

September 10th 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. We have had an excellent start to the year – students look very smart and there is a calm purposeful atmosphere around school. It is good to have our students back and it has been lovely to finally meet our new Year 7. Thank you for sending your sons and daughters so well prepared and smart.

Covid matters

All students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 who have consent have had 2 covid tests in school. Year 10 will have the second test on Monday. Students are being given boxes of tests to do two a week for the next 3 weeks and we are waiting for direction from the Government about what happens after the end of September. Please do test students at home and inform us if there is a positive lateral flow – students should be kept off if they test positive and get a PCR test.

Information Evenings

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended the Year 11 Information Evening yesterday. I hope you found the session useful and it was good to be able to host such an event in school again. Next week on Thursday September 16th we have an Information Evening in school for Year 7 at 6pm and Year 9 at 7.15pm.

Open Evening September 23rd

Every year, our Open Evening provides a great opportunity for children in Year 5 and 6 to meet our staff and students and to experience what it is like to be at our fantastic school. This year, Open Evening will take place on Thursday September 23rd from 5pm to 7.30pm. Please note that these times are slightly different from those originally advertised because we have made some changes due to the ongoing Covid situation.

To allow us to prepare for Open Evening, school will finish after period 4 and the school buses will be available at 1.30pm. Students in receipt of free school meals will be provided with a lunch. We always have many current students helping out on that evening and showcasing the school by leading tours or supporting subjects across the school – students who wish to help will need to have a signed permission slip from home and staff will have these letters to distribute to students from next week.

Further details about Open Evening or the availability of tours in the subsequent weeks will be available on the website.

Good News

Towards the end of the summer term we had an external reviewer come in to school to conduct an official review of our provision for pupil premium students. His report was very positive and to lift just two quotes:

Morning line up routines are calm and orderly. There are very high expectations of uniform and social behaviours. (Pupil Premium External Review June 2021)

Leaders are accurately identifying effective evidence-based Pupil Premium strategies and should continue to pursue the high aspirations they have (Pupil Premium External Review June 2021)

Then in July we submitted evidence to be awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark and this was followed by a 2 day assessment by an external professional. I am delighted to say that we have been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark with a recommendation that we apply for Centre of Excellence status in one year. This is really very positive for our school where we want all students, whatever their ability, to achieve the best and become the best they can be. The external reviewer wrote in her report:

I only witnessed good or better behaviour across the school during lessons and during unstructured times. (Inclusion Award Assessor July 2021)

The curriculum at Carr Hill High School is fully inclusive and personalised to individual needs. There is lots on offer to ensure all students can pursue their interests at appropriate levels for them (Inclusion Award Assessor July 2021)

On top of excellent outcomes for Year 11 (which are available on the website), we can approach this new academic year with real confidence. We make no apologies for having high standards of uniform, appearance and behaviour and will support all our students in the pursuit of excellence.

Voluntary Contributions

School finances are always a challenge and every year I ask for voluntary contributions to support us. No student will be disadvantaged if their family cannot make a contribution but if possible we would ask:

Year 7	£5	To support Art & Technology materials
Year 8	£5	To support Art & Technology materials
Year 9	£5	To support Art & Technology materials
Year 10	£5	To support GCSE pods (a really effective revision resource)
Year 11	£5	To support GCSE pods (a really effective revision resource)

Payments can be made on the school online system.

With best wishes



Andrew Waller