



Issue 7: Autumn 2024

# Cockermouth School Newsletter



Search

## Welcome to Cockermouth School

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sixth Form Open Evening

Curious Minds

Carol Service

Exam Results

Daffodil Project

School Production

New School Build

Balloon Project

Important Dates



### Our New Website is Live!

We're excited to announce the launch of our brand-new school website, designed to make communication, information and engagement easier than ever!

The updated site features a modern look, intuitive navigation and enhanced functionality, ensuring quick and easy access to everything you need. From term dates and upcoming events, to school policies and important announcements, the new website is your go-to hub for all things related to school life.

#### What's New?

- Mobile-Friendly Design: Access information on the go with ease.
- News Updates: Keep up with the latest achievements and initiatives.
- Social Media: View our latest posts on the homepage.
- Event Calendar: Stay informed about upcoming school activities.
- Parent Information: A dedicated space for parents to view key documents and resources.
- Absence Reporting: Inform our Attendance Officer of any absence.

We will be continuing to develop our website throughout 2025 and we would welcome your input. Please email suggestions to [marketing@cockermouthschool.org](mailto:marketing@cockermouthschool.org)





# Our Sixth Form Open Evening

A warm welcome is extended to all potential students and their families to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening from **18:00 – 21:00 on Thursday 30 January**. You will have the opportunity to meet our inspirational staff and discover the exceptional educational opportunities available to our Sixth Form students.

Please visit [Cockermouthschool.org](http://Cockermouthschool.org) for more information and to book your place\*.



*\*Bookings open in the new year.*



## Curious Minds Young Leaders

Last term, our students had an amazing opportunity to work with Curious Minds through their fantastic Young Leaders Programme for Peer Tutoring. The programme was a huge success, with students recognising incredible growth in their resilience, communication, and confidence. They were excited to celebrate their achievements with a well-deserved trip.

It was fantastic to see the bonds formed between our now Year 10 students and their Year 13 personal tutors, showcasing the power of peer support.

Well done to everyone involved - we're thrilled to announce that recruitment for this year's cohort has now begun. Let's continue building these vital skills together!

## A harmonious start to the festive season

With the festive season underway, we were delighted to start our final week of term with the much-anticipated annual Carol Service at Christ Church. The event is a beautiful community celebration, filled with Christmas spirit, bringing together students, staff and families. Our talented choirs, instrumental ensembles and orchestra performed a wonderful selection of carols and seasonal pieces, filling the church with the harmonious sounds of the holiday season. From traditional classics to more contemporary arrangements, the performances showcased the incredible dedication and talent of our students and staff.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the service, this cherished tradition is always a highlight of the year and a perfect way to embrace the festive cheer!

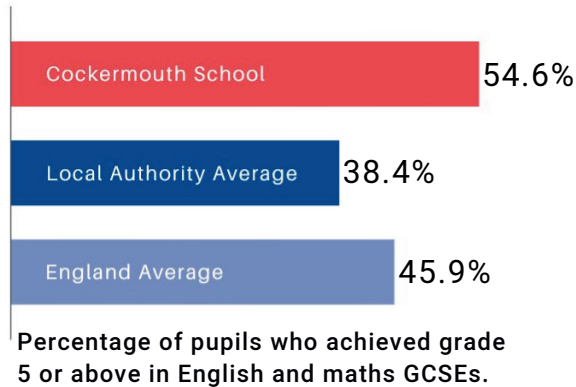


# Outstanding GCSE Success: Cockermouth School among the top performers in Cumberland

We are delighted to announce that this year's summer GCSE results confirm our position as one of the highest-performing schools in Cumberland. With a Progress 8 score of +0.23, we continue to be significantly above the national average. Progress 8 measures the academic growth students achieve from the end of key stage 2 (SATs) to the end of key stage 4 (GCSEs), based on eight qualifications.

What makes us especially proud is the exceptional progress made by all student groups. As an inclusive and comprehensive school, we are committed to providing an exceptional learning experience for every member of our school community and these results reflect that dedication.

Progress 8 Results	
2019	Above Average
2020-21	No Data due to Covid
2022	Above Average
2023	Above Average
2024	Above Average

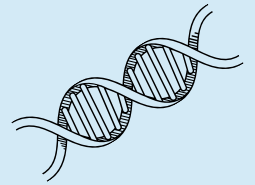


We are also proud to highlight that 54.6% of our students achieved a grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs—an impressive 9% above the national average and 16% above the local authority average.

