

ISSUE 1 - JULY 2023

www.calderstones.co.uk



BUILDING TOGETHERNESS

Our Chair of Governors writes about how we continue to help build togetherness here at

Calderstones

PAST AND PRESENT

We speak with Joe and Yaseen as part of a feature which profiles past and present students



How staying active can help with

all aspects of your day



ACHIEVEMENTS

We showcase some of our students that have represented both Calderstones and other external

teams with fantastic success.



Welcome to the first of a new series of publications from our school. We hope that you find this a useful addition to our current communication strategy and a useful 'window' into the life of Calderstones School.

The intention is to produce four or five editions of this magazine during the course of the academic year. We plan to provide some regular features on things such as student successes, significant events, key information for parents, or important messages that we want to relay, all in a form that is different to those that we have historically used, so as to further engage the wider school community, whether that be parents, students, other family members, neighbours or local partners and business.

Not everyone can be inside the walls of the school – the hope here is that it allows everyone to peer in!

So, enjoy! I hope you find this useful. Should you have any further suggestions as to features you would like to see or information you would like communicating more clearly, do feel free to let us know.





Building Togetherness

at Calderstones

Mr Richard Blanchard - Chair of Governors

As parents, we try so hard to pass our children through the right school gates, hoping that the environment is right for them to grow as young people and that the duty of care they receive will be excellent.

However it is equally hard to really see into the school to ensure this is happening. It is with great pride that the governing body overseeing the school's standards consistently sees evidence of this, as supported by our recent Ofsted inspection.

However one aspect we thought needed a little rethinking and clarification was what captures the essence of the school.

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Our aim is that we challenge, support and inspire each other to maintain this

Mr Blanchard

WHAT'S REOUIRED?

Every school must have a long-term vision to strive for and a defined ethos and set of values to back it up. We were happy that our Vision still captures what we wanted in "giving every child a first-class comprehensive education", but realised our ethos and values needed updating.

WHAT DID WE DO?

Over the past two years, we have consulted with sections of our parent group, our governors, our staff, and the children themselves. We captured the words they used to describe the school and tried to see where there were overlaps in what was being said. From this, we created the heart of a new ethos statement:

"...our togetherness creates a school family..."

Our aim is that we challenge, support and inspire each other to maintain this.

We also consulted this group on the values that they feel capture the spirit of the school. After much debate, these three stood out:

- Equality
- Empathy
- Community

WHAT NOW?

With this clarity, we will engage our wider community of parents, pupils and staff to bring this to life. You should see this work visibly in what we say and do.



In the past, whenever we've had visitors to our school, for example, parents of prospective students or candidates for jobs here at Calderstones, I've often described us as a 'melting pot' of cultures, languages, faiths, viewpoints, ideas and opinions. I've always used this image on the basis that it's those difference and the diversity within the school that makes so many of us, myself included, proud to be here.

However, I've recently stopped using this. It was during a discussion with some 6th Form students, around the time of the Ofsted inspection earlier this year, that I realised that the idea of a melting pot (or a 'crucible' as it's sometimes known) is to find the impurities in a mixture of things and produce something new and pure. That's not what we're about; in fact, we're the opposite of that.

Instead, we've started to describe our school (and we did this through a series of assemblies with students earlier this year) as a mosaic.

Those languages, cultures, faiths, differences, etc. all come together to form something that, without each of them, wouldn't be the same. The whole is made up of many parts and it's each of those differences that make the whole school what it is and what we value. Whether you're a boy or a girl, have a particular religious background, come from an area of wealth or relative deprivation, whatever your ethnicity, 'ability' (if that's even a thing) or prior attainment, sexuality, etc. it matters not a jot.

Everyone is encouraged to retain these differences, celebrate what and who they are, and learn from the differences that surround them. It makes Calderstones a wonderful place to be, though not without the inevitable challenges these differences can bring for children who are still learning.

Don't be too surprised if you hear this from us in the future – references to your child's place in the great Calderstones mosaic! We're not melting them down!

"ATTENDANCE MATTERS"

Good attendance at school is crucial to your child's wellbeing and academic success. Days off can quickly add up as the table shows. They can also mean that crucial elements of the curriculum are missed.

