



CALDAYLIFE



Students Sparkle and Shined at 'Winter Sounds' Festive Concert

On Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December, Calday Grange Grammar School and West Wirral Schools Orchestra and Wind Band (including members from West Kirby Grammar School, Neston High School and Upton Hall School) came alive with festive cheer during the much-anticipated "Winter Sounds" carol concert. This annual highlight showcased an impressive array of musical performances, blending traditional carols with contemporary holiday favourites.

The evening commenced with a serene, candlelit performance by the Year 13 students, setting a reflective and warm atmosphere. Their harmonious rendition of 'The Candle Song' and 'I Would Light a Candle' highlighted their musical finesse and emotional depth.

Next, the CGGS Choir captivated the audience with a powerful performance of 'O Holy Night,' featuring soloists Archie S, Eve G and Rafe C. The heartfelt delivery of 'Christmas Star' and 'My Christmas Dream' further demonstrated the choir's versatility.

The Band followed with a moving performance of 'Gabriel's Oboe,' with Arjun M shining as the soloist. The first half concluded with a communal sing-along of 'Hark the Herald,' filling the hall with collective festive spirit.

After an interval filled with refreshments and a raffle, the Year 7 Choir, accompanied by the Jazz Band, energised the audience with 'Sparkle and Shine.' The Jazz Band kept the momentum going with a swinging rendition of 'White Christmas'.

The school band delivered a soulful performance of 'Walking in the Air,' featuring soloists James Do and James Di. Em M solo in 'Grown Up Christmas List' added a heartfelt note to the evening.

The grand finale featured all choirs and bands uniting for 'Irving Berlin's Christmas,' creating a breathtaking culmination. The audience responded with applauding the dedication and talent displayed by students and staff alike.

"Winter Sounds" was a true celebration of musical talent, collaboration, and holiday joy. The school community left inspired and uplifted, eagerly anticipating the next chapter of musical excellence at Calday Grange Grammar School.





Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our new newsletter, which rounds up a really busy term at Calday. It is always great to look back at the events that have taken place since September and it serves as a reminder how many opportunities our students get and I am really proud of that.

There have been some real stand-out moments. For me, the Remembrance service is always poignant and one of our key traditions here at Calday. It's also brilliant to see students involving themselves in such a range of activities, from sport and drama, to music and the CCF. There is no doubt that these experiences enrich our students and play a formative role in their own personal development.

In the New Year, we have a new multi-use games area being constructed at the rear of the main school site. Currently, the main school fields are not in use between early October and April (later in wet years). This will provide an extra area for students to play games during break and lunch and after school. It will also be a useful community resource for local sports teams and the CCF.

Enjoy this edition and I wish you a restful Christmas.

Best wishes,

Mr S Gray



Students Embark on an Exciting Journey Along the Ancient Silk Road

A group of students recently returned from an unforgettable trip along the ancient Silk Road, visiting the historic cities of Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara. These iconic destinations, steeped in history and culture, provided the perfect backdrop for an immersive learning experience.

The journey began in Tashkent, where students not only explored the rich heritage of the city but also participated in a range of exciting activities during a visit to a local Russian school. There, they showcased their competitive spirit in an intellectual game, a friendly football match, and an arm-wrestling competition, building friendships and cross-cultural connections along the way.

One of the highlights of the trip was a unique clay painting workshop in one of Tashkent's oldest studios. Students

learned traditional techniques, honing their artistic skills while gaining insight into the city's ancient crafts. The experience offered a hands-on connection to the past, making history come alive in a vibrant and creative way.

The Silk Road adventure continued with visits to the legendary cities of Samarkand and Bukhara, both renowned for their architectural wonders and historical significance. From the mesmerising Registan Square in Samarkand to the intricate madrasahs and markets of Bukhara, the students were immersed in the magic of the Silk Road's cultural legacy.

This extraordinary trip combined education, competition and cultural discovery, offering the students memories that will last a lifetime.





Year 8 Students Embark on an Unforgettable Adventure at Conwy Centre, Anglesey

Year 8 students had the opportunity to experience the great outdoors during an exhilarating three-day residential trip to the Conwy Centre in Anglesey back in October.

