



Welcome to Cockermouth School

A practical guide for parents

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Please note, there is a separate booklet alongside this one entitled *Welcome to Cockermouth School: Data collection, parental consent & order forms*, which contains all the forms that need to be completed by both you and your child, and returned to their form tutor on Intake Evening, or returned to the school before 14 July 2017 for the attention of the Data Office.

1 | Welcome and Introduction

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF YEAR 7:

Welcome and congratulations on receiving a place at Cockermouth School. The transition from primary to secondary school is one of the most important steps during a young person's school experience. It can offer many challenges during which students will require additional guidance and support. These challenges could be anything from finding their way around the school building, to making new friends, to organising themselves to be prepared for the school day. I am very proud to be able to lead a dedicated and experienced Year 7 tutor team, who are determined to ease this transition for our new students and offer sound advice to overcome these worries.



Hopefully, this booklet will give you and your child a taste of what to expect at Cockermouth School, so that your child feels more knowledgeable when attending in September. We hope that the information provided will help your child in achieving independence, self-reliance and good organisational skills in the early days of the new term. If you have any questions in the meantime, then please do not hesitate to contact me on foxa@cockermouthschool.org.



Miss A Fox
Head of Year 7

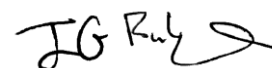
A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF KEY STAGE 3:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both you and your child to Cockermouth School. Whether you have been through this process before, or if this is your first visit to the school, your support is both greatly appreciated and vital in helping your child both settle and develop in their time at the school.



As the Head of Key Stage 3, I fully appreciate that this is an exciting but anxious time for everyone involved. Let me assure you that I, along with Miss Fox (Head of Year 7) and a team of experienced form tutors, will be working hard to make the transition from primary to secondary school as smooth as possible. I am also keen to set the high standards throughout the Key Stage, that will allow your child to maximise their potential at Cockermouth School, in all aspects of school life.

Can I also take this opportunity to highlight our term dates for the next academic year (table below). Please note that these may be different to other schools in the area, including our feeder schools.



Mr I Routledge
Assistant Headteacher
Head of Key Stage 3

2017/18 Term Dates: Cockermouth School			
Term	Starts	Finishes	Half Term
Autumn	Tuesday 5 September 2017	Tuesday 19 December 2017	23 - 27 October 2017
Spring	Thursday 4 January 2018	Thursday 29 March 2018	12 - 16 February 2018
Summer	Monday 16 April 2018	Friday 20 July 2018	28 May – 1 June 2018

2 | Primary to Secondary Transition

DIFFERENCES:

- The number of staff involved with your child will be considerable, in and out of the classroom.
- The size of the building is much bigger and the children will need to move independently around it between lessons.
- The day-to-day routine will be structured around a two-week timetable.
- Children will study new subjects such as, for some, French and Spanish.
- Many children will need to travel further, using buses and walking independently of adults.

SIMILARITIES:

- Lessons are generally classroom-based.
- There are rules to follow.
- Children are expected to work hard and to do their best.
- Physical Education will be included in the two-week timetable.
- Morning break and lunchtime will be supervised free time.
- Children are encouraged to organise themselves for each school day with the correct equipment and lunch money for revaluation units (see page 25).
- There will be after-school, extra-curricular activities in which to be involved.
- Special music lessons are available.

3 | Helping Your Child to be Organised

We run a two-week timetable at Cockermouth School, and the school day consists of six 55-minute periods as follows:

8:40 am	Registration and Assembly
8:55 am	Period 1
9:50 am	Period 2
10:45 am	Morning Break
11:00 am	Period 3
11:55 am	Period 4
12:50 pm	Lunchtime
1:40 pm	Period 5
2:35 pm	Period 6
3:30 pm	End of School

It would be advisable to send your child with a healthy snack to eat during morning break as lunchtime is rather later than at primary school. For further information on lunch, please see section 11, Food in School, on page 25.

Each student is provided with a timetable at the beginning of the school year, similar to the sample below (your child's timetable is also available on our virtual learning environment [VLE], Firefly, more of which on page 10):

Timetable – Smith, Alex 07AB

As at 01/09/2017

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1Mon	English CQ S8	French PC G12	Art STN T5	PE CH CHG	Design Technology DA T4	Maths AB N2
1Tue	Maths AB N2	Spanish JPI F8	History SAS E7	Science SCA G8	English CQ S8	Music MU N12
1Wed	Science SCA G8	French PC G12	Food Technology CBL T8	Maths AB N2	Computer Science WB G2	English CQ S8
1Thu	Geography RP F4	Drama JMO G17	Science SCA G8	PE CH CHG	English CQ S8	Computer Science WB G2
1Fri	Personal Dev AME N15	Maths AB N2	English CQ S8	Music MU N12	Geography RP F4	Science SCA G8
2Mon	PE CH CHG	Drama JMO G17	Art STN T5	History SAS E7	Maths AB N2	Science SCA G8
2Tue	Design Technology DA T4	Spanish JPI F8	Personal Dev AME N15	Science SCA G8	History SAS E7	Maths AB N2
2Wed	English CQ S8	Personal Dev AME N15	Music MU N12	Science SCA G8	Spanish JPI F8	Drama JMO G17
2Thu	Maths AB N2	Science SCA G8	Computer Science WB G2	English CQ S8	French PC G12	Art STN T5
2Fri	Maths AB N2	PE CH CHG	Food Technology CBL T8	Geography RP F4	English CQ S8	Science SCA G8

BASIC EQUIPMENT

Please ensure that your child brings the correct equipment to school. Here is a list of what they should have with them:

- **Pencil case** – pen, pencil, eraser, sharpener, coloured pens or pencils, ruler, maths equipment (protractor, compass, calculator – a calculator can be ordered from the Maths Department, see page 6). A glue stick may also be useful. The Design Technology would prefer coloured pencils rather than felt tips as they are more appropriate for the work they will be doing.
- **School bag** – with the correct books for that day and PE kit if needed. Preferably a waterproof rucksack with two shoulder straps to prevent possible back problems in the future. Although students are offered the chance to have use of a locker, in which equipment, books etc can be stored temporarily, there is still the need to carry items around school and, at times, these could be quite heavy.
- A stock of lined/plain paper and plastic wallets can be kept at home.

Try to make sure that your child has access to a desk or table at home on which to work, and suitable storage space for books and equipment that are not needed in school every day. An A4 plastic folder can be useful for carrying homework to and from school.

To ease the pressure of ensuring your child is fully equipped for the start of term, stationery packs are available from the school library at a cost of £6.50, and include the following items:

- Clear plastic pencil case
- 2 x HB pencils
- 2 x 2B pencils
- 2 x black ballpoint pens
- 2 x blue ballpoint pens
- 2 x red ballpoint pens
- 1 x 15cm ruler
- 2 x erasers
- 1 x metal pencil sharpener
- 1 x 40g Pritt stick
- 1 x pack of soft Lakeland pencil crayons
- 1 x highlighter
- 1 x protractor
- 1 x compass
- 1 x black Sharpie pen for DT

If you wish to order a stationery pack, please complete the order form in the accompanying booklet entitled *Welcome to Cockermouth School: Data collection, parental consent & order forms*. You will need to enclose a cheque for £6.50 with the order (further instructions on the form). Please note, orders received after 19 July 2017 cannot be guaranteed. A stationery shop is available every day in the library during school hours when all of these items, and more, are on sale to students.

