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Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher end of term update

As we come to the end of our first term of the new academic year, I would like to say a huge well done to you all for your resilience and patience in helping the students adjust to a full school routine once again. As parents and carers you are a crucial piece of our jigsaw in terms of setting the right expectations for the students and making sure they are ready and equipped for learning and you have given your all! The students have done you proud as they have got back into the habit of a busy, full day and we have enjoyed having our "normal" routines back too.

I have been delighted to see students' engagement in and out of lessons. I have seen many examples of excellent effort, superb attitudes, exemplary manners and a real desire to take advantage of the many learning opportunities and experiences Carleton High School has to offer.

Making a flying start!

It has been brilliant to see how well our new Year 7 students have begun their journey at Carleton High School. Whilst visiting them in lessons and speaking with them during social times, it has been a pleasure to hear about their learning and the experiences they have enjoyed so far.

Welcome to Year 7 Evening

Thank you to parents of Year 7 students who attended the Welcome to Year 7 Evening last week. This was our first public event with parents since March 2020 and we were delighted to welcome so many new parents where they had the opportunity to meet their child's form tutor face to face. I hope that the information presented was useful.

Year 5/6 Open Evening

We were delighted to welcome 900+ visitors to our school - despite the rain and the fuel crisis! 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.

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, Deniz Ucar and our Head Girl, Olivia Mae Butterfield who together with two of our incredible Year 7 students Melise Facey and George Purcell spoke to a packed out theatre about their experiences of being a student at Carleton High during my Headteacher welcome. All four students gave phenomenal speeches and reminded me once again why I am so proud to be Headteacher.

A warm welcome to all our new staff

We've been lucky to welcome some new staff to Carleton High School from September, across various departments and roles including: Miss Skyner, Assistant Headteacher; Mrs Jagger and Mrs Raine in Maths; Mr Wandless and Miss Morris in PE; Mr Williams, Miss Thorne and Miss Hayden in Science; Miss Wardle in English; Miss Rafton in Performing Arts; Miss Birley in Music, Mrs Nolan in Art; Mr Sands in Computing; Courtney Peaker, Learning Support Assistant; and last but not least Charlotte Bellery-Ladocha as an English tutor.

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!

Superb Support for Year 11

Year 11 are in a key phase of the most important year of their school life. Miss Morris, Miss Beetham and all Year 11 teachers are working with every student to help them achieve their absolute best in their summer exams.

Parents play a key part in supporting our Year 11 students and I would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child benefits from the superb support we have in place. The attendance at after school achieve sessions continues to be above 98%.

A number of subject specialist workshops will take place during half term and some of our students will take part in a series of tutoring sessions at the Kip McGrath centre over the course of the year.

Phenomenal fundraising efforts

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our fundraising efforts last year. Collectively as a Trust we raised £20,000 for The Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract and Motor Neurone Disease Association during the 2020-2021 academic year.

We are looking forward to more fundraising opportunities throughout the course of this year, which will include our highly anticipated Colour Run, Santa Dash and our CHS Big sleep out to name a few.

Testing

I would like to thank students and families who have continued to take lateral flow tests twice a week over the term. We would encourage students to take a lateral flow test prior to returning to school after the break. Supplies of tests are available from school on an ongoing basis should you require them.

And Finally

All that remains to say is to have a restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming students and staff back to school on Monday, 1st November 2021.

Yours faithfully,

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J Cross

Headteacher