The adventure-packed excursion saw students engage in a variety of thrilling activities, both on land and water, designed to challenge them and enhance their teamwork skills.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Menai Strait, water-based activities formed a significant part of the experience. Students tried their hand at paddleboarding, kayaking, sailing, and raft-building, with many also participating in the exciting and physically demanding activity of gorge walking. These water sports not only offered the students a chance to learn new skills but also fostered

a sense of camaraderie as they navigated the challenges of the waters together. In addition to the aquatic adventures, students took part in a range of land-based activities that pushed their limits and tested their determination. Groups embarked on hill walking and mountain biking trails, climbed rocks, tackled high ropes courses, and even experienced the exhilarating Via Ferrata, a challenging mountain-climbing activity that involves traversing cliffs using fixed steel cables.

Throughout the trip, students demonstrated resilience, courage, and teamwork, all while making unforgettable memories. The Year 8 residential was an incredible opportunity for them to bond with their peers, build confidence, and enjoy the natural beauty and adventure that Anglesey has to offer.





Calday Hosts Sixth Form Safety Day in Collaboration with Wirral Council

Calday Grange Grammar School hosted one of the key events in their Personal Development programme – the Sixth Form Safety Days on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd October 2024. The event, which took place in collaboration with Wirral Council's Road Safety Team, aimed to provide Year 12 and 13 students with essential knowledge and practical skills to help them navigate the dangers often associated with young drivers and passengers.

The day featured a range of activities and presentations from several organisations. Merseyside Police attended with their impressive Alpine vehicle, while The Fire Service and Kwik Fit offered valuable insights into car and tyre maintenance best practices. Students also had the chance to learn basic First Aid techniques, including CPR and other life-saving skills, thanks to an interactive session designed to build

confidence in emergency situations.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) brought along their BV launch vehicle and a lifeboat, giving students a hands-on experience and a better understanding of the life-saving work they do. Additionally, over 40 students took advantage of a free bicycle security marking session conducted by Merseyside Police. The initiative serves as a visible deterrent to bike theft, further enhancing student safety.

A heartfelt thank you was extended to all the partners involved in making the event a success. The collaborative effort reflects Calday Grange Grammar School's commitment to equipping their students with practical skills and knowledge to ensure their safety both on and off the road.



Author Tom Palmer Inspires Students During School Visit

On Monday 21st October, acclaimed children's author Tom Palmer visited our Year 7 students, captivating them with engaging stories about his life as an author and the inspiration behind his bestselling books. Known for his compelling works blending history, sport and adventure, Tom's visit was eagerly anticipated by pupils and staff alike.

The event saw Tom speaking to students about his career journey, from growing up with a passion for reading and football to becoming an award-winning writer. He shared the stories behind some of his most popular titles, including D-Day Dog, After the War, and The Foul Play series, and explained how he combines his love of history and sport

to create exciting stories that resonate with young readers.

Tom also led a lively Q&A session, where students had the chance to ask questions about his writing process, what inspires his stories, and how they can become better writers.

The session concluded with a book signing, where students were able to get their favourite Tom Palmer books autographed and share their thoughts about his stories. For many, it was the highlight of the day, as they left the event feeling motivated to read more and explore their own creativity.





Language Lessons on the Football Pitch!

On Thursday 24th October we welcomed Pierce from Futbol Lingo, who delivered an inspiring day of activities centred around the connection between football and languages. Pierce, a multilingual football coach currently working with Burnley FC, spoke to students in Years 8 to 10. He shared his unique career journey and highlighted the significant role that language skills played in shaping his professional path. He also led engaging French and German workshops with Year 9 students on the football pitch.

Futbol Lingo, an innovative organisation, uses football as a way to ignite students' interest in languages, demonstrating how learning a new language can lead to surprising and diverse career opportunities. Pierce, who speaks five languages, served as a compelling example of how linguistic skills can complement a career in football. His journey from language learning to becoming a coach at Burnley FC illustrated the unexpected ways that fluency in multiple languages can enhance a

career in sports and other industries.