MATHS CALCULATOR

The Maths Department also offers an ordering service for a suitable maths calculator. All staff in the Department use the CASIO FX83, and have a projector version that allows them to demonstrate the efficient and correct use of a calculator to students. Because we order in bulk, the cost is lower than is available in shops. Letters will be sent out early in the autumn term to all Year 7 students, which will allow them to place an order through the school. For further information, please contact Mr A Bradley – Head of Maths, email bradleya@cockermouthschool.org.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of school routine; it enables better use to be made of teacher time in the classroom and encourages independent learning skills in students – skills that will become increasingly important as they go through their lives in the modern world. Parental support and co-operation is very important in establishing and sustaining good homework habits.

Homework is set via Firefly, our virtual learning environment (VLE), to which all students and their parents have access; for further information, see section 7, page 10. Homework should not take longer than an hour in total per night in Year 7, and may involve a range of tasks including revision for forthcoming tests, written assignments, reading, completion of classwork, consolidation of classwork and individual research. It is important that a child has a quiet place to study, and experience suggests that a regular routine on arriving home from school helps in promoting good homework habits.

Parental assistance with homework tasks can be helpful but remember, a main purpose of homework is to give a student the challenge to complete a task individually; if the homework set is regularly beyond the ability of a student, or is taking more than the recommended time, this should be brought to the school's attention so that homework can be adjusted accordingly.

4 | Positive Support

Positive support is extremely valuable during the intake process and in the early days of September.

REASSURANCE:

- Listen to your child's worries
- Try to understand their concerns and affirm your support along with the form tutor on a daily basis
- After a few days' map reading and being guided, they will soon find their own way around
- Discuss daily events – this is an exciting and somewhat anxious time for new students
- Encourage friends, old and new, to visit out of school to reinforce links.

PRAISE:

- Provide lots of verbal encouragement pre- and post-school
- When your child is discussing school, re-affirm your positivity
- Rewards can be most welcome at the end of a long day or week.

CONTACT WITH SCHOOL

Parents are welcome to contact the school at any time. Please let us know early if your child has a problem – once we know about an issue, we can take appropriate action. If you need to contact school about any concerns you may have, the following steps should be followed, moving onto the next step if the problem remains unresolved:

- Email your child's form tutor – email addresses can be found on the school website at www.cockermouthschool.org/about-us/key-staff
- Telephone, leave a message or write a note for your child's form tutor
- Make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Two parents' evenings for Year 7 will be held during the academic year, a settling-in meeting with your child's form tutor (provisionally Tuesday 17 October 2017) and a meeting with subject teachers (provisionally Thursday 26 April 2018). The settling-in meeting will provide you with the opportunity to discuss your child's transition into Cockermouth School. It will allow you to ask any questions that you may have and will provide some invaluable information on your child's progress in the first few weeks.

The parents' evening will give you the chance to have an appointment with a teacher for each subject that your child studies. The member of staff will be able to give you an update on the academic progress that your child has made, and provide some guidance on the additional steps that they can take to progress further.

Parents can also expect to receive three progress reports during Year 7, one at the settling-in meeting and one each in the spring and summer terms.

YEAR 7 PASTORAL TEAM:

Mr I RoutledgeHead of Key Stage 3 Miss A Fox.....Head of Year 7

Form Tutors:

07JCH.....	Mr J Charters	07TC.....	Mr T Carruthers
07CBL.....	Ms C Bale	07JBI/MSL.....	Mrs J Bishop / Mr M Sluce
07SKI.....	Mrs S King	07DE/JPI.....	Mr D Elliott / Mrs J Pickavance
07REL.....	Mr R Ellis	07AML/KWI.....	Mrs A Millne / Mrs K Williams

Please note, the form tutors listed above may be subject to change and will be confirmed at the Intake Evening.

5 | Behaviour for Learning: Rewards & Sanctions

REWARDS

At Cockermouth School we are keen to reward our students when they do things well. We have introduced a system where the students can receive positive points when they get things right. At the end of each term we have praise assemblies where some students in each year group receive Gold, Silver and Bronze awards based on the number of points that they have received over the term. Parents will also be informed that their child has received an award in the following ways:

- Bronze Award – text message
- Silver Award – email
- Gold Award – letter

We also reward consistently good performance with recognition at our annual Awards' Evenings.

SANCTIONS

We have a wide range of sanctions that we can apply when the students fall short of our high standards. Whilst the vast majority of our students will avoid the more significant sanctions that we can use, it is important to continue to remind students that they will be sanctioned if they get things wrong. If you are contacted by the school with regard to a sanction for your child's poor behaviour, then your support is greatly appreciated. By working together, school and home are able to deal with instances of poor behaviour quickly and effectively.

For more information on the school's Behaviour for Learning system, please contact:

- Mr I Routledge, Assistant Headteacher, 01900 898888, email routledgei@cockermouthschool.org

6 | Accelerated Reader™

WHAT IS ACCELERATED READER™?

When your child starts Cockerthmouth School, they will be participating in the Accelerated Reader™ (AR™) program, which is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer (passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read). AR™ gives children, teachers, and parents feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice. Children using AR™ choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

Teachers determine your child's reading level using a STAR Reading™ test, which is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15 minutes.

DEVELOPING A LOVE OF READING

Students and teachers at Cockerthmouth School have embraced AR™ as we strive to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Not only does the AR™ computer program motivate students of all ages and ability to read more and guide them to suitably challenging books, it also provides instant and accurate information on academic performance. This information is then used by your child's English teacher to further develop their reading skills.

Year 7 students have a dedicated form-time reading session each week and a weekly half-hour slot during their English lesson when students have access to the school's library. Guided by the school's librarian and their English teacher, students are encouraged to read a range of both fiction and non-fiction books to develop their literacy skills and to better prepare them for the challenges of the new curriculum.

Our library is exceptionally well-stocked with books for every ability and taste. Students are encouraged to use the library at lunchtime, so that they can choose their books and use the computers and iPads to take computerised quizzes on their most recent reads. Students receive instant feedback on their progress and parents can also sign up for an email alert each time their child quizzes. Teachers access your child's data online and both advise and reward your child accordingly. We also run a Form Team Challenge to encourage students to read more and award monthly prizes.

We are extremely proud of the progress our students have made with their reading and we are often astonished by the positive comments made by our students about the impact of Accelerated Reader™ (see below). We have heard many amazing success stories and we are looking forward to hearing many more.

'I liked becoming a word millionaire and choosing a book as my reward.'

'I never used to read but now I love it!'

'AR™ is a great reading app; it makes it easier because you get awarded with certificates and we also can see what we've read over the year.'

'I like AR because you can see how much you have improved and see how many words you have read.'

