

17/12/18

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you as the end of a very long term approaches. It has been a very busy term with much to celebrate. Academically the summer's results were the best the school has enjoyed in a number of years. It was lovely to see so many of you celebrating with your children at our recent Awards Evening presented by not only The Mayor of Allerdale John Crouch, but also Olympic Gold Medal winner and current world record holder Jonathan Edwards CBE.

The LLMAC – Local Labour Market Aligned Curriculum – has had a great start with Y9 students engaging in fantastic long-term projects with Iggesund, Thomas Armstrong, NDA Cyber Lab and Story Contractors. Employer feedback has been extremely positive and students' confidence, leadership, communication, problem solving and team working skills have all made noted improvements. We are looking forward to projects with Sellafield, Forth Engineering, the NHS and Innovia in 2019.

Y7-9 students have started working on an exciting pilot qualification – The Cumbrian Award. This term saw them putting many of their new skills into practice with their first scientific adventures into the Lake District. More adventures plus conservation and enterprise projects to follow in 2019.

After a fantastic summer challenge in Italy – Pisa to Rome, in September the Bike Club were invited to cycle up Whinlatter Pass and to cross the finish line ahead of the Tour of Britain Pro Cyclists. The club was also celebrated on the podium in front of cheering crowds. A mountain bike challenge saw riders complete all of the Seven Stanes Scottish Trail Centres in under 48 hours raising over £1000 for Brain Tumour research. Watch out for announcements of summer 2019 challenges in January.

The Colourful North worked with a group of students to create a huge sport themed street art mural in the gym and Cumbria Youth Alliance worked with students to 'Graffiti' their designs by the front of the school. Both projects are a celebration of the creativity of many of our students.

This term we are proud to have had so many students visit Universities and take part in sample University level work. A number of students were selected to take part in the Bright Scholars programme and are completing a university level Physics unit with Lancaster University. Many students, Y9-11, took part in Sport Science research at the University of Cumbria in Lancaster and have applied their results to GCSE Science work.

The whole of Y10 have recently returned from an NCS (National Citizenship Service) residential at Windermere taking on significant outdoor challenges including kayaking and rock climbing. NCS then led sessions in school ranging from Employability Skills to First Aid qualifications. It is hoped that many of these students will have the confidence to progress to full NCS in Y11.

Year 9 also took part in the WOW – World of Work day including a range of activities preparing them for working life. Employer feedback was fantastic with some students making valuable contacts for apprenticeship opportunities.

There has been much sporting success, particularly in netball, rugby and in girls' football, where our team reached the county semi-finals. Finally, this year's dance troop committed to regular after school and lunchtime practice to prepare a performance for the annual Pensioners' Christmas Dinner at the Masonic Hall last week.

Well done to everyone who has engaged with all that has been on offer this term.

Looking forward to next term we hope to see parents of Y11 students for their Mock Results afternoon on Monday 14th January. Y7-10 students will be provided with work to study at home that afternoon (letter with permission slip to go out the first day back, supervision will be provided for those not able to go home) whilst Y11 students will receive their Mock Results as though they are their real GCSE results. Yr11 parents will then have the opportunity to speak to all of their child's teachers.

Can I take this opportunity to remind anyone buying uniform this Christmas that footwear must be all black and that girls trousers should not be skin-tight. Boots, bright dyed hair and tongue / nose or any other facial piercings are not permitted. Whole school attendance is currently just below 95%, which is a shame given the great start we had, and how long we stayed above our target of 96%. May I remind everyone of the importance of good attendance and the need to provide medical evidence or make appointments out of school hours where possible. It remains that term time holidays cannot be authorised in all but the most special of circumstances.

Finally, this week is set to get everyone prepared for a fantastic Christmas break. Big thanks to Iggesund for sponsoring the Christmas tree in reception again. On Wednesday we will enjoy this year's Christmas dinner which has been sponsored by Sealy, therefore there will be no charge for the meal. Many thanks to Sealy for this special treat. In the Christmas spirit students may wear their Christmas Jumpers on Wednesday (the rest of their clothing should be school uniform and it is only Christmas jumpers to be worn on this day.) On Thursday a number of students have expressed an interest in raising money for the CFM Charity Cash for Kids. In previous years some of our students have received Christmas presents from CFM and so it would be nice to give something back. As such, Thursday will be a non-uniform day with a donation of £1 per family. We hope your child would like to take part. On Friday, I would like to invite you to join us at St. Kentigern's for this year's Christmas Carol Service. The service will begin at 11:15 and last around an hour. Students walking home will be dismissed from the church and those catching buses will be escorted back to school. The school buses have been arranged for 12:30.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope that you enjoy the break.

Best Wishes



Mr Gee
Deputy Head