This visit reinforced the School's commitment to promoting the importance of language learning alongside traditional core subjects and demonstrated how linguistic abilities are not only academically valuable but also vital for students' future career prospects.



Joe McG Receives Silver Award for Exceptional 3D Design

Joe McG has been presented with a Silver Award for his exceptional SketchUp design of the Glasspool Building. The award was handed over by Dr Green, leader of the 3D Design and Printing Enrichment Club.

Despite the challenges, Joe created an accurate and detailed 3D plan using SketchUp. His design was not only precise but also technically impressive, capturing the architectural intricacies of the building. His digital model was later successfully 3D printed, becoming a key piece in the school's scale model display.

The recognition comes as part of an ambitious project to create 3D-printed scale models of all the school buildings. Joe McG took on the challenge of designing the Glasspool Building, known for its complex structure and large number of windows — making it the most demanding building in the project.

Dr Green praised Joe's dedication, noting: "The Glasspool Building was by far the most difficult project due to its complexity. Joe's work ethic and attention to detail have been outstanding."





Calday Grange Grammar School Holds Poignant Remembrance Service



On Monday 11th November, Calday Grange Grammar School held its annual Remembrance Service, honouring the memory of those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present. The service was marked by a profound sense of respect, unity, and tradition as students, staff, and community members gathered to pay tribute.

The ceremony was led by Mr. Gray, who emphasised the importance of remembering those who gave their lives for the sake of peace and freedom. His words resonated deeply, reminding all in attendance of the courage and selflessness displayed by those who served in the armed forces.

A highlight of the service was the participation of the school's Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Dressed in their smart uniforms, the cadets showcased remarkable discipline and precision during their banner drill. Their impeccable performance served as a powerful, visual reminder of the dedication and commitment demonstrated by the armed forces.

Music was performed by the school band, creating a solemn yet uplifting atmosphere. The poignant notes of the Last Post then filled the air, marking the beginning of a two-minute silence observed by all in attendance. This moment of quiet reflection allowed the school community to honour

the lives lost in service to the country. Calday Grange Grammar School's Remembrance Service is an annual tradition that serves as both a tribute and an educational experience, instilling in students an understanding of the courage, sacrifices, and enduring legacy of those who have served.





Student's Hit the Right Note with Bugsy Malone

Caldy Grange Grammar School's production of Bugsy Malone was a triumphant display of youthful talent and hard work, captivating audiences with its infectious energy and impressive execution. The iconic musical, set in 1920s New York and revolving around the playful antics of rival gangs, was brought to life with a vibrancy that kept the audience engaged from start to finish.

One of the production's stand out features was the live band, composed entirely of students. This talented group of young musicians provided a dynamic soundtrack that enhanced every scene, delivering the jazz-infused score with precision and flair. The live music added an extra layer of authenticity and energy, elevating the performance and demonstrating the school's commitment to showcasing talent both on and off the stage.

From the outset, the cast embraced their roles with confidence and enthusiasm. The main characters, including the affable Bugsy, the ambitious Blousey Brown, and the larger-than-life Fat Sam, were performed with charm and nuance. The actors managed to

capture the humour and heart of the story, ensuring every moment resonated with the audience.

The musical numbers were a highlight, with hits like "Fat Sam's Grand Slam" and "My Name Is Tallulah" performed with gusto. The choreography, no small task for a student production, was polished and well-executed, perfectly complementing the vibrant music provided by the live band. The energy of the performers, combined with the skill of the musicians, created a seamless synergy that brought the stage to life.

The playful use of splurge guns added a sense of fun and chaos that was met with delighted laughter from the audience. These scenes, which require precise timing and coordination, were executed flawlessly, showcasing the effort and dedication of the entire cast.

The set and costume design also deserved applause, transporting the audience to the speakeasies and streets of 1920s New York. The attention to detail, from the period-appropriate outfits to the atmospheric

lighting, created an immersive experience that enhanced the overall production. Behind the scenes, the technical crew worked seamlessly to ensure everything ran smoothly, allowing the cast and musicians to shine.

