

Carwarden House Community School

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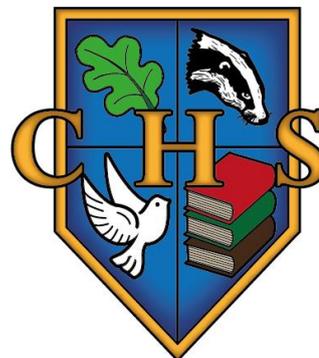
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small community **thinking big**

October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a fantastic start to the new academic year and wonderful to welcome so many new students to the Carwarden community! It's great to see how exceptionally well they've already settled into school routines, made new friends and are showing real confidence and enthusiasm in making the most of all learning opportunities. Any initial 'teething' difficulties are being sensitively addressed, with lots of support from you the parents and carers. Thank you so much for keeping us so well informed about how your child is settling in and helping us to swiftly address any issues that arise.

A special thanks too to Tony Wood, our buildings manager, who worked so hard through the summer holiday to prepare the school so beautifully for our return. Two more classrooms completely refurbished and carpeted and many areas redecorated. Having such a lovely learning environment makes all the difference to your child's success.

The Carwarden 'Curriculum for Life'

As discussed with you throughout last year, we were excited to launch our new curriculum in September with the explicit aim of developing independence, autonomy and employability. The whole staff have worked tirelessly to prepare a broad 'menu' of learning opportunities within each area of the curriculum, ensuring every lesson is exciting, motivating and challenging for everyone. Extra and special attention had been given to ensure that your child's *individual* needs are been appropriately addressed – that our offer is definitely not a 'one size fits all' approach.

Whilst we have given extra time in the week to literacy, numeracy and ICT, these being the 'key' academic skills for life and those required by your child's future further education provider and potential employers, we continue to recognise the importance of preserving a broad and balanced learning experience. And please be assured that that we will be looking for every opportunity for your child to gain a range of recognised qualifications in a wide range of subjects, not just in the 'core' subjects. We know just how important a range of exams is, not just for your child's future but also to their self-esteem.

I thought it would be useful to share with you again how the new curriculum is organised.

Key Thinking:

- A holistic curriculum KS3 to KS5 making learning 'functional' & relevant
- A focus on developing independence, autonomy & employability
- Building the knowledge, skills, behaviours and attitudes your child requires for a happy and successful adult life
- A high quality 'Vocational' offer (inc. DoE, College and Work Experience)
- Ensuring high levels of student engagement – making it fun!
- Designed to meet your child's individual needs
- Offering appropriate accreditation (Exams) wherever possible
- Your child's well-being and positive mental health a priority

'Core' subjects:

- Greater emphasis on **Literacy, Numeracy and ICT** throughout the school
- Recognition that these are the key qualifications for college & employment
- Increased time allocated to literacy & numeracy in KS3 & KS4 and still taught as discrete subjects
- Increased time for ICT in KS4
- Ability streamed classes in years 7 to 10
- Focus on developing 'functional' & transferable skills for the world outside school
- Entry level qualifications in **Science** taught in Y9 & Y10. External provision to be explored for most able (those requiring GCSE entry)

PSHE & Food Technology

- PSHE to be rebranded '**Life Skills**' – broadened focus of learning
- Food Tech rebranded '**Home Skills**' – broadened focus of learning
- Greater emphasis on developing the knowledge & skills required for adult life
- Delivering what students & parents have identified as priorities for them

Geography, History, RE, PE & Employability

- Subjects all under the new title of '**The Wider World**'
- Maximising community learning opportunities

Art, Design Technology & Music

- Subjects all under the new title of '**Creative Skills**'
- Maximising community learning opportunities

Staff Changes

Jo McMullen sadly left us yesterday to start a new chapter in her career having decided to go back to studying. She will be greatly missed and we wish to thank her for all her years of dedicated hard work at Carwarden and especially for making science such great fun.

Dean Biddle joined us at the beginning of term and is already having a really positive impact as a member of our brilliant maths teaching team and as a Y7 tutor.

We are also delighted to have welcomed Angela Gardner, Fabiana Eldred, Emma Kichen and Emily Packham as new members of our superb Teaching Assistant Team.

PTA

Our ever hard working and supportive PTA are already busy planning our Christmas events, and in particular the infamous **Carwarden Christmas Craft Fair** – the perfect place to purchase unique presents for friends and family. This year it will be on **Friday 16th November (7 – 9pm)**. Please, please bring into school any raffle prizes or donations for the amazing Hampers. Raffle tickets will be on sale soon! And thank you so much for all the wonderful 'Smoothie Cups' which have been returned this week. And just a forward notice - tickets for the **Christmas Disco on Friday 14th December (7 – 9pm)** will be on sale from the end of November.

Twickenham Trip

Some of our students once again were invited to visit Twickenham, the 'home' of English Rugby as guests of the Harlequins. On this very special trip all the young people who went enjoyed their visit enormously and behaved brilliantly!

Other students have also been extremely lucky to have had weekly coaching with Rugby professionals who have generously given their time to come into school to lead these exciting sessions. Many thanks to Mr Bolland who arranged these sessions.

London Eye visit

Last term a friend of Carwarden generously donated a very special gift to the school. The prize was a VIP trip on the world famous London Eye, with a private pod and amazing refreshments reserved for the most important visitors! A group of students were selected from all year groups and were chosen because of their consistent excellent behaviour and attitude within school. Everyone clearly enjoyed the train journey up into town and the experience of 'flying' high above the London skyline and having an amazing bird's eye view of our wonderful Capital City. What was really wonderful too was that other train travellers and all the staff at the London Eye commented on how brilliantly behaved and polite all students were. Well done one and all – you are a real credit to the school!

Lunch Clubs

For the last 20 mins of every lunchtime a choice of indoors 'clubs' are offered for students who would prefer not to be outside. This term they are:

MONDAY	Karaoke & Juke Box Club Yoga Club 'Chill Out' Space	<i>Music Room The 'Reef' Twin Peaks</i>
TUESDAY	Anime, Board & Card Games Meccano Club	<i>Twin Peaks Science Room</i>
WEDNESDAY	Lego Club Computer Club	<i>Art Room IT Room</i>
THURSDAY	Film Club (part 1) Craft & Games	<i>Room 1 Room 2</i>
FRIDAY	Uno Club Film Club (part 2) (MB)	<i>Room 3 Maths Room</i>

Have a wonderful half- term break and I look forward to working closely with you throughout the rest of this year.

Kind regards,

Tim Stokes

Headteacher