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Dear Parents/Carers

This has been another very busy term, with our students involved in a wide range of sporting and academic extra-curricular activities. There have been many notable successes, including the Year 7 and Year 8 Girls, who were winners of the Champion Schools 2023 Rugby League Competition. Year 9 students won the Cumbria Maths Feast competition in March against extremely strong competition from 14 other secondary schools teams.

As our Year 11 and Year 13 students start their GCSE and A-Level examinations in May, we wish them all the very best for their future. We have been delivering tuition for Year 11 students through the government's NTP (National Tutoring Programme) and to date over two thirds of students have been involved with these sessions. Tutoring has been running alongside a whole range of interventions and support for both Year 11 and Year 13, including a significant number of intervention classes running throughout the Easter holidays.

I wrote to you in February to consult on the proposed changing of the school start and finish times from September 2023. The consultation process has now been completed and the school day will be 10 minutes longer in the next academic year. Form time will start at 8.35am instead of the current start time of 8.40am. Students will finish at 3.05pm, instead of the current finish time of 3.00pm. I have written to all our transport providers to let them know of this change. I will share the changes to bus pick up and drop off times with all parents and carers next term.

Our Academy continues to grow, and we will be welcoming over 250 students into Year 7 from September 2023. The new 4G Astro Turf pitch continues to be very well used by our local community; so, as a result of the high demand, we have opened the pitch at weekends. Contact the school office if you would like to make a booking.

I have included a summary of activities per year group and I am sure you will agree we have provided a wealth of activities and opportunities for our students this term.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and restful Easter break, and look forward to welcoming all our students back into school on Monday 17 April.

Yours faithfully

Mark Bedford

Head of School

## **Year 7**

Team Year 7 have worked brilliantly this term, gaining 12,000 reward points, truly taking responsibility for their learning. We have had students take part in several sporting activities: most recently our girls Year 7 Rugby League team, who are now County Champions, and will attend the upcoming national finals. We have also been proud of our students for their extra-curricular activities. We would like to give a special mention to Luca Roberts, who has been competing nationally for Cross Country. Year 7 students showed respect whilst watching, rehearsing for and performing in the Shakespeare Festival in the last week of term. Students were excellent and demonstrated a level of maturity beyond what is expected of Year 7 students. We were happy to welcome parents and carers of our A half students to their first Progress Evening, and look forward to welcoming the second half of the year group after their well earned Easter break.

## **Year 8**

Year 8 students have continued to work really hard this term and there have been many highlights, both in the classroom and during our extracurricular provision. The students in Year 8 have achieved many reward points for their academic progress and effort and have really responded well to new challenges. Many of our students have now become more involved in the Student Council and have proved very proactive in offering ideas and driving forward solutions for whole school improvement. Students have enjoyed working on careers and future pathways during form time.

A number of our students have been working with the Centre for Leadership Performance, sponsored by Sellafeld Ltd on the 'Leading Change' programme. This programme enables young people to work alongside business advisors to produce a sustainability campaign over a 12 week period. The students clearly impressed members of the local businesses on this program and they are really demonstrating the qualities needed to become future leaders. Pupils pitched different ideas about leading change in school and managed to secure £1750 towards their project. All involved were awarded certificates at Lakes College to commend them on their success.

The Year 8 girls have been crowned Rugby League County Champions and the boys reached the last 16 of the National Cup (County Cup final still to be played). In Dodgeball, our mixed boys' and girls' squad came fourth in the North-West Championship. We also saw 5 of our boys selected for the Allerdale Schools football squad. Our Year 8 students were active members in the U.Dance Festival, which was a rewarding and enriching experience for the students involved. They took on the roles of choreographers in order to create an emotional and thought-provoking performance. The students also performed their choreography as part of the Trust-wide 'Shine As One Event' at The Sands Centre in Carlisle at the end of March. To top off our successful term, the whole of the Year 8 students took part in the Shakespeare Festival, in which students prepared and performed scenes inspired by Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. It was a pleasure to see such talent and enthusiasm from the entire year group.

## **Year 9**

The Year 9 students have had important decisions to make this Spring term regarding their options for GCSE. As a year group team, we have been really impressed with the maturity and resilience the students have shown when faced with the big decisions the options process presents. A number of students attended our trip to Hollywood Bowl in Carlisle and students represented the school impeccably. Our year 9 Maths Feast team of Ahklak Uddin, Kadeyn Lord, Connor Fitzwilliams and Kyle Rafferty won the Cumbria Maths Feast competition, beating 14 other secondary school teams.

For the Easter term, 9DAL performed extremely well, achieving the overall best attendance and most reward points of any form in Year 9. In terms of individuals, Alex Bell (9JKI) achieved the most reward points this term. Lewis Rodgers (9BST) is still in the lead for the academic year since September.

We had a number of Year 9 students involved in the CET 'Shine as One' event at the Sands centre on 21 March 2023. The event was a huge success, and all our students did the Academy and CET proud with their performances. Year 9 students involved were Harvey Park, Kaitlyn Riley, Neve Pearson, Aisha Sanderson, Gabrielle Kelly and Ella Harrison, all of whom performed brilliantly.

## **Y10 and 11**

This term has seen a large focus on exam preparation for all students in Key Stage 4. Our year 11 students are now in full revision mode, and are working hard for the upcoming GCSE exams. We have had excellent attendance at our after school revision sessions, where students have been given the opportunity to work closely with subject teachers to fill gaps in knowledge and practise exam techniques. We have also recently commenced our weekend revision sessions, which have been very well attended so far. These sessions will continue after Easter and finish at the end of May.