'AR™ is a great thing; you can see how much you have improved and it makes you want to read more.'

For further information on the Accelerated Reader™ program, please contact:

- Mrs K Williams – English Department, email williamsk@cockermouthschool.org

7 | Firefly firefly

WHAT IS FIREFLY?

Firefly is Cockermouth School's virtual learning environment (VLE): a password-protected area where students can access a range of Teaching and Learning resources and homework tasks. It can be accessed on any device: PC; Mac; tablet (iPad and Android); and mobile phone (Windows, iOS and Android) via the address <http://firefly.cockermouthschool.org>.

A 'student planner' App is also available via the app store/play store, and students can access their personal timetable, homework tasks and messages using this.

PARENT PORTAL

Within Firefly, you can access the school's parent portal, where you will be able to see up-to-date information about your child(ren) and also be kept informed of relevant school information that we hope you will find useful. On the portal, you will be able to see:

- Your child's timetable
- Attendance
- Behaviour points awarded (rewards and sanctions)
- Homework and marks
- Progress Reports
- Important messages

Other school information is also available, including:

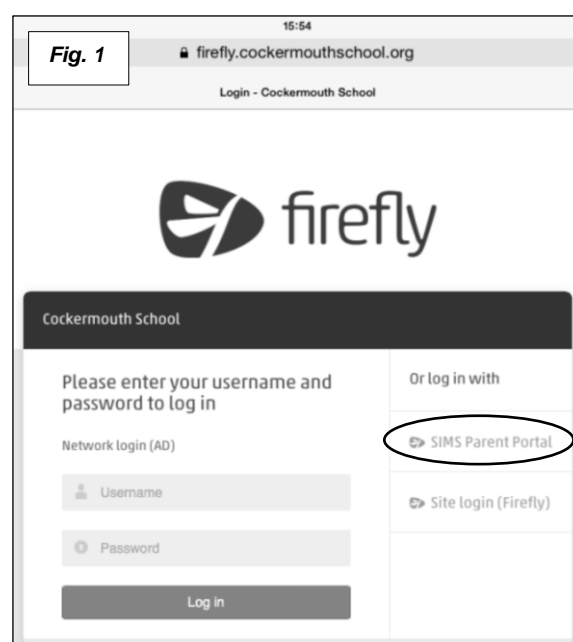
- School policies
- Term dates
- Letters home

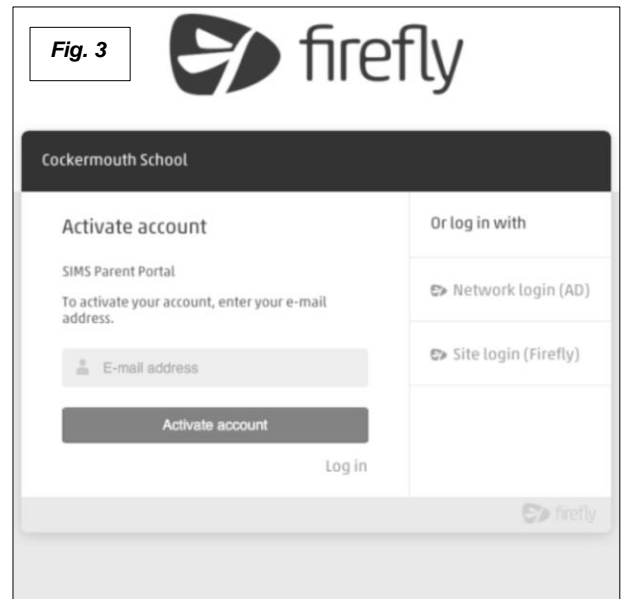
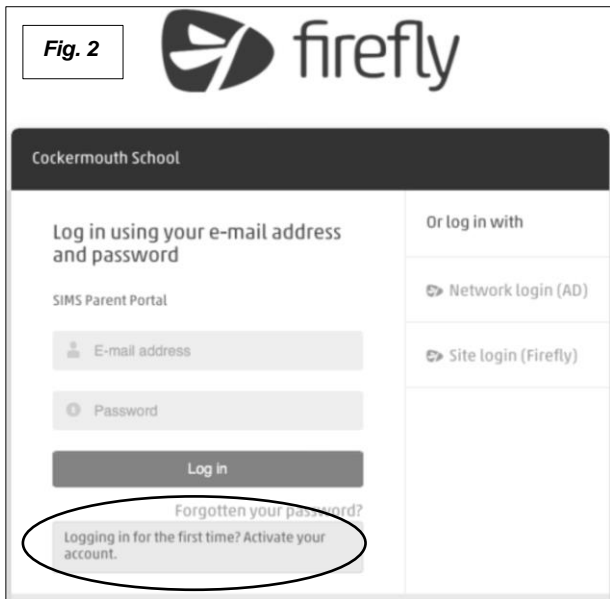
ACTIVATE YOUR ACCOUNT

You can only activate an account on the parent portal if you have a child on roll at Cockermouth School (in the case of new Year 7 students, this will be in September), and if you have provided us with an email address.

To activate your account:

1. Go to the parent portal address <http://firefly.cockermouthschool.org>
2. Click on the *SIMS Parent Portal* button (circled right in *Fig. 1*).
3. Click on the *Activate your account* link (*Fig. 2*).
4. On the next screen (*Fig. 3*), enter the email address you have provided to school via the Data Collection Sheet (see section 9) then click *Activate Account*.





5. The parent portal will then send you an email. Please check your junk filters if you do not receive the email.
6. Click the link that appears in your email.
7. The next screen (*Fig. 4*) will ask you to create and confirm a password of your choice (remember to choose a strong password using a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols). Click on *Activate Account* to complete the process.



You will now be logged onto the parent portal. The next time you log on with your parent account, simply use your email address and the new password you have just created. Keep returning to stay up-to-date with your child's progress and the school's latest information for parents.

For further information on Firefly and parent accounts, please email:

- fireflyhelp@cockermouthschool.org

8 | Attendance

Good, regular attendance is the cornerstone of high educational achievement, and parents are legally responsible for ensuring that their children attend and stay at school on a daily basis.

We aim to maintain a high standard of regular attendance throughout the school. Our policies concerning attendance are guided by the regulations laid down by the Government. We are required by law to:

- keep an accurate record of each student's attendance
- determine whether absence from school is properly AUTHORISED
- report each student's attendance record in terms of AUTHORISED and UNAUTHORISED absence.

If your child is going to be absent from school for whatever reason, you **must** let us know on the first day. Please follow the procedure set out below:

- telephone reception on 01900 898888 or our Student Welfare Manager, Mrs G Todhunter, on 01900 898877 and leave a message, giving your child's full name, form group and reason for absence (a telephone answering machine is in operation before 8am);
- send an explanatory note with your child on their return to school.

If you do not let us know that your child is ill, their absence will be recorded as unauthorised, and you will receive a call from Mrs Todhunter to check that your child is ill and not truanting. A record of attendance is kept for the whole of your child's school life and will be used by their Head of Year when references are requested by prospective employers, colleges and universities.