These achievements would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication and resilience of our students, supported by the outstanding commitment of our staff. We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination shown by everyone in our school community.

## Daffodil DNA project

Students from A-Level Biology and Year 11 GCSE Biology are involved in an exciting Daffodil DNA Project, a ground-breaking initiative led by biology teacher Mrs Faria and supported by our amazing Biology Technician Mrs Meadley and Head Technician Ms Cusack. The collaborative project also was supported by Dr Kelly, our STEM partner from Sellafield Ltd. Funded by a Royal Society Partnership Grant and conducted in partnership with the University of Dundee and world-leading James Hutton Institute, the project gives students the opportunity to sequence DNA in the classroom and engage with cutting edge technology to discover DNA code that give rise to different daffodil flower colours, shapes and sizes. Please visit our website for more information on this project.



## Get Ready for "Grease"!

We're thrilled to announce that our school production of Grease will hit the stage from 5 to 7 February. Rehearsals are in full swing, with our talented cast and crew working hard to bring this iconic musical to life.

From catchy tunes to dazzling choreography, this is a show you won't want to miss. Tickets will be available to purchase on sQuid in the new year, so mark your calendars and secure your spot for an unforgettable evening of entertainment - let's make Grease the word this February.



# Exciting New School Build Moves Forward



The vision for our new school has taken significant steps forward, following the completion of an in-depth feasibility study that included over 16 comprehensive surveys. After appraising three potential sites, a proposed “control” option has emerged as the preferred choice, showcasing several key advantages:

- Upgraded Hockey Facilities
- Dedicated Transport Areas
- Enhanced Sports Amenities
- Modern Building Layout
- Secure and Accessible Boundary

## Innovative Interior Features

The proposed school plan includes thoughtful designs for key internal spaces, enhancing educational and community functions:

- Multi-functional Hall
- Flexible Activity Space
- Streamlined Science Facilities
- Improved Staff Areas
- Enhanced Learning Environments

As we continue to refine the design, updates with interior and exterior visuals will be provided to the school community via our website. The anticipation of these new facilities marks an exciting phase of growth, promising to enrich student life and enhance their learning experience for years to come.

## Balloon Project

The goal of the project was to launch a high-altitude balloon into space to capture images of the Earth’s curvature using on-board cameras. The Year 12 team spent months meticulously planning the mission and invested over £500 in equipment to ensure the balloon’s successful ascent. On Tuesday 10 December, their efforts paid off with a successful launch, aided by favourable weather conditions and witnessed by an enthusiastic crowd of Year 7 spectators.

Eve Millington, a member of the team, shared her excitement about seeing their hard work come to fruition. She explained that the balloon project is open to all Year 12 students, with roles available for everyone, even those without a strong interest in science. Eve’s primary responsibility was managing the marketing aspect, which included regular updates on the project’s Instagram page.

Despite the successful launch, the balloon ultimately landed in the Irish Sea. Thanks to its on-board tracking device, the team was able to monitor its movements, and it was later recovered by a member of the public.

While the project didn’t go entirely as planned, the students found the experience rewarding. They not only enjoyed the process but also developed valuable teamwork skills along the way.

For more information, you can follow them on Instagram: [www.instagram.com/cockermouth.cassiopeia.launch/](https://www.instagram.com/cockermouth.cassiopeia.launch/)



## Important Dates & Events

Mon 13 - Fri 24 Jan: Year 13 Mock Exams

Wed 15 Jan: Year 11 Parents’ Evening

Thurs 23 Jan: Year 11 Information Evening

Thurs 30 Jan: Sixth Form Open Evening

Tues 4 Feb: Year 12 Parents’ Evening

Wed 5 - Fri 7 Feb: School Production - Grease

Wed 5 Feb: School Production - Grease Matinee

Mon 10 Feb - Fri 28 Feb: Year 10 Mock Exams

Wed 5 March: Year 8 Parents’ Evening

Thurs 18 March: Year 5 Arts Event

Mon 24 March - Wed 2 April: Year 12 Mock Exams

Wed 26 March: Year 7 Parents’ Evening