What truly stood out was the evident camaraderie and passion of everyone involved. The students' enjoyment of the material was palpable, and their dedication was reflected in every aspect of the performance. The inclusion of the student-led live band highlighted the breadth of talent at the school, proving that the arts programme at Caldly Grange Grammar School is something to be proud of.

This production of Bugsy Malone was more than just a school play; it was a celebration of creativity, teamwork, and talent. It left the audience thoroughly entertained and provided a platform for students to showcase their abilities in acting, music, and stagecraft. It was an evening that will undoubtedly be remembered by all who attended.





We encourage all of our students to broaden their horizons through involvement in enrichment activities. These activities form a major part of our school's ethos.

These programmes, which include Drama, Music (Choir, Band, Orchestra), Cookery, Robotics, F1 in Schools, Ceramics Club, some special interests clubs such as Quizzing, Nature and Politics to name a few. We also offer a wide range of sporting activities, Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Cross Country, Climbing, Football, Golf, Hockey, Mountain Biking, Multi Gym, Netball, Rugby, Sailing, Swimming, Tennis, Table Tennis and more!

All play a vital role in enhancing students' educational experience by complementing the academic curriculum. However, with increasing financial pressures on schools, maintaining these opportunities relies on the support of parents. By contributing **just £5 per month**, you are directly investing in your child's development and helping us to maintain the excellence that defines our school.

Past contributions have funded essential resources, such as:

- Year 7 transition meeting area
- New athletics facilities (long jump and discus/shot cage)
- A new school minibus
- Celebrating Diversity Eco Planting
- Ceramic Room
- Plastic recycling and manufacturing programme

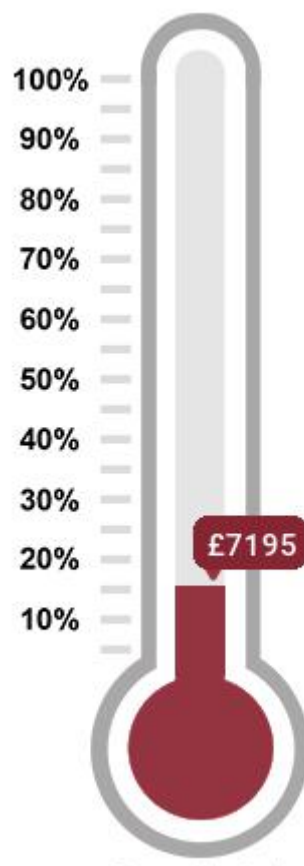
With your help, we can continue to provide these invaluable experiences.

To contribute to the Student Enrichment fund please visit www.cafdonate.cafonline.org/6116 and set up a Direct Debit

Make your donations go further with Gift Aid

Through the Government's Gift Aid scheme, We can claim an additional 25p for every £1 you donate. So if you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your donations to us by 25%, at no extra cost to yourself! Simply tick the box to confirm your taxpayer status when setting up your Direct Debit.

Goal: £45000



To contribute to the Student Enrichment fund please scan the QR Code

House Competition Kicks Off with Creativity, Skill and Festive Spirit

This year's House Competition at Calday got off to a flying start with an impressive range of events showcasing students' creativity, intellect, and teamwork. The Great Calday Cake Off kicked things off with over 75 Year 7 entries. The competition was fierce, but Hollowell House claimed first place with their standout bakes.

Senior students tackled the Maths Challenge with determination, and Bennet House emerged victorious, displaying exceptional problem-solving skills. Students also tested their logic and reasoning in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, where Glegg House came out on top.

Halloween brought out students' creative flair during the Pumpkin Carving Competition, with Bennett House's

spooky designs earning them first place. As Christmas approached, the school transformed with the annual Form Room Decoration Competition. Hollowell House dominated, securing both first and second place with their festive displays. The Christmas Bake-Off saw students from Years 7-9 showcasing seasonal treats, with Hollowell House's culinary skills earning them the win.

Throughout December, 'Duck the Halls' kept students on the lookout for hidden festive rubber ducks. Bennett House's keen-eyed hunters found 18 ducks, claiming first place, followed by Hollowell with 14 and Glegg with 7.