We will only authorise absences due to exceptional circumstances, such as:

- genuine illness
- medical or dental appointments, which cannot be made outside of school time (we will need to see the appointment card or letter)
- close family bereavements
- religious observance days.

We will not normally authorise absences where:

- there is no explanation forthcoming from parents
- there is doubt as to the validity of the explanation given
- holidays are taken
- the reason for absence is unacceptable, e.g. shopping visits, social events, concerts, looking after family etc.

HOLIDAYS

We would strongly discourage you from taking your child out of school at any time for family holidays. The DfE states that **'no parent can demand leave of absence for the purposes of a holiday as a right'**. **Headteachers are no longer allowed to grant leave of absence for the purpose of family holidays.** There is no longer a discretionary period of ten days for holidays.

STUDENT INCLUSION AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Cockermouth School works closely with the Local Authority (LA) to ensure that all young people of compulsory school age in Cumbria have access to, and are included in, education. We liaise regularly with the Local Authority Inclusion Officer in order to identify students who are vulnerable in terms of their attendance, and to support such students in improving their attendance.

The Local Authority, and its Inclusion Officer, also has a role in relation to school attendance and employment. Any action the service takes is always with the welfare of young people as its paramount

consideration. Ten per cent or more unauthorised absence during a six-week period may lead to a penalty notice and fine issued by the Inclusion Officer for Attendance.

Parents may be committing a criminal offence and may be issued with a penalty notice if a leave of absence is taken without permission from the headteacher.

For Attendance issues, please contact:

- General enquiries – Mrs G Todhunter, Student Welfare Manager, 01900 898877, email todhunterg@cockermouthschool.org
- Complex issues – Mr S Milledge, Assistant Headteacher, 01900 898888, email milledges@cockermouthschool.org
- LA Inclusion Officer for Attendance – Mrs J Topping on 07901 515615.

- **Department for Education website:**
www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance

9 | Student Data Collection

Please Note: this section also relates to the booklet entitled *Welcome to Cockermouth School: Data collection, parental consent & order forms*. This accompanying booklet should be completed at the Intake Evening and returned to your child's form tutor or, if this is not possible, completed at home and returned to school for the attention of the Data Office before Friday 14 July 2017.

DATA PROTECTION

The school is required to keep information about your child on its database and, under the Data Protection Act 1998, we have a duty to ensure that this information is correct and up-to-date. In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which replaces the Data Protection Act in May 2018, we have amended all of our consent forms to be opt-in rather than opt-out. For further information on the school's Data Protection Policy (and all other school policies), please go to www.ckermouthschool.org/about-us/policies.

All information provided by you is held on a secure, password-protected, computer system, and can only be accessed by school staff with the relevant permissions. The school is required to share some data with the Department for Education, which, in turn, may be shared with the Local Authority (see also the section on Privacy Notices on page 20).

STUDENT PERSONAL DETAILS

It is important that we have the correct student information and emergency contact details on our database so that you (or your delegated contact) can be contacted as quickly as possible should the need arise whilst your child is in school.

At the Year 7 Intake Evening you will also receive the booklet mentioned above, which includes the following documents:

- Student Data Collection Sheet
- Student Medical Information
- Parental Consent to Carry/Administer Medication
- Parental & Student Declaration & Permission Form (Biometric Catering, Internet Acceptable Use, Youth Support Services Agreement, Images consent)

The **Student Data Collection Sheet** will contain some of the basic information we have received from your child's primary school or from the Local Authority Admissions' department. Please check this information carefully and amend or add any missing details where necessary. All those with parental responsibility for the child should be listed as contacts (including parents, carers and social workers) regardless of home circumstances; we can only remove parental contacts if a court order has been issued that removes the parental rights of that contact. You can also add the details of any other persons who can be contacted during school hours in the event of an emergency, such as grandparents, other relatives, neighbours etc (a maximum of four contacts in total if possible). All contacts should be listed in the order in which you would like them to be contacted should an emergency occur.

The **Student Medical Information** form should be completed by you and includes doctor's surgery and telephone number, any medical conditions of which the school should be aware and details of any prescribed medication carried by your child in school (such as epipens, inhalers or oral medicines). If your child does intend to carry medication in school, you should also complete the Parental Consent to Carry/Administer Medication form. Depending on the nature of any medical conditions, you may be asked to complete a **Health Care Plan** for your child; the Head of Year will contact you in due course if this is the case.

CHANGES TO STUDENT DETAILS

Once your child has started at Cockermouth School, it is important that any changes to details are passed on to us as quickly as possible, especially changes of address and contact telephone numbers, as incorrect information may prevent us from being able to contact you in an emergency. There are several ways you can do this:

- Complete a contact form on Firefly (see page 10);
- Send in a letter with the amended details and your child's name and form group addressed to the Data Assistant, c/o Cockermouth School;
- Request a 'Change of Student Details' form from the school Admin Office or the Data Office.
- Send an email to dataoffice@cockermouthschool.org.

If any changes to details are as a result of a family split (especially address changes) it would be helpful for us to be aware of this.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:

As part of our commitment to the *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* ethos, we send all whole-school information home to parents via email where possible. This not only reduces paper usage (helping to protect the environment) but also significantly reduces printing costs. With this in mind, could you please enter an appropriate (i.e. parent or carer) email address in the space provided on the Student Data Collection Sheet that we can use as a primary email address. If you are unable to receive emails, please indicate on the sheet and we will continue to send paper copies of all relevant communications. We also ask that you supply a mobile telephone number in the relevant section so that text messaging can be used where appropriate (school closure, cancellation of fixtures/trips, attendance issues etc).

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS:

The school invites an official photographer to come into school once a year to take photographs of our students. This serves two purposes: we attach an electronic copy of the photo to the student's personal details on our school database; and photo packs are also available for parents to purchase. This year, the photographer will be in school to photograph our Year 7 students on the first day of term on Tuesday 5 September 2017. You will receive a letter giving instructions on how to order packs, together with the photo proofs, during the first week of the Autumn term.

Use of Photographic Images: We may also take photos or videos of students during the course of a lesson as a teaching and learning tool, or during an event, educational visit or sporting activity to use in school displays or for marketing purposes. In order to comply with the new GDPR mentioned above, Cockermouth School will operate an 'opt-in' system for the use of these photographic images (this includes both still photographs and videos). Please complete the relevant section on the consent form on page 10 of the above-mentioned forms booklet if you agree to your child's photograph or video image being used in any school publicity materials (for example, on the school website, on Firefly, in the Press). There is also a separate consent form for those students who have a medically diagnosed allergy to a food stuff on page 8 of the forms booklet. For more information, please see Food in School on page 25 of this document.

For all data collection issues and changes to details, please contact:

- Mrs A Moffat, Data Manager, 01900 898888
- Mrs L Neyliss, Data Assistant, 01900 898888
- Email dataoffice@cockermouthschool.org

BIOMETRIC CASHLESS CATERING AND LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Cockermouth School uses a voluntary biometric recognition system for administration functions for cashless catering and library management. We find this provides us with a number of very significant benefits including:

- Students do not have to remember a PIN or to bring a card;
- Reduction in administration time and cost dealing with lost or forgotten cards/passwords/PINs;
- Reduction in the need for cash handling;
- Reduction in queuing time.

