A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Sam Davidson

Christmas is upon us and the end of this term signals to me that we are more than a third of the way through the academic year - where has the time gone!

It is traditional, as the year draws to a close, to reflect on the year that has passed and make plans for the future. Carter Community School is always one of the most exciting and positive places to be at this time of the year and we are all infected by the enthusiasm, the energy and the optimism of our young people with their own personal and collective hopes and dreams for the future.

School has been very, very busy this term, with students and staff working extremely hard to ensure really high standards of learning are taking place. Year 11 have been preparing and sitting their mocks and I have been so proud in the way they have approached their learning since returning for the autumn term.

The rest of the school have been working toward our United Learning program and our Community School is always one of the most exciting and positive places to be at this time of the year and we are all infected by the enthusiasm, the energy and the optimism of our young people.

I hope you enjoy it and may I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRINCIPAL

Chris Phillips

The truth about GCSEs

At Carter this year we are embracing the rank order of assessments. This is for a number of reasons, with one of them being that this is how students will be assessed in the end. In the past there has been a belief that if you can remember specific content or demonstrate certain skills then you are guaranteed a ‘C’ (new 4/5) or an ‘A*’ (new 8/9). However this just isn’t true. What actually happens each year is all of the grades from students across the nation are put together in rank order and then the grade boundaries are decided. This ensures the correct proportion of students receive a 4, 5, 6 etc. In the end it is simply what a student scores on their paper compared to the rest of the nation. Rank order of assessment prepares students for this eventuality and gives them the opportunity to do something about it before it’s too late. As ever staff will be on hand to support, advise and help students climb the ranks all the way from Year 7 to Year 11.

The Gatsby benchmarks!

Also this year, Carter is developing its Careers Advice and Guidance offer to students. We are using the Gatsby benchmarks, which reflect international best practice through:

- A stable careers programme
- Learning from career and labour market information
- Addressing the needs of each pupil
- Linking curriculum learning to careers
- Encounters with employers and employees
- Experiences of workplaces
- Encounters with further and higher education
- Personal guidance

As a government directive, all schools must meet all eight benchmarks by the end of 2020. However after an initial audit and some improvements to our plan, Carter is set to meet all benchmarks by the end of this academic year.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRINCIPAL

Nikki Pitman

The favourite part of my role is conducting learning walks; I love hopping in to the classrooms and watching the students hard at work, engaging with their learning. Over the last half term I have seen students competing for the highest grades in their knowledge quizzes, listened to the formal sentences students construct when answering discussion questions and delighted in reading lots of excellent extended writing pieces. Our staff create great learning environments for our students to learn and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for that.

As a school we are always looking at new ways to move forward and this term we reminded students about what ‘active’ listening looks like. We have introduced ‘PET’ to our staff and students. ‘Pens down, Everyone listening, Track the teacher’. Every minute matters in our lessons and our aim of introducing this to our students is to support their learning and for them to maximise their achievements in lessons.

As our long and busy term ends, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff, students and parents for their engagement with teaching and learning at Carter and I wish you all a restful and peaceful Christmas.

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Don’t Forget… You can now check the menu for the following week on the website!

ARBOR PARENT PORTAL

Our Parent Portal, allowing access to your child’s student profile including attendance, merits and behaviour points, is now being used regularly by parents and feedback has been very positive. There is a Parent’s Guide on the website including a guide on how to book appointments for our consultation evenings. If you are having difficulty using the system or have lost your log in details, please contact the school through enquiries@carter.poole.sch.uk email with your query and a member of the Parent Portal Team will respond. Parents of GCSE students will also be able to view examination timetables from March 2019 once the exam board entries have been completed.

CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

The Christmas show was a fantastic success showcasing the talent we have at Carter. Students have worked so hard in the run up to the show starting with auditions in November and then weekly rehearsals. We had a variety of performances, amongst them were Sophia Edwards with her beautiful voice, a dancing duo from Eleixie and Kaci Ruddy and an effortless solo from Eva Wilcox. KS3 dance club also performed and had been rehearsing their dance to ‘This is me’ since September.

