



## WELCOME

The Christmas Term can often seem very long, since there is so much to fit in, and this year has certainly felt no different with regard to the amount of events and activities. However, there is a new positive atmosphere throughout the academy now that we are part of Cumbria Education Trust (CET).

CET has offered a huge amount of support, with 11 Trust staff regularly visiting the school to provide insight and advice for senior and middle leaders. A large number of staff have been enrolled on CPD courses such as the NPQML, NPQSL and the Osiris Outstanding Teaching course. There is also a network of collaborative groups with the other Trust schools to exchange good practice and provide support.

Student support is also key and there are new behaviour support plans in place, Level 3 safeguarding training and focused intervention plans. Students have also received new resources such as additional books and learning guides.

The works going on around the site continue to press on, with much needed repairs to windows, doors and roofs. In the background, plans are well underway for the incredibly exciting new building.

I feel, along with my senior colleagues, that there is a fresh drive to succeed and determination to move the school forward.



Mrs Andrea Bateson

The engagement from colleagues and students is clearly evident and we will use this as the building blocks for our future.

Our vision for success is being embedded into day-to-day routines and we are looking forward to the challenges ahead. We want to be the local school of choice and it does feel that we have made a brisk start in making the progress we require.

With school improvement our major focus, we have made a number of new appointments and we look forward to welcoming our new staff to the academy. I am sure they will become part of our school family and embrace the journey ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and on behalf of all the staff at the academy, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Mrs Andrea Bateson  
Interim Head of School

## A MESSAGE FROM CUMBRIA EDUCATION TRUST

It was a great pleasure when the 1st of December arrived and the academy joined the CET family of schools.

In the New Year, school improvement will continue to be a top priority, and CET looks forward to meeting with you to update you further on the vision for the future at a Parents' Meeting on 24 January 2019. More information will follow in the New Year.

As the end of the year fast approaches, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year.



Mrs Lorraine Hughes  
Chief Executive, CET

### WHAT'S ON?

7 JAN  
Term starts

15 JAN  
Art workshops for Year 7 students begin

24 JAN  
CET Parents' Meeting

7 FEB  
Parent Teacher Association Meeting

25 FEB  
GCSE Options Evening

15 MAR  
Rock Challenge  
Carlisle Heats



## PTA - FRIENDS OF THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY

A Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will be launched in the New Year. Most schools have a PTA, which is an organisation of parents, family members, school staff and community members. Its role is to encourage closer links between home and school. PTAs are best known for their fundraising work.

We are delighted that the Parents Action Group have committed to being part of this, and we would like to invite anyone interested in getting involved to the first meeting, which will take place on Thursday 7 February.

**More information will follow in the New Year.**



## YEAR 8

Students attended a powerful performance to raise awareness amongst young people around Hate Crime. The play is entitled 'Feel the Hate' and uses simple story-telling techniques to raise awareness about what a hate crime is, what they should do if they experience or witness a hate crime and about the seriousness of such crime. The students were very engaged and found the performance very informative.



In May, Finlay Evans was nominated for Young Volunteer of the Year at the Community Hero Awards 2018.

This award is given to a dedicated individual under 18, who regularly gives up their time to help and care for the community.

## YEAR 7

The Year 7 Rugby Team had an amazing start to the season with convincing wins in their first two games. We are so proud of what they have achieved so far and wish them all the best in their next match. If they continue their unbeaten record, the team will move to the next stage of the competition and represent West Cumbria.

*Good luck, boys!*








## Carol Singing

The choir were able to visit West House in Whitehaven on Wednesday 12th December, to entertain the residents with some Carol Singing. The choir were fantastic and went on to sing for the community at Bethel House the following week.

## YEAR 9



Huge congratulations to Connor Cunningham who competed in the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Junior European Championships. Despite it being only his second competition, he earned himself a silver medal! We're certainly looking forward to what he can achieve next year.