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to allow students to build up their knowledge, days off can lead to gaps and gaps in knowledge can quickly impact a child's overall understanding and confidence.

How can you	help us a	s a parent?
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Please do not go on holiday during term time. You risk being fined and if a child is absent for a sustained period of time they risk losing their place in the school. Wherever possible, book medical appointments outside of school hours. If there is a morning appointment please send your child into school in the afternoon. Every morning and afternoon mark counts towards a child's attendance % and of course impact hours of learning.

Half a day in school is better than no day in school!

If your child is feeling unwell, encourage them to build resilience and come into school. We all know that waking up with a cold can feel awful but we often feel much better once we are up and about. In addition please remember to contact us on each day of absence and provide reasons for this. It helps us get students back in quickly.

Don't be late!

If a student is late to school, they are also missing important lesson time. If a child arrives at school after $\underline{9:30}$ they will receive a \underline{U} code. This counts against their attendance.

If you have any questions about this don't hesitate to contact either your child's **Assistant Head of Year** or **Mrs Handley (Deputy Head Teacher)**.

100%	0 days	0 lessons missed	No risk to achievement
99%	1 day	5 lessons missed	Slight risk to achievement
98%	3 days	15 lessons missed	Low risk to achievement
97%	1 week	25 lessons missed	Some risk to achievement
96%	1.5 weeks	35 lessons missed	Risk to achievement
94%	2 weeks	50 lessons missed	Risk to achievement
93%	2.5 weeks	65 lessons missed	Serious risk to achievement
92%	3 weeks	75 lessons missed	Severe risk to achievement
90%	3.5 weeks	90 lessons missed	Extreme risk to achievement

TERM DATES FOR 2023-24

Autumn Term 2023

Friday 1st September: INSET Day 1 (students do not attend)

Monday 4th September: INSET Day 2 (students do not attend)

Tuesday 5th September: Year 7 and 6th Form only

Wednesday 6th September: All students in school

Friday 29th September - INSET Day 3 (staff only - students do not attend)

Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November: Half term break

Friday 22nd December: End of Autumn Term

Spring Term 2024

Monday 8th January: Start of Spring Term

Monday 29th January: INSET Day 4 (students do not attend)

Monday 12th to Friday 16th February: Half term break

Thursday 28th March: Ends of Spring Term

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April: Start of Summer Term

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May: Half term break

Friday 19th July: End of Summer Term for students

Monday 22nd July: INSET Day 5 (students do not attend)

KEY FOCUS

PAST AND PRESENT STUDENTS



Joe Francis (2011-2018)

My time at Calderstones provided me with a long list of fond memories and experiences, having attended from 2011 through 2018. I was lucky enough to take part in many of the school's extra curriculum offerings across the sport and music departments, whilst building some long-lasting friendships along the way.

Moving into the schools sixth form, I chose to complete A Levels in Biology, Psychology and PE. It's of course around this time where you are required to pick and choose between a wide array of options and choices on where to take your life. Aged 17, I had spent my life so far fluctuating between various interests and ideas on university and careers but really struggled to nail down what I wanted to do.

Thanks to the advice and options offered at Calderstones I was able to find a route to a career I enjoy and get a degree without any of the student debt!

Joe Francis

Talking with Mr Richards and those involved in the careers sections of Calderstones helped open my eyes to apprenticeships and alternative routes to getting a degree. I was fortunate to be offered a degree apprenticeship in Digital & Technology solutions at the online retailer, Shop Direct (now The Very Group). I spent four years studying for a degree part-time at Manchester Metropolitan, whilst working as a Robotic Automation Developer. Thanks to the advice and options offered at Calderstones I was able to find a route to a career I enjoy and get a degree without any of the student debt!

I finished my degree in 2022 and took up a new role at a Manchester-based IT Consultancy firm, named Robiquity. As a Senior Consultant, it's my job to work with clients to implement a range of automation and AI technologies into their businesses, helping them optimise their performance.

Despite not going down the traditional university route, my career experience straight out of sixth form has allowed me to find an exciting role where I get to work with some fantastic people, as well as implement some cutting-edge and exciting technologies.





