



CARLTON

KEIGHLEY

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of another year, and the end of a long Autumn term, I want to write home to all families to thank them for their continued support in ensuring the school is the very best it can be, and we are making significant progress towards our mission of **Excellence for All**.

Successes this Term:

As always, this term since September has been busy with successes. Each of these successes comes as a result of students displaying our core values of **ambition, resilience** and **respect**; these values continue to underpin all our actions in school and support us to build a positive school culture. Some of the highlights from this term so far include:

- Year 7 making a positive start to their time in secondary school and undertaking Carlton Edge trips to Nell Bank and to watch the musical 'Oliver!'
- Year 8 have experienced assemblies on weapons and county lines awareness to help them make safe choices in the community
- Year 9 having a Road Safety Day to support safety and wellbeing, and experiencing a Carlton Edge visit to Thackray Medical Museum, the Royal Armouries and Leeds City Art Gallery.
- Year 10 making a positive start to GCSE options courses which sets them up for future examination success
- Year 11 successfully completing a first set of PPE examinations, and undertaking Careers Workshops to successfully prepare them for the world of work.

This is just a snapshot of some of the fantastic things that have been achieved by our pupils this term, and does not include the huge number of enrichment activities, after-school clubs and fixtures that so many students have taken part in. This is in addition to the high standards of work and behaviour we see from so many of our students on a daily basis; over 500 students have been awarded in excess of 50 achievement points so far this year, which reflects their high ambitions for success. These regular successes, and excellent habits, are what makes Carlton Keighley such a positive place to be.

A Strong Community:

Alongside the many successes, this term has also presented some difficult moments. I again want to say a huge thank you to all of our students and families for the respect, compassion and kindness they showed for each other in October following the tragic loss of a member of our student community. The way that our young people have responded to this sad situation is a fantastic reflection of their strong character and resilience.

I use the word 'community' a lot when I talk about school; the shared sense of values and belonging is something that is incredibly important to me. Recent weeks have again shown just how strong our community is in the way the students and families have shown their generosity in making donations to help people in both the local and global community who are in need. I would like to thank all those who gave generously during the fundraising activities we undertook to raise money for the Red Cross appeal for humanitarian aid for victims of the conflict in Gaza, where nearly £500 was raised. I would also like to thank those who have, this month, donated items for food banks to help those locally who need extra support during difficult times.

Parental Engagement:

We want to have strong and positive relationships with families, and always appreciate when people take time out of their busy days to engage with the school. One of the ways we are trying to engage families is through establishing a Parents' Forum, to give parents an opportunity to have their voices heard in school. A number of parents have already signed up to this, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for giving up their time to regularly meet with myself to discuss further ways we can improve the school and build strong community links. There are still places available on the forum, and I would welcome further applications from any parents who wish to help us in our work; if you are interested, please submit an expression of interest via admin@ck.catrust.uk.

Attendance:

It is essential that all students continue to attend school every day. Especially as we enter the winter months, it is important that students are showing resilience at maintaining strong attendance through both minor illness and adverse weather. This will allow them every opportunity for academic success in their future, and mean they don't miss out on the wide range of wider opportunities we offer in school.

Return to School in January:

Half-term 3 starts, for all students, on **Wednesday 3rd January**. We expect all students to return to school on this date, 100% ready to learn and in full uniform; school will be open for students from 8am for free breakfast club, and students should be in school for 8:25am ready to start learning at 8:30am. Shared below are some key dates for this coming term and beyond.

December marked my 11th year at Carlton Keighley, working closely with the community to ensure that the young people we serve access the high quality education they deserve. It has been a constant source of pride to see the school continue to grow and develop, and we look forward to continuing our journey of success into 2024 and beyond.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe break, and all the very best for the New Year.

Mark Turvey
Head of School

Key Dates for Half-Term 3 and Half-Term 4:

Wednesday 3rd January: Return to school for all pupils

Wednesday 17th January: Year 7 careers network event

Thursday 25th January: Year 9 Parents and GCSE Options Evening 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Wednesday 31st January: Year 10 & Year 11 Exam resilience workshops

Thursday 1st February: Parental Drop-In Session - Supporting Good Behaviour in School
4:30pm-5:30pm

Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February: Half-term

Wednesday 21st February - Friday 8th March: Year 11 PPEs

Thursday 22nd February: Year 10 & Year 11 in-school Macbeth performance

Thursday 29th February: Year 7 Parents Evening 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Thursday 21st March: Year 11 Examination Preparation Evening

Thursday 28th March: Break for Easter