

Carluke High School

Newsletter – August 2009



Welcome to the new school session! I am pleased to report that we have had an excellent start to the new term. Once again I would like to thank you for your support with school uniform which remains of a very high standard.

As ever we look forward to a very busy school year. We will try our very best to make sure you are fully involved in the life of the school and kept up to date with what is happening. Throughout the year there will be regular newsletters while our website: www.carluke-highschool.org.uk is another useful source of the latest school information. If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions of what we can do better we will be delighted to hear from you.

The Annual Meeting of the Carluke High School Parent Council will be held towards the end of September and a letter will be sent home with pupils once this date is finalised at the next Parent Council meeting which is on Wednesday 2 September. Thereafter there will be an opportunity for parents to volunteer to join the Parent Council. Full details will be in the letter that goes home.

The main purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with a variety of information including: the calendar of Parents' Meetings / reports; annual data check; insurance for school trips; Pupil Support structure.



James Yuille
Head Teacher

Opportunity for Parents to have a Tour of the school

We are very keen that parents should have the opportunity to see the school at work since this gives the most accurate impression of what life is like in Carluke High School. To this end, from Monday 7 September until Friday 11 September it will be possible to book a tour of the building while the school is operating as normal. Tours will be offered at the following times:

- Monday – Friday at 9.15am, 11.15am and 1.45pm,

Each tour will be led by senior students taking small groups of 6 – 10 parents and will last 30 - 45 minutes. A member of the senior management team will also be available for consultation as required. Unfortunately, it will not be possible just to turn up at one of these times as we have to ensure numbers match available students and staff. Therefore, parents are asked to phone the school (01555 773680) in advance to book a convenient time. There will be a further opportunity to see the facilities and examples of pupils' work during our Open Evening on Tuesday 6 October.

Annual Datacheck

We try to do everything we can to keep you fully up to date with how your son / daughter is doing in Carluke. Clearly for this to operate smoothly we require accurate contact information. To this end we enclose a copy of the information that we currently hold for your son / daughter on our administration system. We ask that you check this and amend or add as

necessary then return the whole form to school. Pupils should return this to their register teacher by Wednesday 3 September. The data requested is a standard format that all Scottish schools use.

The annual datacheck sheet for pupils has been revised to include the question "Does (pupils name) have a disability? Yes/No Please indicate". Please note that the following

definition of disability, taken from the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, should be used in response to this question: "A person is disabled if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term (i.e. lasts more than a year) adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities."



Insurance Cover for Education Excursions

Consent forms (EV5s / EV6s) are issued by the school to parents to gain permission for pupils to take part in any educational excursion. EV5s are used for day excursions / visits and relate to any activity which involves pupils away from the school. This includes off-campus curriculum related activities in the proximity of the school. Where a series of activities / visits is planned, consent need only be obtained for the programme of activities and not for individual events. The EV5 consent form refers to insurance cover being provided; this policy is for travel and personal accident insurance.

South Lanarkshire Council reviews this annually and a summary of this is enclosed for your information. The same insurance policy is used for all educational excursions, simply to avoid repeated duplication; a copy of this will NOT be issued along with each EV5. We would therefore ask parents / carers to retain the enclosed summary for future information. If at any time you would like a further copy, please contact the school office and this will be sent to you.

Please note there are different arrangements for extra-curricular organised team

games and team travel outwith school hours where an EV6 form is used. As above, consent need only be obtained for the programme of activities not for individual events. The EV6 consent form states there is no insurance provided. This refers to personal accident + travel insurance.

In all cases South Lanarkshire Council has liability insurance for employees. This would be paid out if there was proof that the council / employees had been negligent.

Pupil Support / Year Structure

The Pupil Support (Guidance) team will have responsibility for each of the six houses. Should you wish to discuss any matter relating to your child's education please contact the appropriate member of the Pupil Support team in the first instance. The Pupil Support teacher is responsible for all classes in their house:

- > Belstane - Mr Shearer
- > Douglas - Mr O'Neill
- > Halbar - Mrs McCormack
- > Kirkton - Mrs Swan
- > Lee - Mrs Craig
- > Milton - Mrs Struthers

If they are not available then please ask for the appropriate Depute Head Teacher who each take responsibility for a year group as listed below:

- > S1 - Mr Farquharson
- > S2 - Mr Roberts
- > S3 - Mr Robertson
- > S4 - Miss Ashwood
- > S5/6- Mr Kerr

Your son / daughter will have the same Pupil Support teacher throughout their time at Carluke and the staff will offer pupils support, for example, with curricular or career choices. However, there can be many different reasons where some advice or information is required so please do not hesitate to contact the relevant staff.

SQA Exam Results

The 2009 results are once again encouraging, building on the successes of the previous session. We are generally very pleased with the results with improvements from each year group. In certain categories, for example: the number of S4 achieving 5 credit awards; the number of S5 achieving 5 higher passes; or the number of S6 achieving an advanced higher pass, we have achieved our best ever performance. However, we fully appreciate that we have much still to do and we will be looking in some

depth at the measures we can take to further improve.