The Sixth Form students brought energy and competitiveness to the term. Glegg

House ruled the football pitch and the netball court, taking first place in both tournaments. Video game competitions added a modern twist, with students battling in Splatoon, where Hollowell House triumphed. Meanwhile, staff competed fiercely in Mario Kart, with Glegg House racing to victory.

With such a dynamic start, the House Competition promises an exciting year ahead. Students and staff alike are eager to see which house will rise to the top by the end of the year.



220



270



235

Tranmere Rovers' Christmas Appeal Collects 750 Gifts for Local Families

Tranmere Rovers' Super White Christmas Appeal has received an overwhelming response from our community, collecting 750 toys and gifts for local families in need this festive season.

Donations poured in, filling the reception area with presents, all kindly donated.

A club spokesperson expressed gratitude, saying, "We're truly moved by the generosity of the Calday Community. You've helped make this festive season brighter for so many."

The annual appeal highlights the power of community spirit, bringing joy to families across the region.

Thank you to everyone who donated!





Senior Cadet Instructor Course Graduates Celebrated for Outstanding Achievement in Leadership and Skills Development

Congratulations to the cadets who completed the Senior Cadet Instructor Course (SCIC)! This intense program helped cadets develop essential leadership, teamwork, and outdoor skills.

During SCIC, cadets participated in team-building exercises that enhanced their leadership abilities and taught them effective communication, decision-

making, and task delegation. Fieldcraft and navigation training equipped them to handle challenging terrains, while drill practices fostered discipline and precision. Cadets also developed teaching skills by planning and delivering lessons, honing their ability to instruct others confidently. Safety training provided them with vital first aid knowledge, ensuring they can respond in emergencies.

Daily physical training and endurance exercises strengthened their resilience, while communication and conflict resolution skills equipped them to lead responsibly. By passing these challenging modules, SCIC cadets have demonstrated remarkable dedication and are well-prepared for future leadership roles. Congratulations once again on your well-earned achievement!

Cadets Finn N and Harry B Achieve Prestigious Master Cadet Status, Setting a High Standard for Future Leaders

Congratulations to our outstanding cadets, Finn N and Harry B who successfully completed the Army Cadets' Master Cadet Course.

Their dedication, resilience, and discipline have led them through an intense journey that only a select few can achieve. Over the course, they have participated in a variety of challenging activities designed to push them to their limits and help them hone the skills of a Master Cadet. From advanced field craft and orienteering to in-depth leadership exercises, each experience has strengthened their abilities and prepared them for the responsibilities that come with the title of Master Cadet.

Completing the Master Cadet Course is an incredible achievement. It reflects the hard work, discipline, and persistence they put into reaching this level. Both Cadets have made their units, instructors, and families incredibly proud, and they have set a strong example for their fellow cadets.

Congratulations once again, Master Cadets! We look forward to seeing where your leadership and skills take you next in your journey.





Halle Soars to New Heights: Earns Gold Flying Wings

After months of dedication and hard work, Halle has successfully completed her Navy Gold Flying Course in August, earning her prestigious gold flying wings. This achievement comes after her completion of the Silver Flying Scholarship, where she made an immediate impression. On just her second flight, Halle was confidently performing barrel rolls, impressing her instructors and fellow trainees alike.

Her call sign for the week, "Goose" – a nod to Top Gun – wasn't just for show. Halle took the lead in teaching her fellow trainees a dance routine in the officers' mess, showcasing her leadership and camaraderie.

Not only did Halle land the plane herself, but she also took command during a mid-flight emergency manoeuvre, safely navigating the aircraft through a planned stall. Her passion for flying is clear, and

it's no surprise that she continues to excel with each opportunity she grasps.

Her family extended heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported Halle on this incredible journey, expressing their gratitude for the opportunities that have allowed her to thrive in the skies.

Halle is undoubtedly flying high, and there's no doubt she has a bright future ahead.

CCF Cadets Test Skills in Adventure Training Day

Seventy-eight enthusiastic new recruits from the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) participated in a thrilling Adventure Training Day, designed to develop essential skills for their journey in the CCF. The day featured a range of challenging activities, including air rifle shooting, archery, the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (DCCT), and abseiling. Each exercise allowed cadets to hone focus, precision, and teamwork in a hands-on setting.

