



# NEWS



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## February Newsletter

You will all have recently received a letter sharing the sad news about the loss of one of our students. An event of this nature is always a shock to the students, staff and wider community and our thoughts are with family and friends at what is a very difficult time. The greatest strength we have here at the Academy is the truly supportive nature of everyone and, at our time of greatest need, I have once again been impressed by the wonderful and thoughtful response of our students.

February is always a challenging time of year, the dark mornings and dark evenings with short days mean many of us in the Academy don't see very much daylight. I have once again been delighted by the level of engagement of the Year 11 and Sixth Form students in our weekend maths and English school and the additional days that have been run during the half term. If this is something you are interested in finding out about then please visit the website.

The positive attitudes shown by our students are once again reinforcing the step change we have seen at the Academy. To quote a colleague the right positive attitude is the key to success – **you have only failed when you stop trying.** With this in mind I ask that you ensure Year 11 and Year 13 students attend the weekend and

Easter revision classes that will be provided – details will be found nearer the date on our website.

We are continuing to build on our high expectations and it is clear this is changing the way the Academy works, our students are finding their voice and are becoming more and more resilient and independent. The pace and progress in our lessons is being accelerated by ever improving teaching and our Sixth Formers are leading the way with their preparation for their exams and a very high proportion getting ready for their next steps into University.

We've recently started to spread our field of influence further out into the community, we want our young people to show the same level of behaviour, respect, confidence and determination outside of school as they are showing within it, please keep us informed of what is happening and if we can be of help in anyway. If you feel there are any other ways that we could improve our communication with you, then please let us know your thoughts by emailing [info@rrca.org.uk](mailto:info@rrca.org.uk)

With the reintroduction of food technology for our Year 7 and 8 students in the near future we are very nearly fully recovered following the floods – you can always keep

track of what's going on in the Academy, just 'Like' our Facebook page and follow us on twitter **@academy\_central.**

We anticipate a visit from Ofsted in the near future and I'd like to encourage you to visit the parent view site when the time comes to share your views of how the Academy has changed in recent years and continues to improve.

### Other News:

**Community Coffee Morning** – On 10<sup>th</sup> February we welcomed guests to our first community coffee morning. Parents of primary school children and neighbours of the Academy were invited to attend. Mr Gilby explained how the Academy has improved and how students are supported to achieve the best possible results. They were also given a tour of the Academy which included a visit to the areas of the school damaged by the floods which have been refurbished with brand new state of the art equipment and visits to classes to see students learning. We were delighted that so many people attended and look forward to hosting another event at the end of term for those unable to attend.

**Year 11** - Many of our Year 11 students attended lessons on the Wednesday and Thursday during

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half term. Students not only attended English and Maths, but many other subjects including German, History and Arts. This demonstrates their level of commitment to their studies and to achieving the best outcomes in the summer.

**Food Technology** is back up and running this week following a full kitchen refurbishment after the floods. Year 7 & 8 students will be taking part in six double lessons, making dishes ranging from pasta salad to a Victoria sandwich cake. Since the announcement just before half term that they will be taking part in Food Technology lessons we have had a very positive response from the students. Both staff and students are looking forward to returning to the food technology kitchens and getting the cooking underway! Look out for photos of the students in action on Facebook.

**MFL** - We are delighted to have launched the Paris 2018 trip to Years 7, 8 and 9 students this month. Included in this exciting trip are visits to Disneyland, the Stade de France amongst many other excursions. So far the trip has been positively received by over 100 pupils who have shown an interest in going on this fantastic trip. The closing date

for letters to be returned to Miss Lown is **3<sup>rd</sup> March**. Once all letters showing an interest have been received, Miss Lown will be holding some information assemblies after school for pupils, parents and carers to attend to find out more about this exciting opportunity and also for you to ask any queries you may have.

**Sport - CBRE All Schools Kit Launch, Twickenham** - Three Year 9 students had the opportunity to be present at the recent England v Italy six nations game, where Central Academy's new rugby kit was unveiled in front of over 80,000 people.