Equality Statements of Commitment

Our current Equality Position Statements on Gender, Disability and Race are available from the school for parents to view. Parents are welcome to contact Neil Farquharson, Depute Head Teacher, in the first instance to receive a copy. Alternatively they are available on our website www.carluke-highschool.org.uk and then follow the route to view the Policy Statements: School →

Policies → Equality Statements of Commitment.

Photography / Video Permission Request Form

There are occasions throughout the session when pupils will be involved in events which may be photographed. Whenever there is a likelihood of this happening staff are obliged to issue pupils with the Permission Request Form. This a standard South Lanarkshire operating procedure which we want to alert you to at the start of the session.



Pupil Lockers

Lockers are available for hire by pupils throughout the session. Full details are given on the attached letter. Apart from the benefits in terms of bags not being left lying around the school, the money generated from the lockers is used for school funds, for example, to support the extensive range of extra-curricular activities within Carluke. Lockers are available through the school office and we would be grateful if you would encourage your son / daughter to make use of this facility. The cost is £15 of which £5 is refunded when the key is returned.

School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 8th September to take photographs of all S1, S3 and S5 pupils. Parents will have an opportunity to buy these photographs in due course. Details will be sent home with pupils once the proofs arrive in school.

Eco-Group- Rag Bag Day

The school is holding a Rag Bag Day on Monday 21st September. We would like pupils to bring in old clothes etc. on this day. Money raised goes towards the school fund. We can collect all types of unwanted textiles including adult's and children's clothes, paired shoes, hats, bags, belts, curtains, towels and bed linen. It is important that you remember to pair shoes by tying the laces together, or pair shoes with an elastic band. We take all qualities of textiles, even ripped or with buttons missing!!! We would be grateful for your support. If you have any questions please contact Mr Jamil (Science).

Recycling

This is a reminder that Carluke High School is involved in recycling old mobile phones and printer cartridges. If you would like to participate in this initiative please hand in any old mobiles and cartridges to the school office or pupils can take them to Mr Jamil (Science).

Triathlon

Congratulations to our triathlon teams who took part in the recent Lomond Challenge Triathlon. Our boys team (Chris Clarkson & David Robb) came 3rd in the male event with David finishing in 5th position overall. Our top girls team (Alice Fingland & Nichola Lindsay) also achieved 3rd place in their event with Nichola finishing in 2nd place in the female event.

School Captains / Vice-Captains

After voting by staff and pupils the following have been elected:

- School Captains – Sarah Mundle & David Smith.
- Vice-Captains – Lisa Rattray & Gemma Smith; Adam Banks & David Robertson.

Congratulations to all and best wishes for a successful and enjoyable year.

School Transport

As reported in the June Newsletter, concerns regarding the condition of buses, driver conduct, times of pick-ups or mechanical faults should be reported to Support Services on 01555 752730. When reporting concerns specifically regarding the condition of buses and mechanical faults can you please ensure you provide the registration number of the bus

concerned. Failure to provide this information could result in no action being taken by SPT.

Scripture Union

Our first meeting will take place in Room D205 on Wednesday 2 September 2009 at 12.45pm. Pupils should bring a packed lunch with them. Our guest speakers this year include Jen Robertson from SU Scotland and Rev Roy Cowieson from St John's. Anyone requiring further information should contact either Mrs Martin or Mrs Wilson.

S2 Being My Best

Congratulations to all who took part but in particular to our winning top three:

- 1st - Gillian Anderson
Was the Chernobyl disaster well managed?
- 2nd - Lewis Wagstaff
Should we build more eco-friendly houses?
- 3rd - Gregor Duncan
Is Scotland well served by renewable energy?

Leckie & Leckie

Leckie & Leckie are offering pupils 20% off revision materials. An order form is available in the Library. All orders with payment should be returned to Mrs Martin by 16th September.

Carluke High School Memorabilia

We are looking for photographs of Carluke High School through the ages, or class photographs to add to our school website. We have a lot of former pupils accessing this resource and it would be good if we could build up a picture of Carluke High School through the ages. Any help with this would be appreciated. Please contact Mrs Linda Martin School Librarian for further information.



School Calendar

A copy of the school calendar of events for the session is enclosed for your information. Please note that circumstances may require some changes to be made to the school calendar as the session develops, however, the dates of Parents' Evenings and reports being issued are fixed and will not change.

For the Monitoring & Tracking (M&T) reports, S1 and S2 will continue in the same format as previous sessions. Pupils in S3 – S6 will again be agreeing individual targets for each of their subjects with all of their class teachers. For each subject that an S3 – S6 pupil will be taking as an SQA exam in May / June 2010 we will include a 'target level' as well as a 'current level'. A realistic but challenging 'target level' will be set in discussion between the class teacher and each individual pupil in their class. This scheme has now been in operation for the last two sessions and has proved to be very successful. However, we are always looking to improve how we do things with the aim of making it clearer what a pupil needs to do in order to improve their performance. For example, this session we have plans to improve how we track pupil attainment.

The report, when it is issued at the beginning of October, will include a full explanation of the information contained. In this way, a report outlining how a pupil is doing in each subject will be sent home to parents every seven school weeks throughout the session.