**Please remember the school buildings are not open until 8.30am, so students should not be dropped off before this time.**

## COMMUNITY AWARD FOR FINLAY

Finlay volunteers at Keekle Community Park where he cleans rubbish from the park, cuts the grass, trims the hedges, paints signs and anything else he can find to do for his local park.

He is part of the committee and attends every meeting, helping with fundraising ideas and annual events.

In the ceremony, which took place at the end of November, and against strong competition, Finlay was announced as the Young Volunteer of the Year 2018.

This is a huge accolade and we are very proud indeed of Finlay.

## YEAR 11



A huge number of Year 11 students took part in the geography residential trip to Grange over Sands. It was a jam-packed, three days of field work and evening study sessions. The weather did its best to dampen spirits and treated the group to pouring rain and strong winds; it was

certainly a test of character. Arrangements at the Field Study Centre were excellent and the students were extremely grateful for the support offered. The course leader at the centre commented that we were one of the best GCSE groups this year.



## YEAR 10



Nathan Clark has been taking part in trials for Wigan Rugby Club. He has worked incredibly hard so far and we wish him the best of luck for the next stage in January!



## POSITIVE START MADE WITH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

**This term has seen us move on at great pace with school improvement within the academy. It is difficult to focus on particular areas but I can highlight a few to give you an idea of what has been going on.**

It goes without saying that staff are crucial in any improvement journey, both in and out of the classroom. We have been able to appoint some new middle leadership roles within the teaching staff, one as a Pupil Premium Lead and two as Teaching and Learning advocates, making sure we develop our own good practice and ensuring the outcomes for our most vulnerable students are a key focus.

An experienced Science teacher will be starting in the new term, along with the CET Deputy Head, to further supplement the teaching staff. We have recruited two Supervisors and a Cover Supervisor all of whom start in January and we will soon have a school librarian again!

There is more to do, but a positive start has been made that will make sure we have a staff structure that is fit for purpose.

All schools are learning communities, not only for students, but for staff also and what better way to emphasise this than through the plethora of professional development going on within the staff body. It ranges from the Osiris "Good to Outstanding" teaching program, the National Professional Qualifications for Senior and Middle Leaders, Aspiring Leaders with our partners at West Lakes Teaching School Alliance, Level 3 Safeguarding training, Safer Recruiting training and much more....including collaborative working with colleagues in CET and across West Cumbria. It is not just the students who have been busy becoming the best they can be this term!

You also need resources and, as we know, we have seen revision guides purchased

and given to every Y11 student. We are filling in the gaps in KS3 resources, have installed specialist software in areas such as Music, continued to upgrade IT and initiated the roll out of Accelerated Reader across KS3. That alone has generated the need for books and, as we recruit our new Librarian, it will be welcome news that they will actually have the books they need to help our students develop their reading.

There is much going on in the background as well. Support for individuals, for teams and with systems. We are starting to feel the improvements and the students should be seeing them. As always, it is a work in progress, but like all journeys making a positive start is the key and that has certainly been the case. We look forward to the spring term and the next steps.



**Just over £120 was raised for Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day**

### ROCK CHALLENGE WORK TOWARDS CARLISLE HEATS ON 15 MARCH



Rock Challenge rehearsals are going really well for the heats in March. Parents had the chance to see a sneak preview of the show on 19th December after the Christmas Fair fundraiser.

### LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) MEMBERSHIP

There has been a positive response from the community, parents and staff for LAB membership at the academy – this is great news.

It was the Trust Board's intention to make appointments and hold an introductory LAB meeting prior to the Christmas break. However, following a meeting with Trudy Harrison MP, Mike Starkie - Mayor and Julie Rayson - Town Councillor, where suggestions in relation to governance were put forward, I would like the Trust Board Directors to actively consider these before any further appointments are made.

The Trust Board will therefore meet in the New Year to discuss the suggestions and ideas put forward, and following the outcome of this meeting we will move forward with establishing the LAB for the academy.

Debbie Francis  
Chair of Trust Board