In order to comply with the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, we need written permission from a parent/carer in order for students to use the biometric system. Please complete the relevant slip in the accompanying booklet. Alternatively, consent can be emailed to dataoffice@cockermouthschool.org.

We will continue to offer an opportunity to opt-out for those students who would prefer to use alternative forms of identification.

Background to the use of Biometrics in School: For the sake of clarity, biometric information is information about someone's physical or behavioural characteristics that can be used to identify them. There are many possible biometrics, including for example, a digital photograph, fingerprint, or hand shapes. As part of our identity management systems, we currently record a biometric measurement taken from a finger, *but not a fingerprint image*. The information is stored in a highly secure database and is only used by the school to confirm who is using a range of services. In future we may use other biometric services where appropriate. Our chosen solution allows us to use a secure database holding biometric data for use with a range of services. This means we store the least amount of data possible. This reduces the risk of loss of data.

The school will not use the biometric information for any purpose other than that stated above. The school will store the biometric information collected securely in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The school will not share this information with anyone else and will not unlawfully disclose it to any other person. The data that is held cannot be used by any other agency for any other purpose.

Current Legislation – The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012: This legislation requires schools to:

- Inform parents about the use of the biometric systems in the school and explain what applications use biometrics;
- Receive written permission from one parent if the school is to continue processing biometrics for their child;
- Allow children to choose an alternative way of being identified if they wish.

Children under 18 who do not have permission will not be able to use existing or new biometrics when using services in the school.

If you do not wish your child to use the biometric system or your child chooses to use an alternative form of identification, we will provide reasonable alternative arrangements that allows them to access current and future services in the form of a PIN (Personal Identification Number).

Should you agree to your child using the biometric system, it is important that you return the signed consent form (in the accompanying booklet) as soon as possible. Please note that when your child leaves the school, or if for some other reason they cease to use the biometric system, their biometric data will be permanently deleted.

If you would like more information, or the opportunity to discuss this further, please contact:

- Mrs S Bamforth, School Business Manager, 01900 898888
- Email bamforths@cockermouthschool.org.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP): INTERNET, MOBILE DEVICES, ICT FOR STUDENTS

(This section should be read by both the student and parents)

As part of the school's IT programme, Cockermouth School offers students supervised access to the Internet during lessons and at the teacher's discretion. Before being allowed to use the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission, and both students and their parents must sign and return a declaration and permission form as evidence of parents' approval and the students' acceptance of the school rules on this matter.

Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people. The school employs its own internet monitoring and filtering system, Smoothwall, which helps us to provide a safer browsing experience for all students.

Whilst our aim for Internet use is to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and carers of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the school supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

During school, staff will guide students towards appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

Cockermouth School strongly believes in the educational value of electronic services and recognises their potential to support its curriculum and student learning by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. Cockermouth School provides its students with the means of using personal smartphones, tablets or laptops at school to be used in selected classrooms under the direct supervision of their teacher. Cockermouth School reserves the right to revoke this privilege if users do not abide by the policies and procedures outlined below.

This policy is intended to protect the security and integrity of Cockermouth School's data and technology infrastructure. Limited exceptions to the policy may occur due to variations in devices and platforms.

The guidance below should be read by both student and parents/carers before completing the declaration and permission form, which can be found in the accompanying booklet, before any devices can be connected to the school network.

For the purpose of this policy, the term ICT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) will be used to reference the Acceptable Use Policy: Internet, Mobile Devices, ICT for students.

To whom does this policy apply? This policy applies to all students of Cockermouth School who may have access to a school-owned computer or network resources via a personal mobile device, regardless of whether or not they use it in their day-to-day school work routine.

Why is this document necessary? All organisations (including schools) where computers are in use are required to have a code of practice such as this. It is necessary to outline the principles underpinning appropriate computer use, make expectations clear and ensure users are fully aware of the consequences of not following the code of practice and computer misuse. This acceptable usage policy has been put together to provide guidance to all students (and parents or carers) on what is appropriate use of ICT within Cockermouth School.

How is this policy communicated and updated? The ICT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is published on the Cockermouth School website and a copy is given to each student when they join the school as part of the induction process. Each student and their parents are required to sign the ICT AUP Agreement form, which can be found in the accompanying booklet, and return this to the Data Office, signifying their acceptance of the policy, before they can be given an account with access to the network. In signing, they accept that they agree to all amendments, which will be published on the school's website, unless the Data Office is notified in writing by the individual.

When the ICT AUP is updated, a new version is provided to all students electronically and published on the website. Paper copies are also available from the Network Manager or the Data Office.

What are the consequences of improper conduct? Failure to abide by this AUP will be treated in the same way as any other misconduct issue.

General Computer Use:

- In general, use of ICT equipment (such as computers, printers and tablets), email and the Internet within the school should be primarily to enhance learning.
- Use for business purposes not related to school activities or personal gain is not permitted.

User Accounts:

- User accounts are the responsibility of the student.
- Passwords and lock codes must be kept secure.
- Passwords must not be written down or disclosed to anyone.
- Students must not allow anyone else to use their account, nor should they use anyone else's account.
- Students must log off their computer and lock their device when away from their machine. Accounts are not to be left logged in and unattended.

Hardware and Software:

- All students are responsible for the care and safe-keeping of any ICT equipment.
- Keep all liquids and food away from any ICT equipment and be aware of the health and safety hazards relating to electrical equipment.
- Students should report all computer faults to their class teacher as soon as they are identified.

Internet Usage:

- All use of the Internet within the school should be primarily to enhance learning.
- Use of the Internet within the school for the conducting of private business or personal gain is not permitted.
- Students are not permitted to use the Internet for any illegal activity; although not specifically against the law, this includes accessing sites meant for adults of 18 years or older such as pornographic and gambling websites.
- Students must not search for, or browse through, any sites that contain offensive, obscene, violent, dangerous or inflammatory material.
- The downloading of any *unlicensed* material such as music, video, TV programmes, games, PDF files is illegal and, therefore, not permitted.

Email:

- All students are provided with a **@cockermouthschool.org** email account. Its use must be limited to school-related work only, and not be used for personal correspondence or for signing up to non-school-related Internet services or accounts.
- This email is accessible from within Cockermouth School via the network using Outlook or Outlook Web Access and via the Internet using Outlook Web Access (OWA).
- Attachments on emails are limited to 30MB. If you wish to send anything over this size, please contact IT Support who can arrange to compress the file for you or find an alternative way of sending data.
- Students are responsible for the day-to-day management of their emails, being aware of the data storage limits and ensuring unwanted material is deleted on a regular basis.
- If email is being accessed using OWA from a personal or public use computer:
 - Do not store anything on the computer hard-drive.
 - Be careful who can see what you are doing if accessing in public place.
 - Make sure you log off completely.
- Email should be treated as inherently insecure.
- As with any form of correspondence, be aware of the language used.
- Do not open or forward any email or attachment from an unrecognised source or that you suspect may contain inappropriate material or viruses.
- Do not respond to emails that request personal details unless you are confident the source is genuine.

