

CALDER HIGH SCHOOL

A Specialist Technology College and Training School

"Developing Exceptional People"



'EVERY INDIVIDUAL IS TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY': Ofsted

WELCOME TO CALDER HIGH

CALDER HIGH SCHOOL IS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE. ESTABLISHED IN 1950, IT WAS YORKSHIRE'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL AND THE IDEALS THAT LED TO ITS CREATION ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE IN THE WORK WE DO TODAY. WE WELCOME STUDENTS OF ALL ABILITIES AND PROVIDE EACH ONE WITH SUPPORT, ENCOURAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC CHALLENGE.

Quite simply, we aspire to excellence and we belong to a tiny number of schools in England to hold Training School and Specialist Technology Status. Whilst it is a privilege to share our excellent practice with other professionals, we are never deflected from our central purpose – to provide the young people of the Calder Valley with the best possible start in life and to make sure that they are happy and supported throughout their school career.

We offer an education that offers new and innovative teaching but which remains rooted in the traditional values of respect for self and others.

So, while our students have access to some of the finest ICT facilities in the region and an exceptional extra-curricular programme, we continue to expect the highest standards of each individual. We have a firm code of conduct, insist on the wearing of

uniform and expect all students to be involved in regular independent study.

We are a well resourced school, with the capacity to meet the needs of all of our young people. Students who are academically gifted progress rapidly and experience additional learning activities to equip them for places in the country's most prestigious universities. Those talented in the arts and sport have their abilities recognised and nurtured while those with additional needs receive the individual

attention that enables them to flourish too.

I am very proud of the richness of the experience we offer to our students. This is a school in which young people learn and thrive. Indeed, this is a school that everyone in our community should feel proud of too and I look forward to seeing you on many occasions in the years that lie ahead as we work together to develop the exceptional people of the future.

Carol Spillane MA NPQH
Headteacher



ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE

AT CALDER HIGH SCHOOL WE BELIEVE THAT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH SUCCESSFUL LIVES ARE BUILT.

Our aim is to prepare our students for places in higher education and for working life in a global society. That is why our staff channel their skills, creativity and professional expertise into creating an environment in which each young person can achieve his or her very best.

CURRICULUM TO STRETCH ALL LEARNERS

Our curriculum is regularly reviewed to ensure that it is meeting modern day demands and expectations and that it caters for a range of talents and aspirations. Our provision is widely recognised as first rate and was judged “outstanding” in our OFSTED inspection of November 2008.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our aim is always to provide a rich educational experience for everyone who joins us and so lessons are supplemented with a huge number of visits and field trips at home and overseas. Everyone is encouraged to take up a residential outdoor pursuits course in The Lake District during Year 8.

SUPPORTING AND STRETCHING EVERY LEARNER

ALL LEARNERS

We are ambitious for every child and our expectations are high. Targets are set for every learner, there is regular monitoring of progress and parents are kept informed through a programme of meetings, progress cards and annual reports.



GIFTED AND TALENTED

Gifted and Talented students are those young people who have the potential to achieve at a significantly higher level than the majority of their same age peers. These students are challenged within and outside the classroom through a wide variety of enrichment and extension opportunities. This could include: early entry to public examinations, participating in cross-school collaborative investigations, developing leadership skills and entry to local and national competitions. Calder High School also supports students with specific talents to achieve personal goals in external activities, whilst fulfilling their potential within school.



STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Children with special educational needs are exceptionally well provided for. Our experienced and well qualified team of support staff give enormous support and encouragement to ensure that each individual becomes a valued and successful member of our learning community.



WORKING TOGETHER

PARENTS

Calder High School has excellent links with parents. We believe that this is essential if we are going to bring out the best in our young people and if they are going to enjoy and benefit from the years they spend with us. Parents are kept well informed regarding their child's progress receiving termly reports at KS3 and half termly at KS4. Annual subject review evenings provide the opportunity to meet teaching staff for a more detailed discussion. Other parental events provide support and information on a variety of subjects such as internet safety and health related issues.

THE COMMUNITY

The school also plays its part in the local community offering a range of activities to life-long learners and supporting a host of voluntary and statutory organisations. There are well-established links with local businesses, charitable groups, churches and political bodies. Students are actively encouraged to take up opportunities for volunteering, a further example of the way that we prepare our students for adult life and the way that we promote the concept of active citizenship.

BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

OUTSIDE THE TAUGHT PROGRAMME WE OFFER A RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES THAT ALL STUDENTS CAN ENJOY. IF STUDENTS HAVE A PARTICULAR GIFT OR INTEREST THEY WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW THEY WILL FIND SOMETHING AT CALDER HIGH THAT WILL TRULY ENGAGE AND MOTIVATE THEM.

THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts have a very special place at Calder High School. An Artsmark Gold Award recognises the talents of our staff and students in Drama, Dance, Music and Art. A substantial investment in facilities provides an environment in which our talented young people can really flourish. In addition to a professional standing dance studio we have The Ted Hughes Theatre which was built at a cost of £500,000 and which is a source of pride for the whole community.



FILM, TELEVISION & RADIO

We have a well-established tradition in the creative media. In addition to offering examination courses in both the main school and Calder VI we are now able to offer access to high tech production equipment in our specialist TV, film and radio suite.

DEBATING & PUBLIC SPEAKING

Students compete at the highest level in debating competitions and mock trials and take up the chance to belong to after school clubs and groups that extend their knowledge and understanding in all subject areas.



SPORT

Those interested in Sport will find that the PE Department offers a whole host of opportunities through both its regular timetabled activities and its extensive range of fixtures and clubs. Among other sports these cater for those with an interest in cricket, football, rugby, hockey, netball, athletics and martial arts.

ENRICHMENT WEEKS

Every year we run enrichment weeks that give our learners access to a wide range of trips, visits and new experiences, which might range from running a business, to field trips, to workshops, activities and dramas and a variety of health and diversity issues. Our Year 8 camp at Coniston is well established and provides an extraordinary opportunity for students to engage in a range of adventure activities whilst camping with their peers in the Lake District.



A SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

As a Specialist College we offer high quality teaching across the curriculum, we have also embraced the opportunity that our status gives us to use the new technologies in all subjects, to improve the ways that we teach and learn. In recognition of our excellence in this area we have been awarded the BECTA ICT Mark.



STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES

We readily acknowledge that facilities are an important factor in education of our children and we have invested heavily in ICT suites, the refurbishment of Science and Technology rooms and the installation of interactive whiteboards in all appropriate teaching bases.



Every classroom in the school is networked to provide internet access so that students have immediate access to a wealth of knowledge and information wherever they are working in the building. We believe that the new technologies are a powerful tool in the learning process and we are at the cutting edge of development in equipping our students for work and further study in the 21st Century.

Every student studies at least one Design and Technology subject to Key Stage 4.



CARING FOR EVERY CHILD

TRANSITION

Changing schools can be a daunting experience for any child and we at Calder High feel it is vital that new students settle in as quickly as possible so that they are able to concentrate on their learning. We have strong links with our local primary schools and our transition programme starts in Year 6 when our Transition Manager visits all prospective students. Prior to joining Year 7 students are invited in for a day when they have the opportunity to meet

their tutor group and form tutor. In September, each form is allocated Year 11 guides to assist them in finding their way between lessons and forms and are also regularly supported by Calder VI students who act as additional mentors. Early in the academic year, parents are invited to a "settling in" forum enabling them to discuss their child's initial progress.

THE PASTORAL SYSTEM

Calder High is an inclusive school which offers the best opportunities for everyone. Care and support for students is excellent and their welfare and progress is monitored on a daily basis by the form tutor who also acts as the first point of contact for parents. Each year group has its own Year Achievement Leader who has overall responsibility for ensuring that students achieve and progress in line with expectations.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We actively help our young people make the right choice about their futures. The choice may well be to remain at Calder VI which offers state of the art facilities to our Post 16 learners and which has an enviable record in preparing students for further study and worthwhile careers. Whatever the choice, we provide extensive careers guidance and opportunities to sample life at university and in the workplace.

More detailed information about the benefits of life in Calder VI can be found in the separate Sixth Form prospectus. During Year 11 all students have the opportunity for a personal meeting with a Curriculum Specialist member of staff and a Connexions Personal Advisor which helps them to confirm or plan for the future.

DEVELOPING CONFIDENT, WELL-BALANCED YOUNG ADULTS

In addition to the specific advice we offer on life after school we ensure that everyone has the chance to think widely and engage in activities that foster their spiritual, social, moral and cultural development. In partnership with parents and carers we aim to play an active role in ensuring that Calder High School students can enter the world as confident, well balanced young adults who are ready to make their own unique contribution to the future.

“Developing Exceptional People”







How to find us

To
Hebden
Bridge

To
Halifax



-  Calder High School
-  Calder IV



CALDER HIGH SCHOOL

Brier Hey Lane, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 5QN

Telephone: 01422 883213 Fax: 01422 882684

Email: admin@calderhigh.calderdale.sch.uk

www.calderhigh.org.uk

Designed and printed by Calderdale Council Printing Services
Photography by Tim Green. tim.studio@virgin.net

