



# Caedmon College Whitby & Whitby Sixth Form E-news

## Monday 20 January 2020



### Happy New Year

Although the Christmas holiday already seems like a distant memory, on behalf of all of the governors and staff here at Caedmon College and Whitby Sixth Form, I wish you a happy, healthy and successful 2020. We have enjoyed a very smooth start to the new term, with students quickly re-establishing all of the good study routines put in place before Christmas. Thank you for your part, as parents and carers, in making this possible.

### Music exchange trip to France



A group of our talented musicians have spent this week on the latest leg of our exchange visit with our partner school in Chambéry, France. As well as experiencing life as part of a French family and preparing for a joint musical performance with the host school, our students have also found time to enjoy the sights of Chambéry and the snowy slopes of the nearby Alps.

We are really grateful to Ms Beattie, Mrs Herbert and Mrs Denniff - our volunteer leader, for all of their planning and supervision this week.

### Year 11 trial examinations

In the run-up to Christmas, our Year 11 students were busy revising for and then sitting their first set of trial GCSE examinations. Attendance and behaviour to these exams were exemplary – ‘the best year group ever’ according to our invigilators. The students received their results earlier this week during a ‘Results Day’. Many students have enjoyed success across the board, whilst others now know what they will need to do in the coming months to fulfil their potential

and achieve the grades that they will need to move onto their chosen post-16 pathway. All students are currently involved in one-to-one coaching conversations with their tutors, or senior members of staff, setting SMART targets to work on between now and the next set of trial exams in late February.

### UCAS success

Whitby Sixth Form students are also busy revising for their examinations, with external BTEC exams having taken place over the last two weeks, and trial A-level examinations beginning on Monday 20 January.

For Year 13/14 students, the autumn term was particularly busy for nearly 50 of our students who are applying for universities for a September 2020 start. As ever, there is a wide and interesting range of courses that our students are applying for, at universities across the UK. Most have received offers from at least one of the institutions to which they have applied; many have received offers from all 5! Knowing what great students they are, this isn’t surprising. The students have all benefited immensely from the quality of the advice and guidance provided to them by Mrs Wright and our team of sixth form tutors.



A highlight of this process has been Hermione Richardson receiving an offer to study medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge - on her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am sure that you would want to join me in wishing her, and all of her Year 13/14 peers, well with their studies in the final few months of their courses.

### **Training Day**

Thank you for your forbearance in working around the College, unusually, having a midweek training day earlier this week. As I have explained in previous newsletters, we had made a commitment to our teaching staff participating in a conference with staff from other high schools along the coast, the date of which was changed.

The conference, held at the Scarborough Spa, was focussing on some of the most recent thinking about how schools organise their curricula, both at whole-school level and, more importantly, within subjects. Through listening to some nationally renowned speakers and being able to talk with colleagues from other high schools, we have been able to draw considerable inspiration about how we can continue to develop what, how and when students are taught different topics on their journey with us through Caedmon College.

### **Parents' Evenings**

There are a number of events for parents approaching in the coming weeks, starting with our Year 11 parents' evening next Thursday evening, between 4.00pm and 6.00pm. Helping students to fulfil their potential is a three-way partnership between the school, parents/carers and the young person themselves. Your help and support is greatly appreciated. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend, please contact us and we will make an appointment for you to meet with a senior member of staff to receive a summary from across the range of subjects that your son or daughter studies.

Please refer to the calendar that follows for other key dates.

### **Attendance**

Thank you for your efforts in ensuring that your sons and daughters attend school each day. Attendance at school, without interruption, is vital if students are to fulfil their potential; the government and others regularly investigate and confirm the link between attendance and success in GCSE and other examinations. Of course, this makes sense because "if you're not in school, you're missing learning".

Attendance at Caedmon College could improve. For the first 10 weeks of the school year, daily attendance was averaging at about 94%, but by the time we finished for the Christmas break, this had fallen to 92% for the term - largely as a result of the illness that swept through the community in late December. Moving forward, we will be working with students and their parents over the coming weeks, helping everyone to achieve the very best attendance record for the whole year.

### **Some reminders**

Thank you for ensuring that your son/daughter wears the correct uniform and footwear to College each day. We would also appreciate your support with the following:

- students should not bring deodorant (or other) aerosols into College – they are a potential irritant to asthmatic students and staff, and can accidentally set off our smoke detection fire alarm
- False nails are not permitted
- Jewellery should be limited to watches and small stud-style earrings. Nose and other facial piercings are not permitted
- Mobile phones should be switched off and in bags during and between lessons. On the rare occasions that these are confiscated, we will contact parents to arrange for their collection from the College reception.

### **Dates for your diary**

Mon 20 Jan – Fri 24 Jan	Year 13 Trial Exams
Thurs 23 Jan	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thurs 30 Jan	Year 12/13 Parents Evening & UCAS Information Event (Whitby Sixth Form site)
Wed 5 Feb	Year 8 → 9 Choices Evening
Thurs 6 Feb	Year 9 → 10 Options Evening
Thurs 13 Feb	Year 10 GCSE Information Evening (Whitby Sixth Form site)
Mon 17 Feb – Fri 21 Feb	Half Term holiday
Mon 24 Feb - Fri 28 Feb	Year 11 Trial Exams
Thurs 7 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Mon 6 April – Fri 17 April	Easter Holiday
Fri 8 May	VE Day 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bank Holiday
Mon 11 May	GCSE/A-level examination season starts
Mon 25 May – Fri 29 May	Half Term holiday
Wed 24 June	GCSE/A-level National Contingency Day – all Year 11/13 students need to be available to attend College on this day in case of unforeseen changes to the national examination timetable