

We know that some students, parents and carers were unable to attend the school Open Evening, or were unable to attend the talks presented by the Headteacher and students. **This document provides a transcript of the speeches that were delivered by the Headteacher and Students at Open Evening.** Films of the speeches are provided on the school website.

[John Doyle, Acting Headteacher]

Good evening, I would like to welcome prospective parents and students to Carr Hill High School. The purpose of this evening is to give you all the opportunity to see what Carr Hill High School can offer you. Tonight you will have the chance to meet students and staff, visit classrooms and take part in interactive lessons. You will be able to ask questions regarding our curriculum, find out more about the vast array of extra-curricular opportunities on offer and learn what life is like as a student at Carr Hill High School.

I am speaking to you today as the Acting Head. I have been temporarily appointed to support the school for the duration of this term until Mr Waller takes up his permanent Headship in January. It is an unusual opportunity for any Head to see and work at another school, bringing my own experience to bear but also learning from the many things that Carr Hill High School so obviously does well.

My first impressions of the school are very positive indeed. It has a wonderful student body and very dedicated staff, a highly committed leadership team and Governors who are keen to help and be involved in school life. I am in regular contact with Mr Waller, who is also here this evening, and I know how excited he is to be taking the school over from me in January.

I understand that this is a very important evening as it will help you to decide which secondary school your child will attend. It is undoubtedly a crucial decision and one that will impact your child's future in the immediate and long term. Whilst this school can offer high standards and impressive exam results we also understand that the happiness and care of your children will, rightly, play a huge part in your choice of secondary school. We hope that this evening we can demonstrate that this is a school with a solid Ofsted rating, impressive exam results and a dedicated teaching and support staff. Alongside this we hope to show you a school that your child will look forward to coming to every morning; somewhere they can feel safe and valued as an individual.

As you make your way around the school this evening you will notice a lot of our current students are on hand to answer questions, take you around the school and demonstrate activities which take place in lessons. The purpose of this is to show you what life is like at Carr Hill High School through the eyes of our students. We will also hear from five student speakers during this assembly, all of whom have volunteered to speak to you this evening about their experiences at Carr Hill High School.

The first speaker I would like to introduce is Jess [surname removed]. Jess is in year 7 and is here to talk to you about her first few weeks at Carr Hill High School.

[Jess, Year 7 Student]

Hi, I'm Jess [surname removed] and I'm here to talk to you about my first few weeks at Carr Hill High School.

When I first started thinking about coming to Carr Hill I was slightly nervous. What if the teachers weren't nice? What if I got lost? But as I came on more visits and experience days my confidence grew until there was no nerves at all.

I was still a bit nervous on my first day but I soon realised there was no need to be. My first day was fantastic. I got to know my new teachers really quickly and discovered that they're not mean or shouty; in fact all the teachers were very kind, encouraging and welcoming, especially Mr Doyle, introducing themselves and making lessons fun but informative. In every single lesson there is someone I already know and I got to know everyone else in the class really easily as well.

I didn't get lost on my first day and when I did a few days later some helpful sixth form students showed me where to go. If you get lost or misread your planner someone will always point you in the right direction.

One of the most helpful things in learning about Carr Hill was mentor time on the first day.

My Mentor was very helpful; introducing the rules, systems and planners. She told us about our Proud to belong cards and Conduct cards and helped us with any questions we still had. She introduced us to the rest of our mentor group, our Care Leader and College Leader, who have both been a massive help in the first few weeks of high school.

Throughout my first week people from my classes, mentor group and the rest of the school have introduced themselves and helped me out. I have made new friends easily but haven't been separated from old ones; there is always someone to talk to and at lunch there is always somewhere to sit, whether that is in the hall, or at the benches or in the cafeteria.

There are so many clubs and opportunities given to all of us that it's hard to choose which to take part in. Everyone does everything to the best of their ability. I'm proud of this school even though I have only been here a short time I have thoroughly enjoy it all. I don't want to go anywhere else, I am proud to belong and do everything in pursuit of excellence.

[John Doyle, Acting Headteacher]

Thank you Jess.

You will notice as you make your way around school, read the items in the prospectus pack and browse the website that the school ethos is built on two principles. The first of which is "In pursuit of excellence"

Carr Hill High School believes in an excellent education for every child. Whatever their abilities and talents the staff at Carr Hill High School are dedicated to providing each student with the best educational opportunities.