They showed great enthusiasm and improved their skills each week. GCSE Dancers also worked hard to perform one of their exam pieces. Miss Hogg is extremely proud of all your hard work and determination. Well done!!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Following a formal Election process including candidate campaigns and speeches, the new Student Council is now well established and influencing how school is run. There are two representatives per tutor group (with the exception of 11CS who have three) giving a total of 31 Student Councillors. One of the Year 11 representatives said: “I have tried for the student council since I was in Year 1 and now finally in Year 11 I have been elected. I feel so pleased to be part of this team”. Of the election process, a Year 7 successful candidate wrote: “at first I was very scared and anxious about the school council election because there were lots of competitors however, it was the power of heartfelt words that grasped my way to victory!” Year 8 Eleixie explained what it was like on Election Day, “We all had to gather in the hall where Ms Davidson announced the school council reps. I was so nervous sitting there wondering if it was my chance this year. As the teacher said my name I felt so happy to be part of this school and that my tutor group had wanted me to help represent them and the school.” We are grateful to all the Student Councillors for their time, commitment and support of the school and wish them all the best during their tenure!

PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS

We currently offer peripatetic sessions for drum tuition. However, should any student wish to do other instruments please contact Barry Murray, Music Teacher on murrayb@carter.poole.sch.uk and he will endeavour to arrange this. Instrument ownership is not always necessary as we have drums and keyboards that can be used in school. There is the possibility of instrument hire through SoundStorm and Pupil Premium students get half price sessions. These lessons are the life blood of the Music Department! Also, don’t forget Ukulele Club on Wednesdays at 3.15pm as a great introduction to learning an instrument.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This year the Year 7s organised the annual Macmillan Coffee morning raising the tremendous sum of £100.10!

CHILDREN IN NEED

Carter students once again supported Children in Need by holding a non-uniform day and cake sale raising in excess of £422!

A NOTE OF THANKS!

Local business Memoriesmith Ltd has kindly donated a supply of reconditioned laptops. These will be used across all year groups and will support the students’ learning. Thank you very much!

FISHING IN PORTUGAL

Another of our talented students is Riley Price who recently travelled to Portugal with the England U16s Junior Shore Angler Team and came 6th place in the FIGS-M World Championships. Thanks to the Angling Trust for allowing us to use their photograph and congratulations on a fantastic result!

TRIP TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

At the beginning of term, a group of dance students from across the school year groups were invited to see Rambert2 at The Lighthouse. This was a fantastic opportunity to watch one of Britain’s most exciting dance companies, unlike anything our pupils have seen before. Rambert are well known internationally for their inventive approach to dance, creating inspirational and original pieces of movement. The students were treated to a triple bill, exploring physicality, space and unity. This was followed by a Q and A session with members of the company and our students contributed questions regarding the dancers’ backgrounds and the original use of sound.

This trip was organised by both the Dance department and the newly re-launched Excellence Club, offering enriching opportunities for Able, Gifted and Talented students. We hope that this will be the start of more regular trips to The Lighthouse, so watch this space!

THE CHAMP!

We are absolutely in awe of the achievements of our Year 11 student Kyle Whiflen. He has competed in a variety of boxing matches to gain the title of Western Counties Champion and third best boxer for his category in England! Well done Kyle!
ISLE OF WIGHT

Every year we look forward to taking our Year 11 GCSE students to the Isle of Wight for a weekend of adventure and learning. This year’s trip was on the 10th and 11th November. Tracie Deane, Head of STEM and Assistant Principal reported: “the students really did make the school proud both when respectfully observing the Armistice Day minute’s silence and during the activities. Shannon’s leap of faith blindfolded and Matt and Jamie’s team work climbing the Jacob’s ladder were two very memorable moments. Every student pushed their own personal boundaries which is the purpose of this trip and I am sure it’ll be a great start to their revision.” Thank you to all the staff who supported the trip. Without them these kind of activities would not be possible. #MadeinCarter #EducationwithCharacter

FEEDBACK ON OUR YEAR 10 STUDENTS

Rob Halfhide, KS4 Learning Director is very happy with the Year 10s commenting: “They are working well in class and looking smart in their uniforms. They are a credit to the academy. They are working hard to secure their work experience placements for July. Chloe Saxby was the first to secure hers and went a step further by volunteering at her placement during the school inset day. We are very proud of her.”

