

16 July 2020



Headteacher:

Dr R P Petrie BSc PhD

Dear Parents and Carers

What a year! Nobody could have foreseen the events of the last four months, and as we prepare to close the school for the summer holidays, we would like to pass on our thanks to you all for your support during such a challenging and often stressful time.

You have worked with us to keep your children engaged with their learning, and many of you have contacted us to express your appreciation for the work that has been put in to support your children, both academically and pastorally – thank you for your kind words. We would like to join you in thanking our staff for their tireless efforts to ensure that students have had appropriate work to do that would engage and challenge them in order to maintain their educational provision during extraordinary times.

This letter is the first of a number of communications that we will be sending out to parents and carers over the summer break. Considerable work is being done to prepare for the school opening in September, and information will be sent to you as it becomes clear what the finalised plans will look like. Preliminary details and plans are attached to this letter. If you have any questions, we would ask that you communicate these via a dedicated email address: consultation@cockermouthschool.org. No individual responses will be sent to questions submitted, but as your queries may be ones that other parents and carers also have, we will respond to these in our regular communications to you.

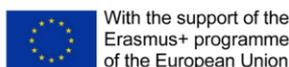
Our school Hub has been supporting around 30 students each day; this has included the children of key workers, vulnerable children and some students who have started their GCSE courses and were unable to manage the challenge of remote learning. All the students have benefited from this additional support, and we are grateful to the staff who have been running the Hub for their dedication in supporting teaching & learning in this way. The Hub closes at lunchtime on Friday 17 July.

We are delighted to inform you that, having submitted a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bid at the end of last year, the school has received nearly £700,000 in capital funding from the government in order to replace the heating system and boilers. We have been bidding to the CIF for five years, and we are pleased that this year we have been successful in securing a considerable sum to make improvements to the building. Due to the coronavirus crisis, instead of receiving notification of our successful bid in March, we received the news early in July, with the aim being that the majority of the work is completed before we return to school in September. Therefore, access to various parts of the school site is likely to be restricted over next few weeks due to the works that will be taking place. This is fantastic news for our school, and will bring huge improvements to the environment for staff and students. Please be reassured that if the work is not completed for the start of term in September, we will have contingency plans for the safe and secure rooming of everyone on site.

Due to the present restrictions in place and in order to respect safe social distancing requirements, arrangements for A Level and GCSE results days will be very different this year. A Level results will be released at 08:00 on Thursday 13 August and GCSE results come out at the same time on Thursday 20 August. In order to safely release results at same time for over 200 students, and bearing in mind the site restrictions mentioned above, we are proposing to email results to students using their individual school email addresses. Please be aware that due to Data Protection regulations, we are unable to email exam results to parents. We will have an online booking system to enable students to make appointments to discuss their results with either the Sixth Form team for A Level or with the Year 11 and Sixth Form team for GCSE results. Further details of how to access the system will be released in due course. We are also planning to send out, on or just after results days, your child's Centre Assessed Grades along with an explanation of the robust and thorough process that we used to determine these. Please note that we will be using the higher of the two grades to determine entry to our Sixth Form.

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An Inspired Facility



Year 11 and Year 13 students were disappointed to miss out on their end of year celebrations, and we would like to reassure them that on our return in September, and dependent on restrictions in place at the time, we will restart discussions about opportunities for a celebratory get-together.

The autumn term 2020-21 starts on Tuesday 1 September with a staff Inset day; no students will be in school that day. **On Wednesday 2 September students in Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 will be in school.** School starts at 08:40 and ends at 15:30. Time will be allocated on this day to help orientate students to the new systems and procedures that we will have in place. On Thursday 3 September, all students will be in school and we have allocated some time for students in Years 8, 9 and 10 to also become familiar with the new processes. Friday 4 September will be a normal day for all students.

Please be advised that from September, parents may still drop items off at reception for their children. However, in order to keep visitors and staff safe, any meetings with staff will be by appointment only so that we can ensure an appropriately prepared meeting space has been arranged. Please email reception@cockermouthschool.org and in the subject line, write 'Request for a meeting with ...' and insert the name of the member of staff you wish to meet. This will be forwarded to them and they will get back to you with a convenient date and time.

Thank you again for your continued support; we hope you all have a safe and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely

Dr R P Petrie
Headteacher

Mr R J King
Head of School