- Students must not send, forward, print or transmit in any form any offensive, obscene, violent, dangerous or inflammatory material via email.
- Students are not permitted to send or forward chain letter emails, jokes, spam etc.
- If you are concerned about any email that you may have received, contact IT Support, or tell any other member of staff.

Email and Internet Filtering and Monitoring:

- The school has in place a sophisticated filtering & monitoring system that:
 - Checks for viruses and traps suspicious emails.
 - Denies access to most undesirable and inappropriate sites on the Internet.
 - Maintains a list of banned sites, which is updated on a regular basis.
- Whilst this provides a measure of reassurance it must be understood that the filter does not trap or block everything.
- Please be aware that:
 - Student emails to and from the school can and will be monitored for inappropriate use.
 - Internet access within the school can and will be monitored for inappropriate use.
 - All Internet sites accessed by students are logged with date and time of access.
 - Misuse of the Internet and/or email will always result in an investigation and may lead to disciplinary action.
 - The accessing and use of inappropriate and indecent materials from the Internet or via e-mail will result in disciplinary action being taken.

Social Networking Sites:

- Access to social networking sites is not allowed.

Bullying/Cyber-bullying/Online Bullying:

- The school will not tolerate any form of bullying, including electronic or online bullying.
- The misuse of email systems or the Internet for harassing people, such as by sending unpleasant or aggressive messages ('cyber bullying'), is on the increase. The school reserves the right to monitor all Internet and email activity within the bounds of current legislation in order to keep the Internet safe for all at Cockermouth School, and to protect from online bullies. It is a condition of this policy that all users of our network accept that Internet activity is monitored as well as filtered.
- Any instances of bullying will be taken very seriously. As with any other form, cyber or online bullying (involving the use of personal computers, mobile phones etc) will be investigated fully and will result in disciplinary action.

Pornography & other inappropriate material:

- Students are not permitted to access or save any form of pornography or offensive, obscene, violent, dangerous or inflammatory material onto computers.
- Students must not store personal data on the school network. This includes, but is not limited to, photographs, videos, music and documents.
- IT Support reserve the right to perform spot checks on students' accounts and computers at any time.
- If any inappropriate material is found, the account will be disabled immediately and disciplinary action will begin.

Bring your Own Mobile Devices (BYOD):

- Students are not allowed to use mobile devices in social time other than sixth formers in the sixth form study room.
- Students will keep devices turned off and only used when a teacher gives permission.
- Students will only use the devices to complete tasks and to directly contribute to the learning in the current lesson.
- The school defines acceptable use as activities that directly or indirectly support the activities of Cockermouth School.
- The school defines acceptable personal use on school time as reasonable and limited personal communication or recreation, such as reading or use of social media.
- The school reserves the right to disconnect devices or disable services without notification.
- The student is personally liable for all costs associated with his/her own device.

- The student assumes full liability for risks including, but not limited to, the partial or complete loss of school and personal data due to an operating system crash, errors, bugs, viruses, malware and/or other software or hardware failures, or programming errors that render the device unusable.
- The school will not provide battery charging facilities nor will it allow students to bring in their own battery chargers. It is the students' responsibility to ensure the device is fully charged.

Internet/Email access using student-owned mobile devices:

- Internet access via personal mobile devices is subject to the same filtering and monitoring as the school-owned devices.
- Internet access is provided for personal devices via the wireless network only. No personal devices shall be connected to the wired network.
- Devices may not be used at any time to:
 - Store or transmit illicit materials.
 - Store or transmit proprietary information belonging to another school.
 - Harass others.
 - Engage in business activities not related to school activities.
- Students may use their mobile device to access the following school-provided resources: Firefly VLE, email, calendars, contacts, documents via Home Access+, etc. The school does not provide full network access for personal devices.
- No device, personal or otherwise, may be used to record, store or transmit any type of image, sound or video from Cockermouth School, except for approved projects with the express permission of a member of staff.
- Personal devices must be configured by the owner – IT Support Staff will NOT configure devices not belonging to the school. Instructions will be provided for a variety of devices.
- Connectivity issues will be supported by IT Support. Any other issues with non-school owned mobile devices are not the responsibility of IT Support.
- The student is expected to use his/her device in an ethical manner at all times.

Hacking:

- The Computer Misuse Act 1990 makes it illegal to:
 - Gain unauthorised access to a computer's software or data (hacking), including the illegal copying of programs.
 - Gain unauthorised access to a computer's data for blackmail purposes.
 - Gain unauthorised access to a computer's data with the intention of altering or deleting it, including planting viruses.
 - Copy programs illegally (software piracy).
- Any type of hacking (defined as attempt to gain access to folders, databases, or other material on the network to which one is not entitled) is considered to be an extremely serious offence.
- To comply with the Computer Misuse Act 1990 any user who indulges in hacking or is found with hacking software/paraphernalia on their computer or network account is liable to be subject to disciplinary action.
- Likewise, physical interference with another user's computer or school-owned computer will not be tolerated.

Appendix A: LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS

The Computer Misuse Act (1990) states that the following actions are illegal:

- Unauthorised access to computer material.
- Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences.
- Unauthorised modification of computer material.

PRIVACY NOTICE: DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

(This section should be read by both the student and parents)

Cockermouth School collects and holds personal information relating to our students and may also receive information about them from their previous school, local authority and/or the Department for Education (DfE). We use this personal data to:

- support our students' learning
- monitor and report on their progress
- provide appropriate pastoral care; and
- assess the quality of our services

This information will include their contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information, any exclusion information, where they go after they leave us and personal characteristics such as their ethnic group, any special educational needs they may have as well as relevant medical information. For students enrolling for post-14 qualifications, the Learning Records Service will give us the unique learner number (ULN) and may also give us details about their learning or qualifications.

Youth Support Services (Inspira): Once our students reach the age of 13, the law requires us to pass on certain information to providers of Youth Support Services in our area (Inspira), who have responsibilities in relation to the education or training of 13-19 year olds. We may also share certain personal data relating to children aged 16 and over with post-16 education and training providers in order to secure appropriate services for them. A parent/guardian can request that **only** their child's name, address and date of birth be passed to Inspira by completing the form on page 11 of the *Welcome to Cockermouth School: Data collection, parental consent and order forms* booklet and returning to the school Data Office. This right is transferred to the child once he/she reaches the age of 16. For more information about services for young people, please go to:

- <http://www.inspira.org.uk> or
- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/aboutus/Pages/default.aspx>

We will not give information about our students to anyone without your consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so. If you wish to receive a copy of the information about your son/daughter that we hold, please contact the school Data Manager, Mrs A Moffat, on moffata@cockermouthschool.org, who will advise you of the correct procedure (see the Subject Access Rights' section in our Data Protection Policy at <http://www.cockermouthschool.org/about-us/policies>).

We are required, by law, to pass some information about our students to the DfE. This information will, in turn, then be made available for use by the local authority.

