

From: Carr Hill High School & Sixth Form Centre <8884155@groupcallalert.com>
Sent: 20 December 2018 12:44
To: Mrs E Bateson
Subject: Carr Hill News & Reminders
Attachments: 201812201243_Headteacher'sTermlyUpdate.docx



School eLetter Friday 21st December 2018

[Term Dates](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we donated 31 bags and six boxes of food, toiletries and toys to the Fylde Food Bank. A group of students personally dropped off the school's collective donation and were thanked by staff for the efforts of the school community. Thank you to all those who have supported our appeal over the last few weeks.

Elsewhere our Year 13 students have been to Milbanke Residential Home and Day Centre to drop off Christmas cards as part of the 'Cards for Kindness' appeal which aims to reduce loneliness amongst older people across Lancashire throughout the festive period.

Each day this week we have held a Christmas Carol Service. The services have been an opportunity for students to come together, reflect on, and celebrate Christmas. Our school orchestra kindly performed during each assembly as did the Dance Academy and a group of students performed a couple of new carols. The assemblies have been a wonderful way to end the autumn term.

On Tuesday evening we held our annual Achievement Awards. This is an event for former Year 11 and Year 13 students who left Carr Hill in the summer. This is an important evening in the school's calendar as it is an opportunity for former students to look back on their time at Carr Hill and celebrate the many things they accomplished. It was great to see such a large turn out and for staff to have the chance to catch up with former students who are now enjoying college courses, apprenticeships or full time employment. We wish all our former students well and look forward to hearing about their future successes.

As promised, you will find attached to this eLetter my Half Termly Letter to parents and carers. This letter includes important updates and details about changes to school policies.

Finally, I hope you and your families have an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas break and wish you all the best for the new year. We look forward to welcoming your sons and daughters back to school in January.

Important Dates:

School Closes at 1.25pm on Friday 21st December 2018
Inset Day Monday 7th January 2019 (School closed to students)
School Opens at 8.55am on Tuesday 8th January 2019
Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.00pm Thursday 17th January 2019

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Waller'.

Andrew Waller
Headteacher



Harry
Year 7



Alexander
Year 8



Kenzie
Year 9



Leo
Year 10



Emily
Year 11

Well done to all these students who achieved a superb number of merits this week.

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Student Author

Carr Hill High School

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Student Author

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17 December 2018
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Dear Parent/Carers

As we come to the end of another term I would like to provide you with an update on developments in school.

We are now exactly 12 months on from the Ofsted visit and so it is likely to be another 12-18 months before Ofsted returns. As a school we continue to work on the areas the inspectors highlighted and the Governors continue to monitor our improvement plan on a termly basis. The recent round of observations which involved over 60 lessons in all subjects highlighted a good quality of teaching and learning across the school and it was very pleasing to see the real emphasis being placed on the knowledge which students need in the different subject areas.

The latest Year 11 predicted data is now in and while there still remains a gap between the achievement of boys and girls in general, we are in a stronger position overall than we were this time last year. As I said at Information Evenings earlier this term, English and History are particular areas of focus and it is pleasing to see that the trend is for improved performance in both these subjects. Year 11 have their PPES (mock exams) starting on 14th January and have already sat mock exams in English and Science. It is reassuring to see, that having invested in GCSE pods as a revision aid, over 10,000 pods have been viewed by our exam students. Our remaining Year 13 students are predicted to achieve very well in both A level and vocational subjects.

Success in education is really down to three elements – good quality teaching, students engaging with their learning both in school and at home and parents /carers having high expectations and setting boundaries for learning at home. I can only ask for your continued support in this and continued encouragement of your sons and daughters to focus on the work necessary. As a leading writer on education states ‘Parents should be saying to their children that school is where you go to learn to become a giant’.

An important focus of teaching and learning across the whole school, and indeed the County, is the development of vocabulary. We know that in order to actually access exam questions and to achieve higher grades there is a need for a high level of vocabulary. We are involved in a number of activities to promote the acquisition of better vocabulary but there really is no substitute for reading and the more students read, especially at home, the more they will benefit. A group of around 100 Year 8 and 9 students will also be taking part in an online vocabulary pilot run by Bedrock.

Four years ago the school launched the Chromebook project, a parental contribution scheme to support students having access to their own device to enhance learning both in the classroom and at home. Having four years’ experience and from listening to feedback from our students the time is right to consult about the future direction of technology in the classroom. In the new year we will launch a consultation initially with Year 7 parents and carers. The existing scheme will remain unchanged for years 8 to 11.

When Ofsted Inspectors do return they will inspect us under a new inspection framework which will be published for consultation in January and implemented from September 2019. There will be a much heavier focus on the curriculum and the quality of what is delivered and a more proportionate focus on student outcomes and data. I have asked a serving Ofsted inspector who is currently receiving training on the new framework to work with us over the next twelve months as we prepare for the inspection. He will work with all staff but especially middle and senior leaders and Governors. His first input to all staff will be at the INSET day on January 7th.

Overall school attendance up to December 7th stands at 94.9% with our target being 96%. Attendance is an aspect of school where we do rely on parents/carers to support us and the vast majority do so every day. The attendance policy is on the website and I can only repeat what all headteachers frequently say – good attendance is vital for achievement. We do not authorise holidays in term time and we do make daily calls, home visits and use penalty notices where appropriate.

As a school we have high standards and want all students to adhere to those standards of behaviour and uniform. Unfortunately there are a minority of students who are issued a detention and if they fail to attend their Heads of Year detention on a Thursday evening they go into a longer Headteachers' detention until 4.30 on the Friday. After Christmas, if students fail to attend the Headteacher's detention, they will be expected to stay in school until 5pm the following Friday and will be collected from period 5 for this.

One further change to practice after Christmas is that mobile phones will not be allowed to be used or seen at any time on school premises. We want to encourage students to talk to each other and move away from social media or games before school and the rule is then quite clear and consistent for all. Students are allowed to have phones on them but they should not be used at all during their time in school and I would ask that you do not encourage or condone their use. If students need to contact home, that can be done through the office or pastoral staff. Any phones seen will be confiscated and need to be collected from the office by a parent/carer.

As always can I ask for your support with uniform matters. The vast majority of students look smart and stick within the rules. Students who are not wearing the correct uniform or who are not complying with expectations set out in the uniform policy are kept out of circulation at break and lunchtimes if the matter cannot be rectified. It is always best that students do not have anything done during the holidays (eg piercings or extreme haircuts) which will cause a problem on their return.

We are very pleased with the renovated science labs. This work was made possible through the condition led grant from the Local Authority because of the poor state of the building and we now have 4 high quality labs to enhance teaching and learning. The next major work in school, again due to a grant from the LA will be to replace the Hub roof which leaks badly. In the budget, the

chancellor announced a small pot of money for schools for capital works. We hope to use this to improve disabled access at the front of the school.

Finally, at the end of this term we will be saying good bye to a number of staff – Mrs Taylor and Mrs Berry in Maths, Mrs Holden in Chemistry and Miss Butterworth in Geography. We wish them well and thank them for the contribution they have made to all our students and community at Carr Hill. We also say an enormous thankyou to Mr Ian Marquis who has served as Chair of Governors for over 10 years and who steps down at the end of this term. The Governors have elected Mrs Linda Nulty as the new Chair and Mrs Sara Moreton as Vice Chair.

With best wishes to you and your families for a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Waller
Headteacher