

Dear Parents & Carers,

A very warm welcome to all of you as we welcome your children back to school for the new school year and a special welcome to our new year 7s and their families. It has been a very busy start to the autumn term and our staff teams are working hard to ensure everyone settles into their classes and new routines and timetables.

For those parents/carers of our new year 7 students who have just joined us, hopefully the staff teams are communicating regularly with you about how your child is settling into Cavendish and specifically their new class.

**Diary dates**: There are a few dates I need to make you aware of for the coming term:-

**Tuesday 23rd September 2025 - Flu immunisations**: more info will follow once we have it from our health colleagues.

**Thursday 25th September from 5-7pm** - we are holding our Transition Parents Evening for year 6 parents.

**Friday 24th October -** we break up for half term at 3pm. School opens again on **Monday 3rd November**

**Thursday 13th November from 5-7pm – Cavendish Connect Parent/Carer Evening – whole school**

The aim of our Cavendish Connect evenings is to provide you all with a space to chat with each other as parents as well as the class teams. The café crew will be providing food and refreshments so you can pop along and have a bite to eat or just a cuppa and a chat. We will send more info out nearer the time. We would love these evenings to be a relaxed event for you and your children. We hope you can join us & look forward to seeing you.

**Friday 14th November – school closed for INSET** – our staff will be taking part in a joint training day with the other 15 schools in the Merseyside SLD schools consortium that we are a part of. Please note our Community Café will also be closed on this date.

We don’t generally like to mention the ‘C’ word so early in the term but appreciate you may like a heads up about any events that are going on:

**Thursday 11th December** we will be holding our **Christmas Bingo** from 6pm – venue tbc

**Wednesday 17th December** the students will have their Christmas Dinner

**Friday 19th December** we will have a Christmas Fair in school from 10.30am

**Cavendish Connect**

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**Speech & Language**

As you will all be very aware, Speech & language therapy provision across Halton (and indeed the country) has had significant capacity issues. We are working within a research group of 6 special schools from across Greater Merseyside to share best practice and to see how we, as education professionals, can best support speech and language development whilst not being trained specialist NHS therapists. This work led to us dedicating one of our training days in July to Communication; specifically, a new app, called Chatta. We will be using Chatta in school to support communication across the curriculum in all classes and to support home-school communication. We will be offering a training course to support parents and carers with this so watch this space!

**Cavendish Connect Community Café**

Firstly, can I say a huge thank you to those of you who supported the café on the fun day in August. It was a tremendously successful day for all concerned. Thanks also to the fabulous staff who supported the students; Rachael, Cath, Nic, Marie & Paula. These events are only so successful because the whole community plays their part.

Our wonderful café is now back open again regularly on a Friday at Brookvale Children’s Centre. Two of our amazing students who help to run the cafe, Jasmine & Jamie-Lee, presented feedback to the Halton Send Strategy Improvement Board at their board meeting in the Municipal Building in Widnes on Wednesday last week. They spoke about the impact the café has had on them and their education. They did a fantastic job – congratulations girls! The board members: a partnership that includes directors of the Health ICB for Merseyside & Halton, representatives from the DfE (Department for Education), and directors of social care and education, were very impressed. So much so that they asked if their next meeting could be held at the centre so they could see the café in action, and this has now been arranged!

**Parental support & representation – who is who?**

Continuing their roles this year, your parent governor representatives on the Cavendish High Academy Governing Board are Kayleigh Harding & Tracy Kenwright.

They sit on the board to bring a parental perspective to the boards work. They contribute to the school’s vision, strategy and direction. They also offer challenge and support, monitor standards and support community engagement with parents, staff and the wider school community.

If you want to get in touch with them yourself you can contact them on the following emails: kayleigh.harding@chs.academy and tracy.kenwright@chs.academy.

Donna Tofts is our student support and family liaison manager. She plays a significant role in the school in terms of supporting families. She is also our strategic mental health lead and our designated safeguarding officer. Donna is central to a lot of our multi-agency work and works with colleagues across health and social care to try to ensure our students and families have access to the support and services they need. She also co-ordinates parents' coffee mornings and information events, including research projects such as INTERACT, which is an intensive interaction research project involving students, staff, and parents, led by York University. You can contact Donna via school reception.

Many thanks for continuing support, Elaine & the Cavendish staff team.