The school also aims for, and achieves, high academic standards. This summer the A Level pass rate was at 99 percent and 95 percent of our GCSE students achieved 5 or more A*-Cs. These statics are a result of student and staff dedication to achieve to the best of their ability.

The school also has high expectations when it comes to pupil's behaviour and approach to their learning. These expectations are exercised across the whole school and something we hope will stand out to you this evening whilst meeting and speaking to our students. Coming to school looking presentable and smart is essential at Carr Hill High School. We want our students to be proud to represent Carr Hill High School in a positive way not only when in school but also in the local community.

Our teachers are continually working to improve in order to offer the best learning opportunities for our students. Teachers regularly undertake new training and receive a great deal of support from the school, all of which helps them deliver engaging lessons and many of these lessons will be showcased as you make your way around the classrooms this evening.

We also believe that part of providing an excellent learning environment is excellent facilities so the school is constantly investing in improving the facilities for our students. Most recently, during the summer break, the Art Department was completely renovated. In addition to this the ICT facilities were upgraded and the main communal areas underwent a full refurbishment.

Most importantly of all staff at Carr Hill High School share a belief that excellence takes many forms. Our curriculum caters for every learner and our extensive opportunities outside the classroom give every child the chance to excel.

Now I would like to introduce James [surname removed]. James is a year 8 student and is here to talk to you about the support and encouragement offered by staff at Carr Hill High School.

[James, Year 8 Student]

Hi, I'm James [surname removed] and I'm here to talk to you about my time so far at Carr Hill High School.

I remember stepping out of my house with mix of nerves and excitement pulsating through my body, knowing I was about to embark on a new adventure in my life. I had already had a taste of what life was like at Carr Hill when I was in Year 6. As the school gave me and so many other pupils the chance to experience Carr Hill as a student for the day. This was a terrific opportunity and I highly recommend you take it, as it helped me settle in at a rapid pace.

A few weeks after I started the school held year 7 football trials for the school team. I went along and took part. Unfortunately I gained an injury which kept me out of sport for a full year. Football is a huge part of my life so I was very

upset, but with the support of Mrs Shepherd, my Care Leader, Mrs Beesley, my College Leader, and all the PE staff I was able to overcome my injury and I have now made a full recovery.

No matter how nervous or scared you are at the start of the year the Teachers always make you feel welcome especially the Mentors. They are available every day for you to discuss any issues you may have about school and are always there for you with a warm welcome.

The staff have a great relationship with the students, and can help you realise your potential and what is needed to succeed in what you want to do.

Carr Hill operates a college system and this gives me a sense of belonging; to the college, to the school and the community. It also encourages healthy competition between these colleges, this can be through participation in a range of activities or merits achieved through academic work. Students are positively encouraged to work hard to gain merits and therefore earn recognition and rewards for themselves and their college.

There are lots of events after school too. In July, the Sportsman's Dinner was held to recognise sporting achievements. This event encourages students to get involved in sport as there is the opportunity to win a trophy at the end of the year for talent, commitment or attitude.

Carr Hill is an extensive school which offers the opportunity to succeed and suits the needs of everyone. The school creates a 'special buzz' which has sparked my nerves into confidence and this has made me to be 'Proud to Belong'. I'm sure if you choose to come to this school it will have the same effect on you.

[John Doyle, Acting Headteacher]

Thank you James.

The second school principle of our school is "Proud to Belong". This principle is centred on instilling a sense of pride and community amongst our students.

At the heart of this principle is our college system. Upon joining Carr Hill High School a student is allocated to one of six colleges. Every college has around 200 students and its own College Leader and Care Leader. The College Leader and Care Leader really take the time to get to know every student well during their time at Carr Hill High School.

Within each college there are mentor groups. Mentor groups are mixed in age and meet during the final period of the school day. Every student will have their own mentor, a member of teaching staff, who will become an academic mentor offering regular one on one sessions.

Our students are identifiable to a college based on the colour of their tie. Take a look at our students this evening and you will notice the ties come in six different striped colours, one for each college.