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Each January we organise and run a Careers Fair attended by a large range of employers and Higher Education providers giving the students the opportunity to look around the stands and gather information as to what options are available post-Year 11. The Careers Fair has been established to complement work covered in the Beliefs and Values lessons and will hopefully answer questions on ‘next steps’ for students and parents alike. During the school day Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 students will have the opportunity to visit the Careers Fair: We will then be opening our doors to all year groups to attend with their parents between 3pm and 4pm. This will run alongside our Year 10 Parents Evening. Confirmed bookings for the next Careers Fair include Ansbury Careers Guidance, the Armed Forces, Bournemouth and Poole College, Bournemouth University, NHS, Kingston Maurward College, RNLI, Sunseeker. We look forward to seeing you there.

RACING AT ROCKINGHAM

Eloise Weedon, whose dad runs the Bournemouth and Poole College Age 11-24 Kit Car team, has been helping during practice sessions and had the opportunity in October to race competitively at Rockingham. What an experience Eloise!

PARENT REVISION EVENINGS

Back in September, the English department hosted our first ever Literature Parents Revision Evening which was a great success. We had around 30 students and their parents working together and revising The Sign of the Four by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – it was a real eye opener for parents, showing them how much their son/daughter is actually expected to do as well as giving them a better understanding of the text itself. Following on from this success, we invited Year 11 parents into school during November to watch the RSC’s Romeo and Juliet when it was streamed live and for another revision evening on the Romeo and Juliet text itself. Thank you to all the parents and students for attending these events; we are sure you will see positive results in your understanding of these texts.

GCSE ART

Parents of GCSE Art students attended an information evening with special guest James Hankins from Arts University Bournemouth. This was a fantastic opportunity to get a closer look at the work expected from the students and speak to staff about expectations, time-frames and assessment objectives. James spoke to parents about progression into higher education and the job opportunities that stem from creative subjects. As part of their course, the Year 10 students enjoyed the annual trip to Hamworthy Common where they were tasked with creating their own piece of land art inspired by the recent research on Andy Goldsworthy. We look forward to seeing their portfolios at the end of the course!

SKY TRIP EASTER 2020

Easter 2020 will see some KS3 Carter students going skiing to Panto Naesvo in Italy. We will spend a week learning, improving and mastering the skills of skiing and immersing ourselves in the Italian culture. Anyone interested in going on this trip should email Victoria Saunders on saundersv@carter.poole.sch.uk

ESU MACE DEBATE

On Monday 19th November, Carter Community School played host to the English Speaking Union Mace Debate. Six schools from across the south of England took part in rigorous debate in order to progress to the next round of this prestigious competition. All students were tested on the power of their rhetoric to convince external judges of their debating skills. Omar Samer and Olivia Smith were selected to represent Carter, proposing the motion of building on Green Belt. They bravely took on Bishop Wordsworth’s Grammar School, holding their ground against their more experienced opponents. We are all incredibly proud of Olivia and Omar for trying something new and displaying #EducationWithCharacter. Thank you as well to our lovely Prefects who were exemplary hosts throughout the evening.

This debate was part of the school’s new Excellence Club, offering enriching opportunities for Able, Gifted and Talented students. We hope that this is just the beginning for Carter’s public speaking programme, offering an array of opportunities for other pupils in the near future.

YEAR 9 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON TRIP

This year, Carter are excited to announce a new partnership with the University of Southampton. The university is known globally for its fierce academic reputation, and membership within the elite Russell Group. Throughout the year, the Excellence Club will be running a series of trips to the University, for students across the year groups, in order to offer a glimpse of life beyond Carter.

This term, 15 pupils from Year 9 were selected, on the basis of their academic success, to spend a day exploring the campus and learning about different careers. As soon as we arrived, we were taken on a tour of the Highfield Campus, finding out about the amazing range of facilities on site. The afternoon took the form of an app competition, working with other people to design an app that will help other young people find the job that is right for them.

The students had a fantastic day, and look forward to more engagement with Higher Education whilst at Carter, expanding their horizons and encouraging academic excellence.

