



20 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Updates at CCHS

You will be aware of the recent OFSTED monitoring visit, which took place on 31 January to 1 February 2018, which was well received by the school and our students. This visit was once again led by HMI Mr Phil Smith.

We are pleased that the visit reveals that leaders and managers continue to take effective action towards the removal of special measures. The letter and report can be found on our website, www.carletonhigh.com.

We would like to invite you to an update meeting at 6 pm on Tuesday, 17 April, where we can discuss the current position of the school and ensure we are available to respond to any queries you may have.

In addition, we have included a brief of summary of changes that have taken place in school since September 2016 (18 months). There have been numerous updates that you may not have been aware of.

We continue to fully respect the efforts of all our students and their families - we value hard work and determination. A student reaching a higher grade than expected is respected whatever the final grade is. It takes commitment at all levels to better ourselves and the school will continue to strive for the highest standards possible for all students. Should you have any immediate queries or would like to confirm your attendance please contact my PA, Miss Gilliver on the number below.

Yours faithfully

H Bolton
Headteacher

Updates at CCHS

Raised expectations

The school has developed the Carleton Learning Partnership, which sets out the expectations for school. At the start of each half term students are reminded of this during their year group assemblies. The daily practices of all the school community are made easy to remember using the A.R.T.

Staffing

There have been very few staffing changes at CCHS over recent months, though there are some exciting new appointments that have been made for 2018/19. Every term, staff are expected to consider the position students are at and plan their lessons accordingly ensuring that learning activities are geared towards the weaker areas of skill or knowledge. We use data conferences and the 'I know' system to ensure that this occurs consistently and across all subjects.

Behaviour support systems

You may be aware that the school system to support positive behaviour choices includes the ISR (Internal Seclusion Room). This is a space used when students fail to meet our expectations; students complete tasks set by their teacher whilst in there, allowing teachers to continue to deliver high quality learning experiences in the classroom. Our support team are located in this space and are on hand to manage concerns and ensure the smooth running of events.

Assessment

There are now many more formal opportunities built into the calendar for every year group. Students have calendared revision weeks and parents are provided with a breakdown of which exams will happen and what will be covered within the exams. Students' reports have also been amended recently to allow space to directly explain to parents what they can do to help.

Attendance

As parents, you will have noticed that our attendance strategy and drive is relentless. Our goal is to ensure that children attend school all the time, on time. We know that many parents are in complete support of this - we aim for 97% attendance as a minimum. We do, however, have a record number of students in school who hold 100% attendance; this has now been the case for 3 years. Punctuality to school has improved vastly during the last 2 years.

We now use the MyEd App that can be downloaded by all parents which helps you to keep up with anything you need to know about your child – including their attendance!

Curriculum

Our Year 8 students are in the process of choosing their options, which are slightly different to previous years – there are more vocational courses on offer. Students also receive a great deal more curriculum time in English and Maths than ever before.

Broader Collaboration

We are obviously one of the academies with the Pontefract Academies Trust. As well as collaborating with primary and secondary schools within the area we are also linked to many other schools and settings. CCHS is a member of PIXL, which centres efforts on achieving excellence within education, and are working collaboratively with NEW collaborative trust.

Literacy and Reading

The school has recently invested in the Accelerated Reader programme and will soon receive the Lexia programme into school. This has been made possible through a successful bid led by NEW College. We will be ensuring that all Year 7 students benefit from this and continue to ask that parents encourage some home reading on a regular basis.

Governance

Having been restructured in Spring 2017, we now have a School Governance Committee that is significantly smaller than previously. Meetings take place monthly at school and are finely focused on School Improvement and student outcomes.