Cadets embraced the opportunity to acquire new skills, with air rifle and archery sessions enhancing their marksmanship and concentration, while DCCT training provided tactical experience in a controlled virtual environment. The abseiling activity encouraged courage and trust as cadets navigated their descent from heights.

The event was made possible by the dedication of CCF staff, who offered invaluable guidance and support throughout the day. These new skills will serve cadets well in their ongoing CCF journey, helping build confidence and camaraderie.



Merseyside Schools Table Tennis Championships

Students showcased impressive skills at the Merseyside Schools Table Tennis Association Team Championships, held on 10 November 2024.

Two teams represented the school in the competition, which brought together top young players from across the region.

One of our teams reached the semi-finals, marking a significant accomplishment in a highly competitive field.

The event highlighted the talent and determination of the participants, with strong performances across the board. Staff praised the students for their hard work and dedication, calling it a proud moment for the school.

The competition, an annual fixture in the regional sports calendar, aims to promote table tennis among young people and encourage participation in team sports.



Calday Hockey Teams Celebrate Exceptional Season Start

Calday Grange Grammar School's hockey teams have enjoyed a standout season so far, with remarkable performances across all age groups. Over 50 fixtures have been played as preparations intensify for the England Hockey (EH) Cup season. A major milestone this year has been the school's first participation in the Cheshire Cup, becoming a key focus since September.

Team Highlights

U12s: With over 50 players attending training weekly, the team finished as runners-up in the North Hockey Indoor Finals.

U13s: Dominated the first round of the Independent Schools Hockey Cup (ISHC), securing a commanding 7-0 win over Merchant Taylors.

U14s: Placed 2nd in the Cheshire Cup group stage and will face Altrincham Grammar in the EH Cup. They also clinched 3rd place in the North Indoor Finals.

U15s: Maintained an unbeaten record this season, including a 7-0 win over

Merchant Taylors in the first round of the cup.

U16s: Finished 2nd in their Cheshire Cup group and advanced to the second round of the EH Cup. They also earned 3rd place in the Indoor Northwest Finals.

1st Team: With only one loss this season, the team finished 2nd in the Cheshire Cup league. They won both their first-round matches in the EH Cup and ISHC. In January, they will travel to Barcelona to compete in the prestigious Los Reyes Cup.

The teams are now focused and ready for the intense cup season ahead.



Calday MTB Club Takes on Coed y Brenin Trails in Perfect Autumn Conditions

Back in October, the Calday MTB Club ventured to Coed y Brenin in Mid Wales, making the most of ideal autumn weather on the renowned mountain biking trails. The trip catered to riders of all skill levels, with three groups tackling tailored activities that challenged and developed their abilities.

Group 1 took on the demanding MBR Black trail, showcasing their advanced skills on one of Coed y Brenin's most technical routes. With its steep descents, sharp climbs, and challenging terrain, the trail offered seasoned riders an exhilarating experience.

Group 2 focused on bike handling, honing their technical skills through targeted sessions before tackling their first black section of trail. This milestone was a significant achievement for these intermediate riders, who

displayed growing confidence and ability.

Group 3 welcomed new members to the club, introducing them to the fundamentals of mountain biking. The focus was on building core skills such as balance, control, and trail awareness. The supportive environment ensured that the newest riders felt comfortable and prepared to tackle more advanced trails in the future.

The trip was a resounding success, with all riders benefiting from the tailored approach and ideal trail conditions. Calday MTB Club continues to foster a love for mountain biking, providing opportunities for its members to improve their skills while enjoying some of the best trails in the country.



For all our sports updates, results and more follow our sports Instagram account @CGGSSport





Calday Grange
Grammar School

16 - 19

Bursary Fund

Awards of
£800 - £1,200
to use towards

- ✦ Uniform Costs
- ✦ Books and Equipment
- ✦ Transport Costs
- ✦ Lunch



Are you or your family in receipt of benefits?

Do you receive free school meals?

Are you looked after or a care leaver?



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY PLEASE VISIT:
caldaysixthform.co.uk/sixth-form-bursary



SCAN ME