took longer than expected, but the £13 million new facilities including theatre, library, dining facilities, classrooms, and sports facilities, are still the envy of many schools.

Thanks to our very own CHS historian, Mr Snowden, for putting together this flavour of some of the history of Carleton High School.



**Mrs J Cross**  
Head of School

# TWITTER

We love updating you all on Twitter every day with achievements, surprises, events, sterling work, trips, or just silly moments! There is never a dull moment in a school, and the newsletter just isn't often enough to keep you up to date while celebrating our amazing students and staff. We're about to crack the 1000 barrier for tweets, and are well over 600 followers. Follow us on @PATCarletonHigh to keep up with the latest – you never know who or what we'll be celebrating next!

**CarletonHigh**  
@PATCarletonHigh

It takes a whole team to make a school a safe and happy place for students to learn! We are proud to be celebrating @UNISONinSchools 'Stars in our Schools' day today! #incrediblesupportstaff #TeamCarleton #StarsinourSchools



9:26 am · 29 Nov 2019 · Twitter Web App

**CarletonHigh**  
@PATCarletonHigh

Rock Paper Scissors at lunchtime... in Japanese! Year 7 never fail to amaze! #alwayslearning #lunchtimegames



1:40 pm · 24 Sep 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

4 Retweets 19 Likes

**CarletonHigh**  
@PATCarletonHigh

Year 7 raising awareness of World Mental Health Day, Carleton Style #TeamCarleton #HelloYellow @YoungMindsUK




11:05 am · 10 Oct 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

10 Likes

**CarletonHigh**  
@PATCarletonHigh

Our students enjoyed a brilliant performance of the Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by @NationalTheatre @NT\_Schools today. #CuriousSchools #enrichment #theatre



2:50 pm · 14 Oct 2019 · Twitter Web App

3 Retweets 19 Likes

**CarletonHigh**  
@PATCarletonHigh

More photo updates from the #CHSParis19 trip! Students and staff are having an incredible time but .....#whereiscarletonbear? #paris2019




3:29 pm · 26 Oct 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

24 Likes

**CarletonHigh**  
@PATCarletonHigh

Great seats for Carleton Bear's first football game @ManUtd Big thanks to Mr Payne for arranging #Enrichment #AmazingStudents #AmazingStaff




8:03 am · 8 Nov 2019 · Twitter Web App

1 Retweet 9 Likes

**CarletonHigh**  
@PATCarletonHigh

The art department and Y7 and 8 students really have done an incredible job at putting together our Carleton High School remembrance display. The display was influenced by Paul Cummins 'Blood swept lands of seas of red' #checkitout @PoppyLegion



11:22 am · 8 Nov 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

**CarletonHigh**  
@PATCarletonHigh

More Head of School certificates this morning- outstanding progress, outstanding contribution to the school and we also have our first ever girls rugby team to qualify for the Yorkshire festival #praise #teamcarleton #proudheadofschool



7:14 am · 23 Aug 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

13 Likes

**CarletonHigh**  
@PATCarletonHigh

An incredible third of all students @PATCarletonHigh achieved at least one grade 8 or 9!!!! That's a total of 144 grade 8 or 9s achieved! #amazingachievements #gcesresultsday #bestresultsever



7:14 am · 23 Aug 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

13 Likes