

Message from the Head



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to welcome back all our students following the summer break. I would also like to welcome our 201 new Year 7 students who are settling in to life at their new school this week.

Also attached to the email you received is my 'Update to Parents' letter which I write each half term to give you an overview of all changes, progress and projects taking place across school and key information relating to important matters such as exam results and curriculum modifications.

Towards the end of the summer term we launched the 'We are Reading' project. Carr Hill High School has teamed up with two other local high schools to launch an initiative designed to encourage reading and creative writing amongst students. We have already run a successful short story competition with Year 7. On the next page you will find extracts from the two winning entries from Carr Hill High School- both of which are a great read. Throughout the year we will be running more competitions, activities and events as part of 'We are Reading' as well as sharing more of our students' written work via a number of platforms such as the website, social media and the school magazine.

Despite only being a few days in to the new term we are already accepting applications for new Student Council members. This is an excellent opportunity for students to work with me and other members of staff to positively shape the school community and become a student voice for their peers. Representatives are needed for every year group. More details can be found in the news article on the following page and applications can be collected from your child's Year Leader.

We have a number of events taking place over the coming weeks. The first of which is the Year 11 Information Evening on Thursday 13th September from 6pm-7pm. I would encourage all parents and carers of Year 11 students to attend as information will be given about how parents can work with staff to support students to maximise their progress. There will also be talks from the subject leaders of English, Maths and Science and ideas on revision techniques will be shared.

Following this we have the school Open Evening for Year 5 and 6 students on Thursday 20th September. The event runs from 6pm-8pm but the school will close to students at 1.25pm on that day.

We have plenty to focus on and look forward to this term and after a positive start I would like to remind students of the importance of maintaining behaviour, attendance and uniform standards as we are all Proud to Belong.

Best Wishes,

Andrew Waller

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 13th September Year 11 Information Evening 6pm-7pm

Thursday 20th September School Open Evening 6pm-8pm

Thursday 27th September Year 7/9 Information Evening 7-6pm/Year 9-7.15pm

Tuesday 2nd October School Photo Day

Thursday 4th October Year 8/10 Information Evening Year 8-6pm/Year 10-7.15pm

Outstanding Achievement Awards:



Adam



Ruth



Thierry



Tegan



Kaelin

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

We are Reading Short Story Extracts

The Monster That Haunts My Slumber By Louisa Armer

I am running through the shopping centre sweating. My head is pounding as I dart through crowds of busy shoppers. A creature covered in an unpleasantly thick and slippery liquid substance is chasing me. He is getting close. He is catching me. He is grabbing for me.

I wake up with sweat streaming down my face, a terrible shriek can be heard and then I realise, it is me! It was the nightmare again. The monster that haunts my slumber every night has returned. My mum rushes into the room looking worried, but when she sees my face she understands that it was him again. She tip-toes downstairs and comes back up a minute later with a mug of creamy milk and a warm, loving smile.

The Escaping Fairy By Olivia Smith

She did it! She reached the gateway, but as she did Arlette instantly felt a force pulling her back through. Before she knew it, Arlette was suddenly on down on the floor starting to lose consciousness.

"Arlette, are you awake yet?" A soft voice whispered gently. Solana, her childhood friend, her only friend, was looking over her.

"Solana, what are you doing? I thought you didn't care for me now? I thought you hated me and my obnoxious characteristics."

"Well that was then. Now I see good inside of you. I finally understand that you are just a curious fairy and are a little different from the others."

"Ok. I truly thought that no-one would ever care for me again!"

Visit the school website to read the full stories.

Call for new student council members



Carr Hill High School is looking for students to form this year's student council. By becoming a member of the student council young people at Carr Hill have the opportunity to positively contribute to the school community.

Representatives will be selected from each year and these students will work alongside the senior leadership team to do things such as suggest new ideas and make positive changes to existing processes. Students can collect an application form from their Year Leader and have until 1.30pm on Monday 24th September to submit their application form.

Selected students will be invited to an interview to discuss what they could bring to the role and how they feel they can improve the school community for their peers before the successful candidates are appointed.

Headteacher Mr Waller said: "We would like to hear from students who are innovative thinkers, have a positive, can do attitude and are proud to belong. As a school, we value the opinions, ideas and input of all students and the student council is there to ensure that students have a voice and the opportunity to shape our school community."

