



CARLETON
HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

OPEN EVENING

Carleton ensures prospective students don't miss out with live virtual open evening.

AWARD WINNING

Carleton High School is named 'Most Improved School in the North of England'.

SANTA DASH

Year 7 students complete sponsored run for the Prince of Wales Hospice.



As we come to the end of 2020, a year unlike any other, I wanted to thank all our staff, students, parents and carers for their contribution towards a very successful term. We certainly haven't let a global pandemic dampen our spirits and stop us getting back to the business of teaching.

Our first term has undoubtedly been different to say the least, but it is very clear that the spirit of the school is still very much intact. I must congratulate our amazing students who have adapted to all the changes extremely well. It has been a pleasure to see them enjoy being back to a degree of normality. Their enthusiasm, exemplary behaviour and positive attitudes to learning are second to none.

Whilst it has been fantastic to welcome students back into school this term, and I feel fortunate that we have been able to remain open through the second lockdown, it has been a challenging term for staff. Teachers have needed to adapt to moving classrooms six times a day in order to teach different year group 'bubbles', along with remembering to always have the necessary equipment and resources in the right places. At the same time, they have ensured self-isolating students have been able to keep up with their work through Google Classroom. Teachers have learnt how to deliver live hybrid lessons to students at home, whilst still having students in front of them in the classroom! In addition, they continue to live by our mantra of 'whatever it takes' to ensure every student achieves their absolute best. Our teachers have delivered additional after school achieve sessions, as well as delivering subject specialist workshops during October half term and they have even delivered Saturday morning virtual lessons for our students on the run up to the year 11 mock exams.

I am truly grateful to lead such a phenomenal team of staff and wanted to publicly thank all of them for the huge efforts they have made and their unwavering commitment to the school. This has enabled us to continue to operate and for students to continue to receive a first class education so they get the chances in life they deserve.

It has also been wonderful to pass on all the very kind words of support I have received from parents and carers with all the staff. Your words are greatly appreciated by all and have definitely boosted everyone's spirit - thank you.

In other news, earlier in the term I wrote to you all to share the fantastic news that Carleton High School has been awarded the accolade of 'Most Improved School in the North of England' by the Northern Powerhouse Partnership under the Fairer Schools Index. The award is testament to the hard work and commitment of all who work in and around the school. It has been such a team effort.

I am pleased that this achievement did not go unrecognised, and Carleton High School has been very much in the media spotlight! I was immensely proud to share the news during an interview with BBC for both TV and Radio and to also have articles featured in the Yorkshire Post and the Pontefract and Castleford Express.

In other news, our fantastic virtual Open Evening event was viewed by over 600 prospective students and their families. The event took the form of a live broadcast on Facebook, a special mention goes to our Head Boy, Henry Groves and our Head Girl, Amelia Hardman who together with our incredible Year 7 student, Eva Hursthouse, spoke to a virtual audience about their experiences of being a student at Carleton High School. All three students gave remarkable speeches and reminded me once again why I am so proud to be the Headteacher here at Carleton. Our students are quite simply first class!

Finally, I continue to be impressed by the incredible generosity of our school community. Our students went above and beyond raising money for Children in Need by completing various activities. In addition, there has been an incredible amount of support for our Year 7 sponsored Santa Dash to help raise funds for one of our chosen charities, The Prince of Wales Hospice. Thank you to everyone who has donated to these worthy causes. We are looking forward to more fundraising opportunities in 2021, which will include our highly anticipated 'Colour Run 2.0' to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

All that remains is to say stay safe and for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all at Carleton High School.

Mrs J Cross
Headteacher

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW STAFF

We've been lucky to welcome some new staff to Team Carleton this year, and in these strange and different times, I haven't envied them getting to know the school under such different circumstances. We know they're true members of the team as they've all fitted in so well that we can't remember life before them!

As a new member of staff myself, I arrived at Carleton High School in September, new job, new town and a pandemic to deal with. Clearly, it was a lot to take in and process. However, the thing that has helped me find my feet have been the amazing students at Carleton High School. On my second week at the school, a year 9 student asked me if I was new. They then said "Miss, it's nice to have you here and hope you enjoy it." Those lovely words made me feel very welcomed and all the students I talk to in and out of lessons have been a pleasure to speak to, and again, make me feel welcome on a daily basis.

I'm now almost four months in, I already feel like one of the family and part of Team Carleton! That's down to my amazing colleagues who are equally welcoming and

friendly. However, I can't forget to mention the wonderful students again, who are a credit to the school.