KEY FOCUS

PAST AND PRESENT STUDENTS

Yaseen (2019-present)

Yaseen is a Year 10 student who joined Calderstones from Booker Avenue Junior School over 4 years ago. We caught up with him whilst he was making Eid biscuits in school as a present for his family.

How are you?

I am great thank you, I am enjoying making biscuits with Arwa as part of the school's Ramadan celebration.

Who is Arwa?

Arwa is a classroom assistant at Calderstones, she helps me a lot. I know her from Arabic school too. We are very close, she is really helpful and kind, she always wants the best for me and always supports me.

How has your day been?

I have had a really good day. Arwa asked me if I would like to be involved in the school's Ramadan project and I immediately said yes. She took me over to meet the new Head of Food – Miss Carolan – who is very nice and full of energy. She told me how to make the biscuits and then Arwa and I got cracking! We have decided to put jam in some of the biscuits and caramel in the others, I love both so they are going to be very tasty! I have had the best time ever preparing for the festivities! My family are going to love them.

So you enjoyed being part of the Ramadan project?

Yes, it was really good, I enjoyed spending time with other Muslims and embracing our religion. It was good to speak to my friends who aren't Muslim too and explain to them what Ramadan means to me.

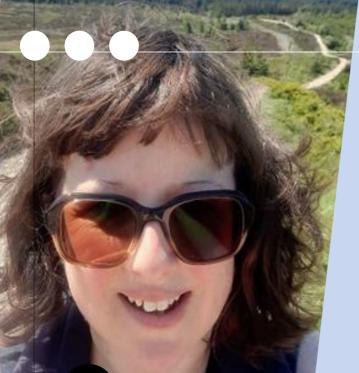
What's the best part of being at Calderstones?

There are so many kind people wanting to help, that's the best thing here. They genuinely want to help you feel better if you're having a bad day. People (teachers and students) really care about you here.

There are so many kind people wanting to help, that's the best thing here..

Yaseen









Health and Wellbeing

Being Active

Mrs H Rye - Wellbeing Co-ordinator

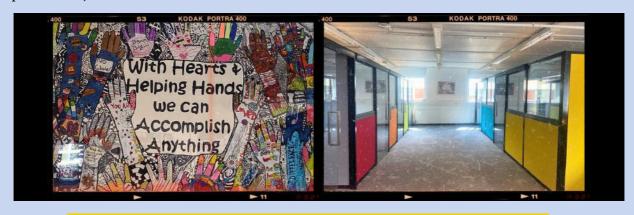
Mrs Rye took up the post of Wellbeing Coordinator in September 2022 and in this article she talks to us about the importance of being active.

"The benefits of being active are very well documented. From improving your memory and brain function to strengthening your bones and muscles, and from protecting against many chronic diseases to improving the quality of your sleep and reducing feelings of anxiety and depression, being active is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself.

I am not what you would call a 'natural athlete' however, when we did swimming, I loved it, and on the rare occasions we did gymnastics, I was top of the class because I spent every Saturday morning down the YMCA in central London, being taught gymnastics by an ex-Olympian ... well, that's what she told us.

Of course, being active doesn't have to mean squeezing into lycra and gritting your teeth as you plod around the park at a pace almost faster than walking, with Lizzo blasting into your ears. The very best activity, I find, is the one you build into your day. I cycle to work every day because, as a Londoner and therefore a non-driver (it's the law) it is the quickest way for me to get here.

At this time of year, it is an absolute pleasure. Less so in the dark and freezing winter mornings. But every day, as I swing into the Calderstones car park, I think 'That's half my day's exercise done' and, yes, I have been known to feel rather pleased with myself. "



The very best activity, I find, is the one you build into your day



Everton in the Community (EitC) has been an established charity for 35 years, supporting people at the time they need it most.

EitC values the partnership we have developed with Calderstones over the last 6 years. The charity aims to provide an action plan of bespoke support to raise the aspirations and attainment of the students through mentoring, targeted programmes, and events.

Over the past two years, we have provided programmes covering themes such as: PHSE, enterprise, personal, social and emotional development and mental health. The aim being to educate young people on how to make the right decisions, increase confidence and improve wellbeing.

As part of the early careers offer, EitC has provided employability programmes supporting with mock interviews, CV building and applications. In addition to this many students have taken part in sector-based pathways into sport and construction proving workplace visits and qualifications.