Central are one of 100 schools chosen nationwide who have received funding from the RFU to help develop rugby union at school level. **Jack Alves, Jack Farrant** and **Dylan Bousfield** participated within a Canterbury kit workshop in September where they had the

opportunity to develop the kit, with the help of some kit designer professionals. Unfortunately, **Dylan Bousfield** could not be present on the trip to London, but **Dorian Jakubowski** was chosen to fill in, after showing excellent commitment to developing his rugby in recent months.



The students alongside Mr Threlkeld and Mr Barratt travelled down on the Saturday morning via train and spent the rest of the day sightseeing (walking 14.5 miles in total). Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and the Houses of Parliament were a few of the sites visited.

On the Sunday they travelled to Twickenham in the morning with **Jack Alves** being chosen to receive and wear the new rugby kit, which he wore before the match alongside students from the 99 schools on the

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pitch. The 100 boys helped Laura Wright sing the English national anthem before returning to the stands to watch the game. Look out for official pictures in next month's newsletter.

On 15th January Mr Threlkeld travelled to the Netherlands to help run a national PE workshop, 50km south of Amsterdam, working alongside Cumbria CLIL (Content & Language Integrated Learning) to deliver a session for 28 Dutch PE teachers from around the Netherlands. In a number of high achieving schools, PE is taught in English to try and help students develop a second language. The purpose of the course was to give the teachers ideas and support on how to incorporate language within their lessons. Nine Dutch teachers from various departments will be visiting the Academy at the end of March to experience a day of English education.

### Sixth Form:

**Drop-in Session** - Following the success of the Open Evening the Sixth Form held a drop in session for parents and students that were unable to attend the evening. The drop-in session was a resounding success with a large number of students and parents attending. Should any parent wish to speak

about entry into Sixth Form or just need impartial advice about the next steps then please contact Mr Cannar, [nigel.cannar@rrsf.org.uk](mailto:nigel.cannar@rrsf.org.uk)

**University of Cumbria Psychology Visit** - On 28<sup>th</sup> February a mixture of Year 11, 12 and 13 students visited the University of Cumbria Psychology Department. The students had the opportunity to take part in a number of small experiments and also received a lecture on anomalistic psychology. This branch of psychology looks at human behaviour in respect of paranormal activity, i.e. what makes some people believe in ghosts and conspiracy theories. This was an excellent visit and we are really pleased with the links we are building with the university.



**Y12/13 Parents' Evening** - This is a reminder that the Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening will take place between **3.30 and 6.30 pm** on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March**. The event will

take place in the Atrium and you will have the opportunity to speak to your child's subject teachers. There will also be a chance to listen to a presentation about the World Challenge activity.

**Exams** - The first AS exam takes place on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**. This is only a short time away! Please encourage your child to undertake as much work as possible in the short time left. If your child has not found a method of revision that works for them, or requires help and assistance please ask them to speak to a member of the Sixth Form team, who will gladly help them.

Once again let me thank you for your ongoing support and the tireless way you support those within your care to succeed in their education, we know we can count on you.

With best wishes

Mr Gilby  
Principal

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## Calendar:

- **Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
Y12/13 Parents' Evening
- **Mon 20<sup>th</sup> - Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
Assessment WK4
- **Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
Big Dance 2017
- **Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
Y8 Parents' Evening
- **Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Apr**  
Parent Forum Meeting
- **Summer Term begins:**  
*Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017*
- **Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – Fri 12<sup>th</sup> May**  
Assessment Week 5
- **Mon 15<sup>th</sup> – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> May**  
Y10 Work Experience
- **Mon 15<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jun**  
GCSE, A Level & AS Exams
- **Thur 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
Y7 Parents' Evening
- **Mon 5<sup>th</sup> – Fri 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
United Learning Y7, 8 & 9 Exams
- **Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Jun**  
Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Mon 19<sup>th</sup> – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> June**  
Assessment Week 6
- **Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June**  
Y10 Mocks
- **Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> July**  
Parent Forum Meeting:
- **Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> July**
- Y10 Parents' Evening
- **Wed 19<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> July**  
Step Up to Sixth Form

## Summer Term 2017

- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Apr to Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2017
- May Bank Holiday  
Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May
- **Half Term – Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May to Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> June**
- **Summer Term ends:**  
*Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> July*

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