In addition to myself, there have been several new members of staff including Miss Tinkler in Maths and Mr Ewart in English. Miss Heyworth in Technology, Mr Gordon in Music, Mrs Lopez in MFL, and Miss White in Geography. We've also welcomed Mr Ghent as a Cover Supervisor, and Mr Tucker and Mrs Grimshaw and Student Liaison Officers. A warm Carleton High welcome to them all.



Mrs S Shariff
Deputy Headteacher



BBC Children in Need celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. Over the years, Children in Need has raised more than £1billion for sick and disadvantaged children in the UK, and in these strange times, everyone involved in the appeal agrees that it is now more important than ever.

We set a fundraising challenge for all our key stage 3 students this year, and we are so proud to have raised so much for the cause and to have had so many students involved. As well as a fund raising total, our favourite challenge was which form could have the most students contribute. Whether it was 50p or £500, we were proud of all students who made the effort to do something, no matter how small, to make a difference to Children in Need. Well done jointly to 8NJO and 9THA for having the most people contribute, but also massive praise goes to 7HTH for raising £700.13 between them! From 7HTH, Grace Murray and Mayah Bristow together raised an amazing £500 with a

sponsored walk around Pontefract racecourse – well done girls! So many students showed great determination and did wonderful things, from chores at home, cooking for the family, dancing, cycling, sit ups, running up and down the stairs, to climbing the height of Ben Nevis dressed as a lobster! We're proud to announce we raised over £3000 for Children In Need.



Mr T Marks
Assistant Headteacher

THE CHS IDENTITY

In September we launched our four Carleton student values. These four values of respect, responsibility, determination and excellence form the core of what we call the CHS Identity, the 'golden thread' which binds together all students who walk through our doors. These values reiterate positive attitudes to build character and encompass everything that we try to instil in our students on a daily basis.

Just one example this term was the 'Random Acts of Kindness' challenge, based around the value of responsibility. Students were challenged to do something at home to help out, and specifically to put on a load of washing. Some parents were a little surprised to say the least!

Our students have done an incredible job at embracing our school values, and we are confident that they will support them to become the best versions of themselves they can possibly be.

CARLETON STUDENT VALUES

Respect

We treat others how we would like to be treated, showing kindness and good manners. We are honest, demonstrate good morals and do the right thing, even when no one is watching.

Responsibility

We are responsible for the choices we make and believe that taking responsibility for our actions wins the day. We learn from our mistakes, move forward and improve.

Determination

We believe in ourselves to be the best that we can be and do not give up. At all times we display a 'whatever it takes' attitude, we get on, do it and make it happen.

Excellence

We value our education and aspire to excellence in everything we do. We have sky high expectations of ourselves, our work and our behaviour, always committed to pushing ourselves to do our absolute best.

DELIVERING A LITTLE KINDNESS THIS CHRISTMAS

Our Year 7 students have been delighted to take part in a 'Light Up for Life' singing event for the Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract. We may not be able to be there in person, but with the wonders of modern technology, we've certainly played our part. Mrs Johnson did an amazing job in co-ordinating the event, even roping in Miss Barker to teach the students how to also sign the song, as well as sing it! The event is still to go live, so no spoilers from us, but what I will tell you is, there was a snow machine involved! We wish the very best Christmas possible to all involved, and were proud to play our part in the event.



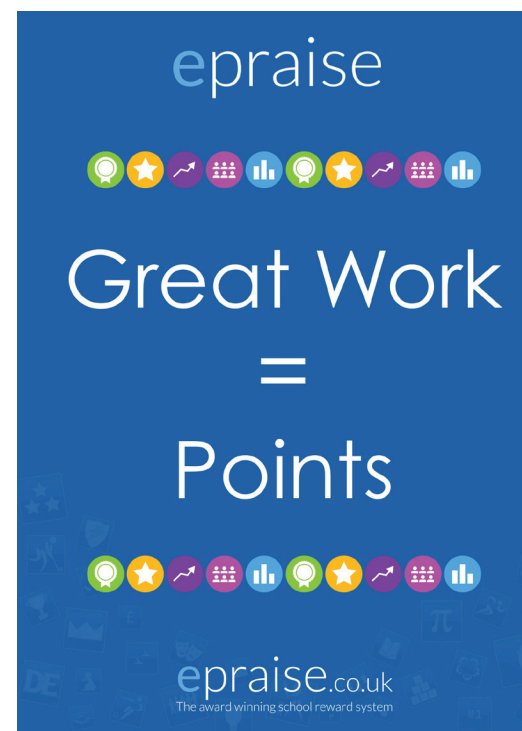
REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

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, as always, there is fierce competition on the student leader board.

Students can earn points for a whole host of reasons; excellent behaviour and attendance, or displaying one of the Carleton student values of Respect, Responsibility, Determination or Excellence.