YEAR 5 TRANSITION EVENT

As part of the Year 5 Transition/ Taster events for Hamworthy Park Junior school students, the PE department ran a Handball session. Carter’s Sports Leaders Jennifer White, Amelia Percival and Rosie Fleming ran the session for 30 students. They did a fantastic job and made it a fun day for the children. The Leaders utilised what they have learned from being part of local Handball Club Poole Phoenix and the U15 County Squad. #THISGIRLCAN #PHOENIXONFIRE
This year has seen football return with a real bang! We are delighted to have feeder schools and value the bond we have with them. We regularly invite students and parents from our local Junior School to Carter. 115 children took part in activities in the food, dance, PE and music departments. We have been dissecting the range of film-making techniques used within these films that make us want to hide behind our sofas (or under Miss Wick’s desk). From music, costume and special effects, we have had great fun in unpacking the components of the horror genre, adding to our skills of analysis. Next term, we will be looking at the use of fantasy in films and hope to see more students at this fun and enriching club!

Thank you from the Art Department
This term Year 11 student Daisy Betts and her mum donated £100 to the Art Department. We were delighted to receive such a generous gift; it was completely unexpected and will be very useful allowing us to buy additional materials*. A huge THANK YOU to Miss Smith and Daisy!

Football
This year has seen football return with a real bang! We are delighted to have Maths Teacher Matt Grimason working back within the PE Department. This has allowed the School to have fixtures before Christmas for Year 7/8 Boys, Girls Football and Year 9/10 Boys against Poole High School and St Aldhelm’s. This term we have also hosted Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 Mixed and Year 5/6 Girls Football events.

Remembering the Fallen
Two of our students helped mark the centenary of the end of the First World War with a trip to the Western Front. The Humanities department ran a special competition, asking students to complete a small project on the commemoration of World War I, as well as a personal statement detailing why they thought they should be chosen for the trip. Omar and Sebastien were the winners. The visit formed part of the UK Government’s commemorations and was run by the First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme. www.centenarybattlefieldtours.org

In addition to seeing the landscapes where the war was fought, Omar and Sebastien, both in Year 8, also walked through trenches, crossed No Man’s Land and visited the world famous Menin Gate memorial at Ypres, where Sebastien was chosen to lay a wreath. The duo were also given the special task of seeking out the graves of Hamworthy soldiers William Diffey and Percy L Bloomfield to pay their respects. Commenting on the experience, History teacher Simon Maguire said, “It was an absolute privilege to be chosen to take part in this visit and both Omar and Sebastien were a credit to our school. The whole experience was incredibly moving and we would like to express our sincere thanks to all those involved in making the trip happen.” Sam Davidson, Principal, commented “As a school committed to providing an Education with Character, it’s incredibly important for all of us to remember the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives during the First World War and to actively support these commemorations.”

POOLE MUSEUM TAKE-OVER DAY
Two representatives from Poole Museum delivered a Year 7 assembly at the beginning of October. They brought with them some interesting artefacts, including a WWII soldier’s helmet and a urine sample bottle from medieval times. The museum invited applications from Year 7 students across Poole to join staff in working at the museum. Students completed an application form giving information about themselves, their hobbies and why they would like to participate in the event. Ten Carter students were successful and attended a training day on Saturday 17th November, taking over the museum on Friday 23rd November. They thoroughly enjoyed the day and thanked the staff for giving them this amazing opportunity to work in the museum.

Harvest Donations to Food Bank
This harvest season Tutor Group 8HB arranged a harvest food collection for the Poole Food Bank to support our local community. Staff and students’ generosity and community spirit shone, with approximately 150 items being donated! On Friday 16th November, five students visited the site to see what happens to donations and helped stack the shelves with Carter’s donations ready to be picked and packed. All of the students reported that they would like to volunteer there again and understood what a difference this type of service offers the wider community.

Remembrance Installation
To mark the centenary of the end of WW1 a hand-picked team of students and staff came together to create a beautiful and respectful installation of poppies at the front of school. The poppies were created from spray painted recycled plastic bottles.

Year 5 Activity Afternoon
We were once again delighted to welcome Year 5 students from Hamworthy Park Junior School to Carter. 115 children took part in activities in the food, dance, PE and music departments. We regularly invite students and parents from our local feeder schools and value the bond we have with them.

Attendance is Important
At Carter, we strive for 100% attendance for the whole school year. Did you know that if you miss one day every two weeks (which is 19 days in a school year), you will only achieve 90%. Evidence says that this equates to a drop of at least one GCSE grade!

A recent Department of Education report showed that 73% of students who have over 95% attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (grades 9-4) and this explains why students with persistent absences, especially those with 90% or below are less likely to attain these grades at school. Attendance really does impact on your results.

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