Some of our year 10 students travelled to France earlier this term to partake in the Science Conference, which was held at Disneyland Paris. The students had a fabulous time attending the sessions and also had free time to explore the park afterwards. All students were a credit to the school, displaying responsibility and respect at all times. A small group of students also visited the UCLAN campus at Westlakes Science and Technology Park. This gave them the opportunity to tour the campus and see first hand the opportunities available on the degree course. All students found this an extremely interesting and a very valuable experience, helping to inform their future destination choices.

Year 10 have also been focusing heavily on arranging their own work experience placements for July. Our students have worked closely with their form tutors, Ethics teachers and year group staff to ensure that they secure a placement of their choice. We are very much looking forward to updating you on this in the summer term.

In form-time this term all students have been working alongside the Skills Builder programme to focus on and enhance their vital employability skills. Under this umbrella, students have collaborated together on various projects, focusing on team-work, listening and speaking skills, leadership and problem solving. This has also included raising money for local charities, which is something that we have continued to do over the year. We have also had the opportunity to learn about and examine a wide range of professions and careers through Unifrog.

## **Sixth Form**

The sixth form students have made a valuable contribution to the Shine as One performance, developing their performance skills and their leadership skills.

The introduction of online research platforms to enable students to widen and deepen their understanding of their subjects has been incredibly insightful and well received.

The year 12 Future Day, where students explored their post-18 options, has enabled students to think about the skills and qualifications they will need for university, degree apprenticeships and employment applications. The students were able to hear first hand from a representative from UCLAN, who provide traditional degrees as well as degree apprenticeships, about the opportunities available with themselves as well as nationally.

## **Spring Term Events**

### **CET Events and Competitions**

We are delighted that over 40 of our Workington Academy students were involved in the highly successful CET 'Shine As One' Performance Event at the Sands Centre on Tuesday 21 March, taking on roles in the CET orchestra, Workington Academy dance troupe and choir. The event was CET's biggest trust wide student event to date, whereby over 400 students from across all 13 CET schools came together to perform live on the Sands Centre Stage, to provide an unforgettable evening of live music, singing, dance and drama performance.

Our Workington Academy students certainly did us proud as ambassadors for our school throughout the evening. The choir performed an outstanding rendition of 'Finding Wonderland' from the musical "Wonderland", and our Workington Academy Dance Troupe performed a highly emotive piece titled, "It'll be OK", which told the personal story of the dancers as they have navigated their teenage years. This drew on their own experiences to inform the narrative of the piece. A huge thank you must go to all students involved, as well as Miss Houghton, Mr Marshallsay and Mrs Humes, who coached our performers so ably.

Workington Academy also hosted a CET Multi-Sports festival on Wednesday 8 March, in which over 200 Year 2 students from all ten CET primary schools took part in a range of sporting activities, including bench ball, ball skills, trampolining, dance and yoga. Along with our other CET Secondary Schools, Year 9 and Sixth Form students from Workington Academy acted as Sports Leaders and Ambassadors throughout the event, leading the activities and supporting the younger students to take part, and were commended highly throughout the day.

### **Other Events and Extra-Curricular**

Students and staff have also taken part in a range of events, including a Heroes and Villains themed World Book Day, Comic Relief, National Careers Week activities and representing the academy at a number of events, notably the U Dance Festival at the Sands Centre, Carlisle on Thursday 9 March.

Throughout this term, we have had students take part in Drama Workshops at Theatre by the Lake, visit the Empire Theatre in Liverpool to watch "The Lion King Musical", take part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, take part in media workshops led by the BBC and not forgetting over forty Year 10 students going on the Science Live Trip to Disneyland Paris.

The term has culminated in our in-house Shakespeare Festival, in which all Year 7 and 8 students have taken part in studying and performing scenes from famous Shakespeare plays to a packed assembly hall!

It has been great to see so many of our students attending our vast range of additional enrichment activities and extra-curricular clubs throughout this term. Well done to all involved!

### **Rewards**

As part of our Academy Rewards programme, we have been delighted to issue a wide number of rewards to both individual students and Form Groups across all year groups and department areas over the last term, culminating in a range of certificates and prizes being issued today in recognition of outstanding effort, academic progress, classwork and home-learning, attendance and the displaying of our core values. These rewards come in the form of certificates, letters, praise postcards, rewards points and stickers, amongst others. Please continue to check our Academy Social Media pages for special recognition of rewards and achievements recognised throughout this term.

### **Year 6-7 Transition**

As we move into the Summer Term, we are also getting ready to welcome to Workington Academy our new Year 7 students, who will be starting with us in September 2023. We are looking forward to getting to know our new students and families over the Summer Term, through a range of Transition events and activities and welcoming you into our Workington Academy family. Welcome Information will be sent out to new Year 7 families after the Easter break. However, to get a head start and find out more about Workington Academy, please visit our dedicated Transition website - <https://workingtonacademy.fireflycloud.net/welcome-to-team-year-7>

### **Easter Holiday FSM Provision**

We acknowledge that the cost of living crisis continues to affect many of us in different ways and for some families we understand that school holidays can present many challenges. If you are in need of any additional help and support, including access to food during the Easter Holiday period, please refer to the following website, which details an array of advice and support information; <https://cumbria.gov.uk/welfare/> Furthermore, information in specific relation to local foodbanks can be found here; <https://www.thefoodbank.org.uk/>



Students who represented the Academy at the CET Shine As One event.



Our students perform at CET Shine As One event



Year 8 Boys Rugby League Team



Y8 Girls winners of the Champion Schools 2023 Rugby League Competition



Y9 Boys Rugby League team in action at Penrith