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January Newsletter

Once again we can start a New Year with some very good news. You may have seen the recent news reports about the progress that has been made at the Academy. Following the release of the results for all schools in the last couple of weeks Central is now the **9th highest performing school** out of the 61 secondary schools in the county under the government's progress measure.

The key to this success has been the role that our students and their parents have played, without your involvement and ongoing support the Academy would be a very different place. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work and effort that all of the staff here at Central put in to making this a wonderful place to work and learn. Clubs, classes, lunchtimes, after school and weekends are all a reflection of the lengths staff are prepared to go to in order to make sure that our students are able to get where they want to be. So thank you!

Sixth Form is another success story and our results continue to go from strength to strength with our value added figures placing us amongst the best across the city. Following a very successful Sixth Form Open Evening that was well attended we will be offering an **additional Sixth Form Drop In Session on Thursday**

9th February between 3.30 and 5.30 pm.

We anticipate that Ofsted may well visit us over the coming weeks and I would like to encourage you to take part in the survey they will issue in order to share your views of how the Academy is performing.

I make no apologies for our firm stance on standards and behaviour and remain committed to the fact that every student deserves to be in disruption free classrooms so that they and their teachers are able to flourish. We are preparing our young people for a lifetime of work and go to extraordinary lengths to ensure they succeed.

Our newly refurbished facilities are fantastic and have really added to the experience of our students. Moving forward our priority is to ensure that Years 11 and 13 remain on track to achieve with the very highest possible grades in the summer. This year we have a whole host of strategies to support them including academic mentors, assemblies, working closely with parents and carers, mock assessments and exam experiences, weekend and holiday sessions and extra classes during and around the normal Academy day.

We need your help to make sure your children attend school and access this wide range of opportunities available to them. In a similar way to last year, senior leaders will be in touch shortly so that we can meet with you to discuss where we feel students need to focus their attention.

Other News:

Year 11 - Saturday School was introduced on 14th January which focuses on Maths and English. Numbers of students attending each week have shown a steady increase with more than half the year group attending. This initiative was introduced following a request from Year 11 Student Voice.



Lesson 7 has also been introduced and is available on Tuesdays,

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Wednesdays and Thursdays, on a two week rotation, week one being Maths, English and Science and week 2 all other subjects, including History, Geography, Business, IT, German, Arts, Photography, Music and Psychology. Students are able to work with their teachers for additional support, many staying on to beyond 5 pm each evening.

All **Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form** students had a motivational assembly from Mally Chung, a graduate from the University of Cumbria and who now works on some blockbuster movies, such as Star Wars and Bond films. Following this they were involved in small workshops where he shared with them his experiences in the film industry and the message that anything is possible with hard work. The assemblies and workshops were well received with positive feedback from both students and staff in attendance.

Mally worked with a small group of sixth form students who are interested in a career in this sector. This was extremely inspiring and was thoroughly enjoyed by the students.

Music - KS4 music students were recently involved in a music

composition workshop "Cumbria Calling" organised by Manchester Camerata Orchestra. In the workshop, students worked together to develop a piece of music which was performed within the hour. Year 9 students were particularly keen with some opting to take part in the bigger project which includes other secondary schools in Carlisle and Cumbria.



Sport – U18 Football v QEGS, A resounding defeat began the new year for the U18 football team, who struggled to get to grips with a strong QEGS side. Although **Adam Bulman** (Y11) and **Ellis Pilmer** (Y12) put in good performances in the centre of defence, the midfield were overrun and could not keep possession consistently.

On a positive note the U18s attendance to training has been exceptional and hopefully with a few weeks of hard work, they will be able to show an improved performance when we meet QEGS, in the City Cup Final, at the end of March.