The DfE may also share student-level personal data that we supply to them, with third parties. This will only take place where legislation allows it to do so and it is in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Decisions on whether the DfE releases this personal data to third parties are subject to a robust approval process and are based on a detailed assessment of who is requesting the data, the purpose for which it is required, the level and sensitivity of data requested and the arrangements in place to store and handle the data.

To be granted access to student-level data, requestors must comply with strict terms and conditions covering the confidentiality and handling of data, security arrangements and retention and use of the data. For more information on how this sharing process works, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-student-database-apply-for-a-data-extract>.

For information on which third party organisations (and for which project) student-level data has been provided to, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-student-database-requests-received>.

If you need more information about how our local authority and/or the DfE collect and use your information, please visit:

- <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/schools/privacynotice.asp>; or
- the DfE website at <https://www.gov.uk/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data>

PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

The Pupil Premium is funding that the Department for Education provides to schools to allow them to invest in specific support measures to address any issues that may prevent students from achieving their full potential. Additional funding is provided for students in the following categories:

- Students in Years 7-11 recorded as Ever 6 FSM – that is those students who are entitled to (or have been entitled in the last six years to) free school meals;
- Looked-after children (LAC) – that is students who are in the care of an English local authority;
- Students who have ceased to be looked-after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements' order or a residence order;
- Students in Years 7-11 recorded as having a parent in the Armed Forces (or have been in the last six years since 2011) or are in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence.

In order to ensure that our records are correct, and that we are claiming this funding for all eligible students, please advise us if your child fits into any of the above categories (contact details below), particularly if they have been adopted from care, as this information is not passed onto us by their previous school.

We appreciate that this is extremely sensitive information, and care is taken to ensure that any information you provide is confidential and can only be accessed by those members of staff with the relevant permissions.

Children no Longer in Care (adopted, SGO etc)

If your child ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England or Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order (SGO), a child arrangements order or a residence order, please let us know by contacting the Data Manager directly (details below). Supporting evidence will need to be provided, such as a photocopy of the adoption order or SGO, for us to be able to claim the additional funding.

To notify us that your child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding, please:

- Email moffata@cockermouthschool.org, or
- Send a letter to
Mrs A Moffat
Data Manager
Data Office
Cockermouth School
Castlegate Drive
Cockermouth
CA13 9HF

10 | Uniform & Equipment

GENERAL

For students in years 7 to 11, uniform consists of the following items, each of which should be clearly marked with the owner's name:

- Plain long or short-sleeved, mid-blue cotton blouse or shirt. This should be worn tucked in at all times with the top button fastened.
- The school tie, which is navy blue with red diagonal stripes.
- Plain navy-blue knitted jumper with the school logo.
- Plain, dark-grey or black, plain-weave, loose-fitting trousers made of terylene or wool mixture with no prominent zips or studs (no tight-fitting, lycra-type stretch fabric, cords or denim).
- Black skirt in a plain style (this does not include 'skater' style skirts) of a length no more than 5cm (2") above or below the knee, made of terylene or wool mixture. Short skirts in tight-fitting, lycra-type stretch fabric, cord or denim must *not* be worn.
- Belts and socks should be black only.
- Sensible black leather shoes only, unless there is medical evidence provided that the student cannot wear this type of shoe; they should have no visible logo or coloured edging. Canvas and suede shoes, ballet pump-style shoes and shoes with high heels are not appropriate. Secondary schooling involves much walking, stair climbing and time spent in laboratories and workshops. Students require well-made, strong, comfortable shoes in a plain style. Boots and high tops are not part of school uniform, and trousers should never be tucked inside boots in school.
- Trainers should be brought for PE lessons only.
- An anorak or coat in colder weather to maintain the overall smart and co-ordinated appearance of students on journeys to and from school, and on school outings. Outdoor coats, hoodies or jackets must not be worn inside the building at any time. All coats should be kept either in lockers or in bags.

No jewellery should be worn, except for a watch and one pair of ear studs if desired. No facial piercings of any kind (e.g. eyebrow, nose, mouth or tongue) are allowed.

Hair should be kept to a simple style with no artificial colours. No tramlines or similar designs to be cut into hair. Parents are advised to consult school before students choose to have fashion styles. Hair accessories should be dark in colour (black or blue) and simple in design. No artificial flowers should be worn.

Make-up and nail varnish are not permitted.

PE KIT

- Plain white polo shirt with school logo
- Red and navy rugby shirt
- Navy shorts with school logo
- Plain navy skort (cross between a skirt and shorts) or plain, non-branded, navy sports leggings (available from Riff Raff).
- White sports socks
- Navy and red hooped socks
- Football boots (girls - only if they wish to join girls' football teams)
- Training shoes (non-marking soles)*

**Students are expected to have clean-soled training shoes for indoor work.*

Optional items of navy jogging bottoms and navy hoody with school logo may be worn for outdoor PE in winter. Red, white or navy base layers are also an optional item – no other colours are acceptable.

Following advice from Cumbria County Council's Health and Safety department, we recommend that students at Cockermouth School do not use bladed boots for football and/or rugby for their own safety. Students will not be stopped from using bladed boots for lessons or inter-school fixtures, but parents need to be aware that they will be going against health and safety recommendations if they purchase these for their children.

We recommend that shin pads and gum-shields are used. Students who choose not to wear these will be going against health and safety recommendations.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Bib-fronted apron for practical subjects
- Calculator (which can be purchased through the Maths Department – see page 6)
- Large, waterproof school bag
- Pencil case items (see pages 5 & 6).

N.B. Correcting fluid, which bears the words 'keep out of the reach of children', is discouraged.

Items of uniform, including PE kit, with the school logo are a specific design and the supplier for these items is Riff Raff, 15 Main Street, Cockermouth. Contact can be made via mobile: 07715 416032 or email: livy@riffraffapparel.co.uk.

Second-hand items of uniform are available from the Cerebral Palsy charity shop on Station Street, Cockermouth.

Parents need to be aware that students are responsible for their own possessions brought into school. We do not have insurance policies that cover the cost of replacing lost or stolen items. We recommend that valuable items such as mobile phones are not brought into school, and that all uniform and sports kit is labelled with the child's name and Form. Lockers are available, and students should lock their equipment away when not in use.

Maintaining high expectations in respect of the wearing of school uniform is an important aspect of preserving Cockermouth School standards. It is the responsibility of the whole school community to ensure a high level of consistency.

The school requires parents to show planning, foresight and support when choosing clothing and shoes for their children. The above uniform policy is clear and unequivocal. When children come to school with uniform that goes against school policy, it disrupts teaching and learning. The school sees uniform as an explicit way of preparing young people for the world of work and the expectations of the wider world.

For any queries regarding uniform, please contact:

- Mr I Routledge, Assistant Headteacher, 01900 898888, email routledgei@cockermouthschool.org

ELECTRICAL ITEMS/MOBILE DEVICES

iPods and mobile phones must not be used in school and will be confiscated if students are found using them unless they are being used with the authorisation of the class teacher as part of a lesson, and in accordance with the *Acceptable Use Policy: Internet, Mobile Devices, ICT for Students* outlined on page 17.