Epraise points are celebrated in our termly rewards assemblies and if they achieve enough points, students can earn a place on our rewards trips that take place later in the year.

Our current top 5 students are Billie Luckman, Connor Mcadam, James Marren, Rose Garbett and Lucas McNally. 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 A Dean
Assistant Headteacher

INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY



As the term has progressed, students and staff have become ever more expert in using online technologies to make sure that even with the interruptions of Covid self-isolation, learning can still happen. Every lesson where a student is self-isolating is accessible live from Google Classroom, and even though students are at home, they can still get that all important teacher face, voice and instruction that you just can't get from working from a booklet alone. It's also been useful when staff have had to self-isolate, and have taught classes live from home, with a little help from our cover supervisors in the room. Only occasionally have the computers said 'NO!' A huge thank you and well done is due to staff, students, parents and carers for being determined to make this work, and make learning the priority.

We've also used technology in school time to keep up social distancing, with virtual assemblies, online tutoring, and even some online staff CPD.

If you're not sure how hybrid lessons work, go to our website in the Student section, and have a look in

'Remote Learning' where a range of text and video guides are available. If you're struggling with equipment, let us know. It's amazing how much difference working webcams makes, and so we do insist on students having their webcam on so they can truly be a part of the lesson, showing and sharing their answers to the teacher. Just like in class, learning is an interactive experience and just a lecture will never be as good as checking in and sharing progress. It's a strange new normal, but one that now works seamlessly in classrooms across Carleton High.



Mrs J Crewe
Deputy Headteacher



MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY TUTORING

Pontefract Academies Trust has formed a partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University to offer specialist online tutoring to children at Carleton High School. Specialists in the fields of English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Social Sciences, French and Spanish are working on a short but intensive programme with a range of Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 students. Our intention is that students go from being good to great in these subjects, as research has shown that this style of tutoring, three students in a group and for three hours in a week, is some of the most effective. The tutors have been thoroughly impressed with our students' maturity and enthusiasm, as they've really grabbed this opportunity with both hands. A special well done to Year 10 who are completing two hours of this tutoring after school, showing true commitment and determination to strive for excellence.

TALKING THE TALK

We've taken the opportunity this year to really push our student's standards of excellence in speaking, but just like anything, we all need a little training at times. To support this, each week in form time, students have been learning, developing and practising their oracy skills. For all students the goal is to be able to speak confidently and eloquently in any situation. Year 7 started with some induction activities to help build confidence in speaking and getting to know each other in those first few weeks. Years 8 and 9 have also been building on their independent and group communication skills. Year 10 have started to work on speaking in more formal environments, such as in interviews – sixth form college applications are approaching fast!

It's been a joy to listen to students develop their oracy skills every week, and we look forward to these sessions continuing throughout the academic year. Every student needs a voice – we're so pleased these sessions are helping every student find theirs.



Mrs J Crewe
Deputy Headteacher

OLD CARLETONIANS

We are excited to share with you a brand new section of our website, where we celebrate the successes of former Carleton High School students. It really is incredible to see so many wonderful achievements from our alumni. From CEOs to sports stars, our Old Carletonians really have done it all and are proof that anything is possible if you put in the effort.

We highly value our connection with our Old Carletonians, so, if you are a former student, we would love to hear about any achievements you have made since leaving Carleton High School, so you can inspire the next generation of Carletonians! If you would like to be featured, please email oldcarletonians@carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk.



MAKING SUCCESS INEVITABLE

It has been a busy start to the year for our year 11 students. We started the year with a virtual information evening to provide our students and their families some reassurance and support in light of the pandemic. The evening also provided information from Curriculum Leaders of English, Maths and Science about how parents and carers can best support their child at home in preparation for their GCSE exams.

Our outstanding team of staff have been working tirelessly to provide additional out of school time support sessions for our Year 10 and 11 students. We had a record number of study sessions running during October half term. Fourteen, 4-hour sessions for our year 11 students in a range of subjects. This October holiday also saw the launch of our Virtual High 5's Maths and English programme for Year 10. All of these sessions had excellent attendance and have been hugely beneficial for our students in supporting their studies.

In addition, 80 students have engaged in virtual Saturday morning English and Maths revision sessions in the run up to the mock exams.

With the mock exam period over, we are exceptionally proud of our year 11s, their attitude and commitment to their studies have been exemplary, and we look forward to them receiving their mock exam results in the New Year - good luck Year 11.



Mrs H Norman
Assistant Headteacher

TWITTER

We frequently share stories on Twitter, from celebrations, to information, to points worthy of note. We now have over 1400 followers! To get a real flavour of life at Carleton High, follow us at @PATCarletonHigh and get involved! Here's a few highlights from the last few months.