U15 County Cup Semi Final vs Millom - Our U15 boys football team lost 2-0 in the semi-final of the County Cup against Millom School. In a tight game Central struggled to create many chances on a tricky astro-turf surface. 'Man of the Match' was **Jordan Carney** for his midfield display against two very good footballers from Millom. A special mention must also go to **Adam Moorhead** who produced a number of excellent saves to stop Millom from scoring more than two goals. The squad should be proud of their achievements this year with some excellent performances to go alongside their strong run in the county competition.

High 5 Netball Festival - Central Academy High 5 Netball Festival for our partner primary schools took place on Wednesday 18th and 25th January. Pupils attended from Inglewood Juniors, Norman Street and Scotby primary schools on the

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first date and Petteril Bank, Upperby and Brook Street on the second date. Pupils had the opportunity to play against each other representing their school in a practice tournament for the Level 2 School Games event coming up in March. Sports Leaders from Year 10 at the Academy were involved in organising and officiating the games and worked hard throughout both afternoons to help the younger pupils. All of the pupils attending showed off some superb skills and enthusiasm and a big well done goes to Inglewood's A Team who won all of their games on the way to winning the first event with the most points.

Congratulations also to Upperby as their B Team won the second event with maximum points as well. A play off final will take place at the Academy to decide the overall winner.

There are more exciting trips and visits planned in the **PE Department** including Mr Threlkeld's impending visit to Holland where he will work on behalf of the Cumbria International Education Development Programme in delivering high quality PE and sport in schools.

Furthermore, Mr Threlkeld and Mr Barratt will be taking some students to watch the England v Italy Six Nations Championship match at Twickenham later in February.

Look out for further reports and photos on this exciting trip in the February Newsletter.

Sixth Form:

Open Evening - On Thursday 26th January the Sixth Form held an open evening. The event was a resounding success. Potential students and their parents/carers had the opportunity to find out more details about specific courses, they spoke to subject teachers and current Sixth Form students. There will be a drop in session **3.30 – 5.30 pm, Thursday 9th February** for the students and parents that were unable to attend on the 26th January.



Year 12 – We recently saw the awarding of the National Citizen Service certificates to the Sixth Form students that undertook the course. We are extremely proud to offer our Year 12 students to gain a worthwhile and highly recognised qualification. Many congratulations to the students.

Mock Exams – Sixth Form mock exams will take place week commencing 30th January. Students have been busy preparing for these and this will allow them vital practice prior to their exams in May and June this year.

Finally, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if we can be of assistance – you don't need to wait until the next parents evening.

With best wishes

Mr Gilby
Principal

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Calendar:

- **Mon 30th Jan – Fri 3rd Feb**
Assessment WK3
- **Thurs 9th Feb**
Sixth Form Drop in Session
- **Thurs 9th Mar**
Y12/13 Parents' Evening
- **Mon 20th - Fri 24th Mar**
Assessment WK4
- **Fri 24th Mar**
Big Dance 2017
- **Thurs 30th Mar**
Y8 Parents' Evening
- **Thurs 6th Apr**
Parent Forum Meeting
- **Summer Term begins:**
Mon 24th April, 2017
- **Mon 8th – Fri 12th May**
Assessment Week 5
- **Mon 15th – Fri 19th May**
Y10 Work Experience
- **Mon 15th May – Fri 30th Jun**
GCSE, A Level & AS Exams
- **Thur 18th May**
Y7 Parents' Evening
- **Mon 5th – Fri 16th June**
United Learning Y7, 8 & 9 Exams
- **Thurs 15th Jun**
Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Mon 19th – Fri 23rd June**
Assessment Week 6
- **Mon 26th – Fri 30th June**
Y10 Mocks
- **Thurs 6th July**
Parent Forum Meeting:
- **Thurs 13th July**
- Y10 Parents' Evening
- **Wed 19th & Thurs 20th July**
Step Up to Sixth Form

Spring Term 2017

- **Inset – Wed 4th Jan, 2017**
- Thurs 5th Jan to Fri 7th Apr, 2017
- **Feb Half Term:**
Mon 20th to Fri 24th Feb

Summer Term 2017

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

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