This year, two sixth form students took part in an internship into Law programme where they were successful in winning a yearlong funded internship with Weightmans. The highly competitive programme saw them compete against 56 students from 9 schools across 5 different stages to be crown the winners.

We have also provided some exciting trips to Goodison where students have had the opportunity to represent Calderstones in a football tournament on the pitch and tour our interactive Digital Skills lab.

More recently our literacy and creative writing programme has supported the increase in reading ages for the students involved. Their achievements were celebrated with a visit from first team players James Tarkowski and Dwight McNeil who took part in a story telling activity and praised the students for their confidence and creativity.

Our team have really enjoyed getting to know the students and staff at Calderstones and we look forward to working with you all next year.

SUBJECT FOCUS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (PSHE)

The Calderstones PSHE curriculum is now embedded across Years 7 to 13 and has a strong focus on the five strands of Fundamental British Values.

The PSHE curriculum highlights potential dangers and sensitive topics, which are tailored to support all of our students' well-being within modern-day Britain. Our vision is that healthy relationships, Citizenship, Sex and Health Education, are integral to the PSHE learning journey and underpin all our students' personal development journey throughout their time at Calderstones. Furthermore, assemblies are carefully planned to support the teaching of the curriculum and the meaningful flourishment of students' emotional, intellectual and personal development.

Presentations from experts and independent speakers help enrich the curriculum and prepare all of our students for life in the future. For example, this year we have worked closely with the BBC to work on career training and mental health wellbeing skills. The personal development we offer in PSHE is also adaptive, there is always flexibility to respond to the local and world issues that all our students' needs. Next year our weekly PSHE will be expanding to our 6th form and will welcome many more exciting community projects to our school!



EXPERIENCE GUARANTEE

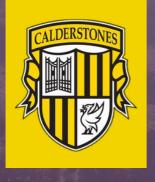
Launched in the 2021/22 academic year, the 'Experience Guarantee' has spread into Year 8 this year and from September will be available throughout KS3. The Guarantee is split between core experiences relating to the outdoors, culture, public speaking and charity.

These experiences will group together to form an internal award (similar to D of E). We have set this up on the basis that not every child gets access to the same experiences and so we want to ensure that there is equity in terms of the broader educational and enrichment experience. This includes trips to museums, galleries, outdoor activities, orienteering, etc.









CALDERSTONES SCHOOL

FINING EVENING

Thursday 28th September 4pm until 7pm



HARTHILL ROAD, ALLERTON, LIVERPOOL, L18 3HS

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STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

KEY STAFF (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2023)

If you have questions about individual subjects you may choose to contact the following staff, rather than contacting Heads / Assistant Heads of Year, which some parents have historically tended to do.

English

Head of Department: Mr F Difusco **KS3 Co-ordinator:** Mrs L Duffy **KS4 (GCSE) Co-ordinator:** Mr D Crosdale **KS5 (A-level) Co-ordinator:** Mrs R Watson

Maths

Head of Department: Mrs J Shannon
KS3 Co-ordinators: Miss M Gilbert / Mrs C Turner
KS4 (GCSE) Co-ordinator: Mr R Pattison
KS5 (A-level) Co-ordinator: Mrs V Harrold

Science

Head of Department: Dr D Ellson (also Head of Chemistry)

Head of Biology: Mrs R Brown Head of Physics: Mr M Smith KS3 Co-ordinator: Dr G Turner KS4 (GCSE) Co-ordinator: Ms D Cameron

Art

Head of Department: Mrs S Fawcett

Business

Head of Department: Mr C Levy

Computing

Head of Department: Mr L Edgeley **Assistant Head of Department:** Mrs H Doody

Design and Technology

Head of Department: Mr N McCarthy
Food and Nutrition Co-ordinator: Miss J Carolan
Child Development Co-ordinator: Mrs L Withers

Geography

Head of Department: Mrs S Levy **KS3 Co-ordinator:** Mr M Ellis

History

Head of Department: Mr K Derbyshire **KS3 Co-ordinator:** Mrs A Halliday

Modern Foreign Languages

Head of Department: Mrs F Conn **KS3 Co-ordinator:** Mrs R Roberts **KS4 (GCSE) Co-ordinator:** Mrs A Brack