11 | Food in School

Cockermouth School has a 'Healthy School' ethos and we strongly believe in encouraging all young people to eat a balanced diet. Through our Food & Nutrition and PSHEE (PD) lessons, students are taught about the benefits to health of eating a wider range of foods containing less sugar and fat, and more proteins and starchy foods to provide energy and stamina. The school works closely with our catering company, Caterlink, to meet the standards set by the Department for Education.

Lunch and break-time food and drinks fully comply with the aims to remove sugary and fizzy drinks, and foods high in fat and sugar. Therefore, confectionery products, including chocolate, are no longer sold in school. A wide choice of meals is available for students from sandwiches and salads to pastas, curries, traditional roast of the day and vegetarian options. We provide a breakfast service from 8:00 to 8:30am for students leaving home early or those who prefer to eat a little later in the morning.

At break time, only students in Years 9 to 13 have access to the canteen service and students in Years 7 and 8 are advised to bring a snack of fruit or a sandwich to help them through the morning up to lunch at 12:50pm, although this arrangement is currently under review.

Students in each year group go into lunch on a weekly rota throughout the school year. If students wish to bring their own packed lunch, we ask parents to support our balanced eating policy by encouraging your child(ren) to eat more fruit and to omit crisps, chocolate products and fizzy drinks. Water dispensers are installed around the school building for students to fill water bottles (free of charge) throughout the day. Bottled water is also available for sale in the canteen. We encourage all students to drink water (only) in lessons when appropriate; it would be appreciated if students have a reusable, clear water bottle in their bag. Cockermouth School operates a cashless catering system, and further information regarding payments into the revaluation units will be given to students and parents at the induction days/evening.

FOOD ALLERGIES

In order for our catering staff to provide the best possible service for our students, we are now required to collect information on food allergies. If your child does have a medically diagnosed allergy to any foodstuff, please complete the relevant section on the Data Collection Sheet and/or Medical Information Sheet in the accompanying booklet and our catering manager will contact you in due course. Consent is also required so that catering staff can display a Food Allergy Record and photo on the kitchen servery wall if applicable. Please see page 8 of the *Welcome to Cockermouth School: Data collection, parental consent and order forms* booklet.

LUNCHTIME

Students who choose to have either a school lunch or a packed lunch can expect to go into lunch by form, going on a rota basis any time between 12:50 and 1:20pm. Students having a school lunch should have money on their account in order to pay for the food and/or drink they have selected. This money can be loaded onto their account either by using the revaluation units in school or online. Most students will spend approximately £2.70 each day.

If your child currently receives free school meals, then you will receive a letter explaining how this can continue into secondary school. If you feel your child is entitled to free school meals, you should contact:

- Free School Meals Service, Cumbria Advice and Support Team, Local Welfare Assistance, Kraemer Building, The Courts, Carlisle CA3 8NA
- Telephone 01228 226105/221548
- www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp

Any questions or feedback about our school meals' provision should be directed to:

- Mrs S Bamforth, School Business Manager, 01900 898888, bamforths@cockermouthschool.org

12 | Transport

BUSES:

Many children travel to and from school on school buses. Your child, if entitled, will receive a bus pass which is an important item that must be carefully looked after.

Bus passes must be carried at all times, and must be shown to the driver, if required. There will be occasional spot checks. If a student forgets or loses a pass, he or she cannot be guaranteed a place on the bus. A high standard of behaviour is expected at all times when travelling to and from school, and we ask that you support us in reinforcing that message to your son or daughter. Students travelling on buses must wear seatbelts at all times.

If you have any immediate concerns regarding school transport, please contact the Admin Office at school.

Or, to apply for free transport (if entitled):

- Telephone Cumbria County Council School Transport Team on 0333 240 6965
- Email school.transport@cumbria.gov.uk
- Visit www.cumbria.gov.uk/schooltransport , where you can download application forms.

The provision of school transport is the responsibility of the Local Education Authority, and your concerns will be dealt with directly if you contact them. **Please note that the deadline for applying for School Transport is 30 June 2017.**

ROAD SAFETY:

Our students travel to school along busy roads, many by bus, some by car or bicycle, and a large number on foot. We place a great emphasis on road safety and rely on parents' co-operation for sensible parking and safe road use, particularly at the end of the school day when all buses arrive and leave within a very short time. We urge parents who collect students by car to park well away from the front of the school premises. Parents should not use the school grounds for turning purposes as this adds to the volume of traffic at the school entrance and increases the risk of accidents. Year 7 students may cycle to school, but if you choose to allow your child to use this method of transport to school, then we would ask that you check the following:

- i. the bicycle is legally roadworthy
- ii. your child is equipped with an approved safety helmet
- iii. your child has undergone some form of cycling proficiency training
- iv. the bicycle is not ridden within the boundaries of the school grounds
- v. the bicycle is securely fastened to the bicycle rack on the school grounds.

N.B. As with other personal belongings, the school cannot be held responsible for theft or damage to the bicycle whilst on school property.

13 | Cockermouth School & Community Association

The Cockermouth School & Community Association (CSCA) welcomes you to Cockermouth School, and also invites you to get involved with a most enjoyable variety of activities that seek to benefit the students and to engage with our school and local community. If you have enjoyed taking part in the life of your child's primary school you will be able to carry on here at Cockermouth.

Each year, with the help of parents, staff and students, the CSCA seeks to raise money towards projects, equipment and grants for the school. The funds are raised from our 100-club and the sale of refreshments at school events, bag-packing at Sainsbury's and our annual spring raffle. We have been able to purchase items that are not funded from mainstream school budgets, in addition to providing grants for other activities. These have included visualisers, tablets, CPR manikin, a garden shed and tools, software licenses, mini whiteboards, digital recorders, weighing scales and hand mixers. At the moment, however, we have a larger task in hand by seeking to raise enough money for a school minibus.

And with this in mind, we are also embarking on another project to raise money for a much-needed minibus for a children's project in Zambia. Does this sound like something you could get involved with?

The CSCA was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in 1988. All parents are automatically members of the CSCA and the organisation welcomes your support. Membership of the association also includes students, staff and governors.

You can get involved in a variety of ways. You can be part of the committee which meets five times a year, or be part of our larger team of helpers for supporting school events such as parents' evenings and school performances, or you could join the 100 Club for only £1 a month (£12 per year) with a chance to win a prize each month. To join the 100 Club simply complete the form in the accompanying booklet or email reception@cockermouthschool.org.

The CSCA is also very much a community association and, as such, has close ties to our surrounding area. We very much appreciate the support from the local business community, so if you feel that we can work together in a way that is mutually beneficial, we would welcome your suggestions.

The date of our first meeting in the new school year is **Monday 18 September 2017 at 7pm** and I very much look forward to seeing you there.

Do contact me for any further information via reception@cockermouthschool.org.

Lynn Graham
Chair CSCA



Head of Year 7:

Miss A Fox BA

Assistant Headteacher – Key Stage 3:

Mr I Routledge BSc

Headteacher:

Dr R P Petrie BSc PhD

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