



# NEWS



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## September Newsletter

Hello and welcome back to everyone! In particular, a special welcome to our new Years 7 and 12 students, and their parents/carers, to the Academy.

Everyone has made a very positive start, and I am encouraged by the way everyone is approaching the new academic year; students are smart and have quickly responded to the standards and expectations that we have set out in assemblies. Our priorities remain **Respect**, appropriate **Behaviours** and every student making **Progress**.

Our message for all students is very straightforward - **Right Place, Right Time, Doing the Right Thing**. Once again the focus for teachers is to plan and deliver lessons that are disruption free and consistently good as a minimum.

Reading remains a big focus for the coming year as we look to offer more opportunities to broaden horizons, deepen knowledge and raise aspirations even further.

The Academy continues to grow, and this year we have 175 students in Year 7. Our recent Open Evening and Academy tours have been very well attended, and we anticipate the most applications Central has ever received for next September intake.

My advice to Year 11 and 13 students is to get underway with your preparations for next summer. As a result we have already begun after school sessions on revision techniques and for many subjects, which have been well attended. All the students must continue to put in the additional effort and time if they are to achieve the best grades.

My thanks as always to the fantastic staff at the Academy who have made the start of the year so productive.

We must all continue to work together with parents/carers and our primary colleagues to maximise opportunities for the young people in our charge.

### Other News:

**Open Evening** - The final Academy Open Evening of the year has taken place, and we were delighted to welcome 125 families from 26 different primary schools into our building to get a taste of life at Central. Families were given a guided tour of all the departments and heard a talk from Mr Gilby about the plans for the future of the Academy. Thanks must go to the hundreds of students, many from our new Year 7 cohort, who gave up their time to be outstanding ambassadors for the school. It was a

pleasure to see how proud the students were of their school and how they wanted to share their knowledge and experiences with the visitors.

**Academy Tours** - Linked to the Open Evening there has been a week of Open Door tours during the Academy day for any parents and children who wanted to experience a normal day at Central. This has been well received with the visitors being so impressed with the hard work and excellent behaviour of the students in lessons and at social times.

**Year 7** - It is excellent to see how well the vast majority of our new Year 7 students have settled in to Academy life. This is our biggest ever year group now being full with 175 students on roll. We have been very impressed with their enthusiasm, cheerfulness and manners around the Academy. Lessons are going well with calm and focussed learning as students work towards the first round of assessments after half term. The **Year 7 Parent/Tutor Evening** is coming up on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 3.30 – 6.30 pm**, and we look forward to meeting with all Year 7 parents as the final step in the transition to secondary school process.

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**Year 11** - The majority of our Year 11 students have started the academic year with a positive focus on their learning. They have already begun a programme of after-school intervention with maths and English in the first instance, with other subjects offering sessions each day. Students are aware if they have been invited to the targeted sessions, and of course there are also 'open' sessions available to all. Students are also accessing PiXL and Tassomai apps to support both their learning and revision. To support this we have a trial of a group of students accessing the apps via BYOD 'bring your own device' – this permits students to use their mobile phones at break and lunch. Over time this will be made available to all our Year 11 students.

A reminder that attendance at school is a key priority at Key Stage 4, for our Year 11 students. They only have 125 days until their GCSE exams commence, and every day counts! Can I please ask for your support to ensure that your son/daughter attends school each day and that, of course, they arrive on time and ready to learn.

**Year 10** students have also made a positive start to the year, focusing on their learning and taking

responsibility for their own progress.

**STEM Workshop** - On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September we welcomed BAE Systems into Central Academy. This is the second year they have visited, as the free roadshow they delivered last year was a great success. During periods 1 and 2 students in Years 7 and 8 watched the Science show. The show was based on how maths, science and technology are used in the engineering industry. The roadshow was aimed to raise aspirations and to encourage more children to take up a career in engineering. Many demonstrations were shown to the students, all of which were very well received.

**Health & Social Care** - On meeting the Year 9 students for the first time Mrs Groves observed their communication skills which is, of course, one of the main skills required within this sector. The students were put into groups and were given a similar set of materials. They were asked to make a giraffe in 20 minutes that would stand up.

It was a very interesting task to observe, one that enabled Mrs Groves quickly to get to know the students that were prepared to listen and discuss, encourage and have a go, and also sit back and let

others get on with it. Each group had to evaluate how they thought they had completed the task, where every student in each group had to provide at least one point. From this task Mrs Groves was able to plan her lessons to incorporate all of the different personalities within the group.

**Healthcare Bluelight Event** - On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 50 Year 13, 12 and 10 students attended the #Healthcare Bluelights event that was held at the University of Cumbria.

The event is held annually to inspire students to get involved into careers connected to the NHS, emergency services and the army. Professionals from over 24 of the specialist areas were on hand to talk to students discussing what their roles involved and what subjects they may require to get there. There was a huge range of career stands for students to approach Radiography, Pharmacy, Occupational Health were just some of the opportunities. There were also talks provided by different career areas, which engaged the students and gave them simulated "hands on" experience.