Music

Head of Department: Mr C Sheard

PE

Head of Department: Mr G Johnson **KS4 (GCSE) Co-ordinator:** Mr M Withers **KS5 Co-ordinator:** Ms K Jackson

PSHE / Citizenship

Head of Department: Dr J Lancaster

Social Sciences

Head of Department: Mrs M Carlin

HEADS /ASSISTANT HEADS OF YEAR

Year 7: Year 8: Year 9: **Year 10: Year 11:** 6th Form: Mr E Jenkins Mr Leadbetter Mr Spruce Mr Fitzgerald Mr Davies Mr Richards (HOY) (HOY) (HOY) (HOY) (HOY) (HOY) Miss Rowlands Ms Hengler Ms Williams Ms Blower Mrs Gharooni Mr M Jenkins (AHOY) (AHOY) (AHOY) (AHOY) AHOY) (AHOY)

Please also be aware that our SENDCo is Mrs Quinn. Mr Griffiths is the Assistant SENDCo.

STUDENT COUNCIL 2022-2023



The 2022/23 Calderstones Student Council have worked hard on several community projects this year. Every member of our elected council has access to a wide, rich set of experiences.

Our council have been a part of a wealth of enrichment opportunities available this year including being trained as mental health ambassadors, working with local graphic designers to design brand logos for the LEGCT - our local Liverpool Education council, working with local police on post-covid safety in the city and even ran talks with our canteen managers in how we can improve the food in our own canteen.

This summer term our council members are excited to be involved in the planning of the upcoming culture festival! We are currently working hard in planning the layout of the day, inviting special guests to our school and visiting local businesses to come see our school.

Many of our members are looking forward to our 'Big School week', during which they will be helping our SLT team in welcoming local primary school students to our school - giving tours to both parents and potential future students!

If you would like to apply to join our School Council for the next academic year (23/24), then keep your eyes peeled for our application openings this September!



Literacy is the bedrock of all learning; whether it is understanding the vocabulary that you need to access your Science work, or having the writing and oracy skills that allow your ideas to be communicated clearly and effectively in History, all subjects benefit from success in literacy.

There are a multitude of reasons that a student could fall behind in these skills and it is never their fault. So, at Calderstones, we track students' reading ages and implement intervention which is bespoke to their level of need, ensuring that they have every opportunity to close that gap and excel in every subject.

The easiest way for you to help your child's literacy is to encourage them to read. Getting them to read to you or with you is a good way of tracking their progress. We are introducing reading for KS3 English homework, which will encourage them to develop a positive routine of reading. If you are concerned about your child's literacy, you can also contact me and I can provide additional intervention that they can complete at home.



LEARNING JOURNEYS



All our subjects have devised subject-specific learning journeys to help you, as parents, and our students, to know what is being studied and when. In essence, they are a visual representation of our curriculum content and intent in every subject. These are constantly under review and changes are made by curriculum teams annually, further to their own reflections, to ensure that they remain as accurate as possible.

We hope that our learning journeys clearly communicate an outline of what students should expect to learn throughout their time at Calderstones in every subject.

These are not extensive – a more detailed curriculum overview for each subject is available on the school website in the Curriculum section – however, we hope that they make the link between prior learning and current learning and give students an understanding of what they might expect on their own learning journey with us.

Indeed, they are printed on the inside back cover of all our exercise books so that teachers can easily make reference to how a current teaching point links to what has already been covered – be it earlier in the year or in a different year – to support students to understand the relevance and importance of what they are learning. Never again, should a student not be able to tell you what they are currently learning when they get home from school!

KEY TERMS/ACRONYMS USED AT CALDERSTONES

<u>DIRT:</u> Directed Independent Reflection Time. When teachers mark student work, they will often ask them to act on the marking and feedback. Students are given time to make improvements, learn from any mistakes, fix misconceptions, etc. before they move on to future learning.

Knowledge Organiser: The key knowledge, information and language that your child will need to learn as part of a topic in a given subject, all on one side of A4.

<u>Learning Journey:</u> The list of topics that your child will study in each subject, in chronological order, all on one page.

<u>Persistent Absenteeism:</u> Any student who has attendance below 90% at any point in the year, falls into the category of being PA, i.e. a persistent absentee.

