

It was lovely to see lots of parents at the Year 13 Parents Evening and for some parents this is momentous as it marks the last of the Parents' Evenings that they will attend since primary school. Staff shared feedback and plans for the academic year to support students in achieving their potential and the Year Group Team were on hand to discuss next steps.

More than two thirds of the year group are applying to university and this requires students to complete an online application including a personal statement by 31st January. Our internal deadline is 3rd January to ensure we are able to process all applications and complete references.

Writing the personal statement is usually the stumbling block for students. My top piece of advice is for students to write about why they want to study the subject they are applying for and how they can evidence their interest via things they study, read, take part in, explore anyway and the skills and knowledge they can demonstrate. This should take up about two thirds of the personal statement, the remainder summarising their personal interests and hobbies and the skills they have developed from taking part in them. Further help is available on the VLE in the Sixth Form section and on the UCAS website.

Student Participation

Year 12 students took part in a Team Building House Challenge this half term as part of their induction into Sixth Form. They had to problem solve, work as a team and step up to the challenges they were given.

Members of the Armed Forces came in to deliver a forensics challenge, in which students had to find out which of the 16 suspects committed the crime. From the array of evidence, the groups needed to work together and communicate effectively to find out who the perpetrator was.

In a 'Build a Barracks' challenge, students were given a mock budget of £120m to plan, coordinate and build a new barracks for military personnel to live in, taking into account the location, the job roles that must be fulfilled, the effect it may have on the community, and also local media. The 'Media Rep' from each team delivered a report of their final project to the rest of the class.

The Cumbria Fire Service put students through a mock Fire Service entrance exercise, where they had to run their way through a bleep test and attend a mock call out, putting on all the uniform they would need and carry dummy casualties to safety.

Meanwhile, at Talkin Tarn, students tackled an orienteering route and a range of outdoor team building challenges. There was a wonderful atmosphere, where students were able to develop their own character qualities and make new friendships.

A football derby between Year 12 and 13 was watched by staff and students. The students had prepared for this event all week with trials, press conferences and team talks, and it paid off for the Year 12s with a very convincing win. At the request of both teams, a one minute silence took place at the start of the game to mark Remembrance.

Throughout the day, teachers awarded House points to the students for their displays of respect, responsibility and resilience, as well as Learners of the Lesson.

The successful day was rounded off with afternoon tea and a House Quiz before Ms Pigdon presented the Year 12 House Trophy – Well done to Eden House!





Remembrance

Our Remembrance service on Friday, 10th November saw the Head Students Angus Loughrey and Ellie Wilson, and Deputies Joe Simpson and Zach Ealey, flanked by the other members of the Student Leadership team delivering two remembrance poems to the whole school. In addition, Lewis Turner in Year 13 led the cadet parade in his uniform, laying a wreath to commemorate the lives lost.

Children in Need

Friday saw the culmination of planning by the Student Leadership team to raise money for Children in Need. During the week, the Sixth Form team had dressed as superheroes to sell tickets in the common rooms for a staff and student "Bearpee Challenge" following the suggested Children in Need activity this year

A total of £282.70 from ticket sales was raised. Our Foodbank Appeal also benefited, as tickets could be obtained in exchange for an item for the collection.



Headteacher's Award

Two more head teacher awards have gone to Sixth Form students this term which recognises the invaluable contribution our students make to the whole school.



Zach Ealey regularly demonstrates our core value of Respect. Recently he has been helping out in KS3 lessons, with students who feel less confident in drama. Zach has also supported KS3 students on a school trip, making them feel valued and supported. The students have loved having an older student talk to them and treat them as an equal.

As one of our Deputy Head Students Zach has shown himself to be an exceptional role model for our whole school community.

Callum Turner - for his exceptional work in Media and his wider school contribution. He has worked hard to produce a range of different videos and photos for many different departments and members of the school community. He is always the first to volunteer to help with the numerous requests the Media Department receive. He even cross references other students' free periods to create filming timetables.

Callum is a fabulous Media student, always willing to help, provide mentoring and even helps staff. Callum was pivotal in pulling the team together to create the mental health video for the school in a very short time scale. Most recently Callum has taken photos during the house days, edited the derby press conference, and is already lined up to take photos during the next Aspirations Week. He epitomises our core value of responsibility.



Learner of the Lesson Top 10

Congratulations to the students below who have been awarded Learner of the Lesson multiple times and are in the top 10 across all Sixth Form students:

Zach Ealey
Alice Beesley
Rosie McCormick
Heathcliff Stone
Lucy Fleming
Joe Graham
Greg Atkinson
Angela Lee
Fern Miller
Euan Dawson

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to the following students: Alexander MacRae, Dan Jones, Rae Platton, Bryony Cole, Tegan Halford, Lydia Pickett and Antonia Kirkpatrick; who successfully completed their silver qualifying expedition. A compulsory component of this is for them to write and deliver a presentation about the three-day journey which they courageously did to over 60+ Year 9 Outdoor Learners.

The expedition was in varying degrees a physically and mentally demanding challenge for each student which they all overcame due to not only resilience and positive attitude but the camaraderie and support from within their groups.

Focus on Art

Just before half term our Media, Photography and Art students visited The University of Cumbria where they were exposed to various multi-media projects. Our students really enjoyed being able to experience the facilities and consider the opportunities open to them within creative arts post 18.



Up and Coming Events

Carlisle Cathedral is the venue for our presentation evening on Thursday 4th January 2024 for students that received GCSE and A level results in the summer. We hope that as many students and their families can join us on this very special evening which will include awards, speeches from our Head Students, Head Teacher and an Alumni of William Howard School. Tickets are still available.

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