Midwifery definitely was the most popular; as three of students were supported to deliver a new-born

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baby. The afternoon created a great buzz in lessons following the event, with students discussing the steps that they would need to make to progress into some of the career areas they observed.

**Sixth Form** - 16 students from RRSF volunteered at the Junior Citizen Scheme run by Cumbria Fire and Rescue, British Transport Police and Cumbria Constabulary. The scheme was aimed at raising awareness of the safety of young people, and taught valuable lessons to Year 6 students from across Carlisle. Students represented the Academy brilliantly, and members of the organising team praised them for their contributions.



**Sport - Newcastle Falcons Rugby Trip** - 34 students and eight members of staff attended a trip with the PE department to Newcastle Falcons at Kingston Park on Friday. Students from Years 8-11 who took part in rugby last year were invited as a reward for their

efforts in attending training sessions and playing competitive games.

On arrival at the club we were met by coaches from Newcastle Falcons who put our players through a coaching session involving developing tactics in gameplay.



The training session took place in the stadium where the Falcons first team were playing against Wasps once the training session had finished. Central students were training next to professional players on the same pitch who were getting ready for their game, which was an inspiring experience for up- and-coming rugby players.

Following the training sessions, they were invited into the stand for a Q&A with some professional players. After a quick change it was time to get back into the stand to watch the game. For many of the students it was their first live premiership rugby game. A fast paced and high intensity game saw Mark Wilson and Johnny Williams score for Falcons

and Toby Flood kick two conversions and a penalty. Despite their best efforts Lima Sopoaga kicked a match winning penalty for Wasps from 45m to leave Wasps winning 23-22 as a 20 phase play by Falcons left students on the edge as they tried in vain to get over the line.

At the final whistle, all agreed it was a great game to have been involved in, and it was time to head to the coach for some sleep before a late return to the Academy ready for the rest of the weekend. Some of the students who attended the trip commented as follows:-

**Jonathan Boileau** said, "Personally, I thought the rugby trip was amazing! I enjoyed every single bit of every moment and I really do hope another one is organised again soon. Firstly, we had about an hour-long training session where we went with two different members of the Newcastle Falcons, who were kind, and all the games we played were very useful and enjoyable. We then did a Q&A with two new members of the Falcons. Next, we experienced the best and most memorable rugby-related moment to this day. We got to watch the Newcastle Falcons vs London Wasps! It was amazing! We were chanting for the Falcons to win and the atmosphere was brilliant."

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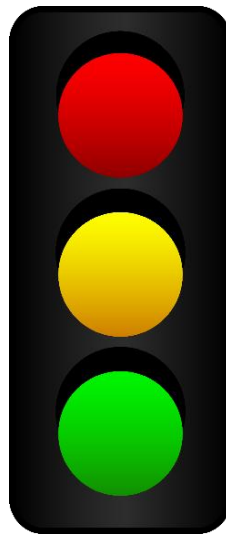
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**Jack Alves** thought it was phenomenal! He said, "I absolutely loved being in the stands and cheering away with the regular Newcastle Falcons fans. I do not normally like watching matches and usually enjoy playing the game more, but that match was so fun. It was unbelievable. I was not expecting it to be as good as it was. I hope another one of these trips is organised because I would gladly pay to do it again as it was one of the best school trips I have ever been to!"

Finally, **Szymon Klimek** commented, "I thought it was good because we had a great laugh with the lads. The game was amazing! Extremely close match, I was gutted when we came out with a loss but they played superb! The food was good and the burger and chips were delicious. We all thank you so much for giving us this opportunity and experience and we hope to hear that we can do it again soon! PS....The teachers that came with us also did an amazing job!"

Huge thanks to all students who were fantastic ambassadors for the Academy as well as the fantastic staff who came to support.

## School Attendance Target – 100%



Your attendance is below 95%  
This is a serious concern.

Your attendance is between 94.9% & 97.9%.  
This needs to be improved.

Your attendance is 98% or above.

WELL DONE

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances for your child. Thank you to those families who have been working hard to ensure their child's punctuality and attendance is good.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gilby  
Principal

## Calendar:

- **Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Oct**  
Y12 & 13 UCAS Fair, Manchester
- **Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Oct**  
Y7 Tutor Evening
- **Half Term: 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Oct**
- **Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
Y7, 8, 9, 10, 12 & 13  
Assessment Week
- **Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
UL Y11 Eng, Maths & Science Exams & Pre Public Examinations
- **Mon 12<sup>th</sup> – Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
Y7, 8, 9, 10, 12 & 13  
Assessment Week
- **Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov**  
Y12 & 13 Parents' Evening
- **Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
Interim Reports
- **Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
Music Concert @ The Old Fire Station
- **Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
Evolution Dance Festival
- **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
Y11 Parents' Evening
- **Mon 17<sup>th</sup> – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Dec**  
UL Maths & Eng Exams for Y7, 8 & 9
- **Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
Awards Evening
- **End of Term**  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Dec
- **Spring Term Begins**  
Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2019

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