Contact Us:

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Carr Hill News In Brief
Friday 7th September 2018



September 6th 2018

Dear Parents/carers

It is amazing how quickly the summer holidays have gone and now all year groups are back to begin the new academic year, including 201 new students so far in Year 7. We also welcome Mrs M Aspden as the new Subject Leader for English, Mrs S Swainson as the new Subject Leader for Art & Photography, Miss R Kealey as Geography teacher, Mr D Parkinson as Design Technology Technician, Mr L Johnson as Science Technician and Mrs H Clarke as Teaching Assistant.

On August 16th, our Year 13 students came in for their results. I am very pleased to say that the overall average grade for Year 13 students was a B with an average points score per entry of 39.39 - this represents an increase on 2017 where the average grade was a C+ with average points per entry of 32.82. Just over half of all the Year 13 grades were in vocational subjects with an average grade of Distinction* which really is excellent. All of Year 13 left with a plan for the next stage of their lives.

A week later, Year 11 came into collect their Key Stage 4 results. As you are aware this is the first year of the reformed GCSEs in most subjects after the changes to Maths and English last year and so comparisons with previous years are not straightforward. However I am delighted that we saw a massive improvement in Science results on 2017 with 65% of the year group achieving at least 2 Sciences at grade 4+. Overall Science results are now above the national average for grade 4+ and we had 17 grade 9s in the separate sciences. Maths saw a 6% improvement from 62% to 68% and RS improved 13% on the 2017 results. The number of students leaving with the Ebacc qualification of English, Maths, 2 Sciences, a humanity and a foreign language increased by 11% at grade 4+. Many of the optional subjects saw very pleasing results which included a 100% pass rate in Sport, Dance, Performing Arts and Work Skills. PE, Computing, Textiles, Art & Photography were all on or above target.

10 students left with grades 7, 8 and 9 in all their subjects but I would want to congratulate all students of whatever ability on their achievements. I will put more detailed information about the results from 2018 on the website within the next few days.

Overall at GCSE we recognise that girls have done better than boys which reflects a national pattern. Our girls' pass rate was 70% compared to a national rate of 71% for girls but the boys achieved a 55% pass rate compared to a national of 62%. This difference in attainment for the genders will affect our Progress 8 score when it is published by the Department for Education at the end of September as the girls will likely be in the 'average' progress category but the boys will be much lower. We know that improving boys' achievement is a real area of focus and one we have already started on. The other key area of focus will be English as we really want to improve on the 62% who left with an English GCSE at grade 4 or above.

In coming days we will be analysing all the results in great detail, sending off for reviews of marking and responding to what we have learned from this first round of the new GCSEs to benefit those now embarking on their GCSE courses and particularly our Year 11 students.

It was very strange on GCSE results day not to have the task of recruiting for Year 12 and a very tangible sign of the phasing out of post 16. As I have said several times, while this is sad we have to see it as an opportunity to focus all our efforts on the 5 year journey from Year 7 through to GCSEs and ensure we are doing that as well as we can.

Our School Improvement Plan speaks of 'Progress For All' in the classroom through appropriate challenge, high quality assessment & feedback, engagement for learning and a literacy focus. Over the course of this year we will be engaging in activities in mentor time and in the classroom to enhance the vocabulary of students and one way to do this is through reading. Please do encourage your sons and daughters to be reading at home to help with this.

As a school, attendance is reasonably good at just over 94% but it is slightly below national average which is around 95%. This will be a real focus throughout the academic year and is an issue where we really need your co-operation as parents and carers. Students cannot make real progress if they are not in school. They should be aiming for 100% attendance but we recognise that there are sometimes unavoidable reasons for absence and so we set a target of 96% - which equates to being in school 183 days out of the 190 in a school year. Where absence falls below this we will make prompt contact and follow the attendance policy which is available to view on the website. May I remind you that we do not authorise holidays in term time.

I would like to thank all those staff who have been in school over the summer, particularly site, IT and office staff who have done a huge amount of work alongside the planned development work. The network and wi-fi systems have been successfully upgraded, the new food pod has been installed, the dining room has been extended, we have had two new hot water boilers and reception has been remodelled alongside a lot of decorating and general maintenance. The work on the Old Science block will not be completed until December but it is going to schedule.

I have spoken to all students this week in year group assemblies and I would like to thank them for making such a positive start to the year and for arriving looking so smart. A new school year is a time for a fresh start, to look forward with confidence and to build on the many strengths that we have as a school. I look forward to doing this together as a school community of students, staff, parents, carers and governors.

Yours Faithfully,

Andrew Waller
Headteacher