Experience Guarantee: A set of events and activities that we believe will enrich all students' wider personal development.

SEND Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. **EAL:** This describes any student who may have English as an Additional Language. This can take many forms, even if the student speaks fluent English but perhaps within the home, another language is spoken in the main.

FSM: Free school meals.

Pupil Premium: Schools receive additional funding for any student who is classified as eligible for Pupil Premium. This is if they have been in receipt of free school meals at any point in the last 6 years.

PSHE: Personal, Social and Health Education. This is a weekly lesson for students. There is a Learning Journey for this as there is for all of their other subjects.

CEAIG: Careers Education, Advice, Information and Guidance. This is a key element in the curriculum provision across all Year groups. It is designed to equip our students with the skills and experience to make sound career choices and to progress to further education or to the world of work.



Written by Mr Edgeley

On Friday 23rd June, our Senior Robotics Team, CalderDrones visited Cambridge University to compete in the National Championship of the UK & Ireland First Tech Challenge. The team qualified for the Nationals after winning the Innovate Award at the Regional Final at RAF Cosford in March.

Having spent many hours at lunchtimes and after school developing their robot, CalderDrones were itching to get started. They burst out of the gates, winning all five of their qualification matches and topping the leaderboard in the Raytheon Division.



As division leaders, CalderDrones got first pick of which team to ally with for the knockout stage of the competition. Many teams lobbied for a place, and our intrepid engineers selected division runners-up Digital Pancakes from Friends' School Lisburn to partner with in the remaining matches.

Almost immediately the wheels started to fall off – almost literally – and CalderDrones were beset by mechanical difficulties. However, they worked as a well-oiled machine to make repairs and get their robot working again. Overturning a 1-0 deficit in their division final, the alliance eventually won 2-1 and were through to the Championship Final. Another closely-fought match ensued, but ultimately CalderDrones and Digital Pancakes triumphed to be crowned national champions!

If you are interested in find out more about our Robotics team, then please speak with your Computing teacher!

Scan the QR code for more photos from the event.

(tap on it if viewing on a phone/tablet)



ART EXHIBITION

The Art & Design Department showcased the work of their A-level students along with the work of the GCSE Art and Design & GCSE photography students in their end-of-year Art & Design exhibition on Tuesday 20th June.

The work on display featured a wide range of topics from Human form, Landscapes, Architecture, and Cultural art using a wide range of media from drawing and painting to sculpture and digital art. You can find more examples of their work via the QR code link below (tap on it if viewing on a phone/tablet).













ART EXHIBITION













HEADTEACHER AWARD



This year, the Headteacher Award has become a regular feature of our reward system at Calderstones. Any member of staff can nominate students at any time for a variety of reasons. This may be because of sporting success, overcoming adversity, community work or just regular and wonderful work in their lessons for example.

Each half term, all students who are nominated receive an email letter home and 6 students from these nominations are selected to go and have hot chocolate and cake with Mr Ratcliffe. When asked, many of the students find this a very positive experience as not only is it a treat to be out of lesson and receiving Hot Chocolate and Cake, but for many of them it is the first time they have ever been in the Headteacher's office and they get to know him a little better.

Mr Ratcliffe caught up with 2 of the award winners from HT5. Blaithin from Year 9 who was nominated by Mrs Bristow for raising £1423 for The Little Princess Trust by having a huge amount of hair chopped off and Muhammad from Year 8 who was nominated by Mrs Barlow for his exception work in Science. Well done both!



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Calderstones are proud of our students' participation in sporting extra-curricular activities run by the PE department and other sports organisations.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS







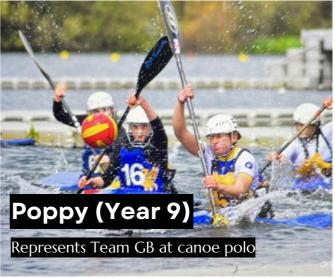






SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS















Evening

On Thursday, June 22nd, we held our annual whole school awards evening. This is the second year in this newer format and it was a fantastic evening to help recognise an outstanding set of achievements from some of our students.

We have a number of photos available via the QR code link below of the winning students. Well done to all those who received awards!











Awards Evening



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