The college and mentor group structure gives students a sense of belonging to, and pride in, their college. The colleges enter into friendly competition with each other when it comes to events such as Sports Day and the race to achieve the most merits. If you ask the students tonight you will find that they are incredibly proud to be a part of their college.

If your child is joining us as a year 7 student but already has a sibling or siblings at Carr Hill High School they will automatically be allocated to the same college as their sibling/s. We find that this helps new students integrate into school life here with more ease.

The college system is not the only area of the school our students feel a sense of belonging. As there are also opportunities to join one of the school's four sporting academies. The academies represent the school on a local, regional and international level and the members of the academies take great pride in doing so.

The school also offers students a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities and they aren't all based within the school grounds or even the UK. This summer alone students travelled to South Africa and Tanzania. The students were responsible for raising the funds themselves which the school believes teaches them a lot about values. The trip itself gives the students a powerful insight into our global community. Overall it is a hugely educational experience.

I would now like to introduce our third speaker Jess [surname removed]. Jess is here to talk to you about the opportunities on offer at Carr Hill High School.

[Jess, Year 10 Student]

Hi, I'm Jessica Curtis and I'm here to talk to you about the amazing opportunities available at Carr Hill.

We are a very proactive school offering a vast amount of opportunities and support. At Carr Hill you will get a lot of praise and encouragement to 'be the best you can'. For example- academic monitoring, this is where we are taken by our Mentors for a one to one talk about how we can improve our academic grades. Our Mentors provide us with hints, tips and suggestions of subject drop in sessions to help us improve our grades.

I find it a huge confidence boost when I receive recognition from a Teacher, Care Leader, Mentor or College Leader because receiving merits and words of positive praise means they have noticed my hard work.

Carr Hill also offers a varied and diverse range of clubs. I have had the opportunity to join the Elite Dance Company. This led to me being involved in the spectacular Gym and Dance Display which took place in front of parents, family and students, showing the outstanding talents of the school's dancers and gymnasts. I was also very proud to be awarded Minerva Student of the Year in July.

There are many school roles such as Bus Monitor, Art Ambassador and Sports Ambassador available. There really is something for everyone.

I will continue with my education at Carr Hill Sixth Form Centre due to the amazing opportunities and diverse range of courses, such as Dance, Photography and Health and Social Care. The sixth form facility is also impressive and situated in its own block.

I hope you will choose to come to Carr Hill and excel the way I have by following Minerva College's motto 'Dream, Plan, Achieve'.

[John Doyle, Acting Headteacher]

Thank you Jess.

We hope that this evening will offer you the chance to speak to our students and staff, visit our classrooms and gain an understanding of our school. However we understand that this is a big decision for you and your child. We invite you to look through the prospectus pack, visit the school website, which is regularly updated with the latest school news, and if you wish to return for a second visit please call the school to arrange this during normal school opening hours.

Whilst touring the school this evening I would also recommend speaking to Mrs McKeon, our Assistant Headteacher responsible for general admissions and transport to and from school. Ms Hilton-Peet, is our Assistant Headteacher responsible for Pupil Premium and will be able to answer any queries you may have regarding this area of joining Carr Hill High School. Finally SEN is based in room 7. Here you find information regarding special educational needs.

Finally I would like to introduce our Head Boy, Kieran [surname removed], and our Head Girl, Miranda [surname removed]. These students are here to talk to you about their 7 year experience at Carr Hill High School.

[Miranda & Kieran, Year 13, Head Boy & Head Girl]

Good evening prospective students, parents and carers.

We would like to welcome you to Carr Hill High School and Sixth Form Centre, the school we've been a part of for nearly seven years.

My name is Miranda [surname removed] and I'm Head Girl. This is just one of the invaluable opportunities the school provides for all students. Whether you're academically gifted and wish to take up further study in a lunchtime club, or maybe your interest lies on the sporting field and the elite academies are the place for you. Carr Hill High School and Sixth Form Centre caters for a huge variety of individual needs, allowing all students to grow and develop their individual passions.

My name is Kieran [surname removed] and I'm Head Boy. I am talking to you right now and that's one of the great things about Carr Hill. This school gives its students of all ages and years a real opportunity to voice their opinion; from the accessible junior leadership team to the myriad of clubs and activities- not all of which include kicking a ball around a field. I'm sure you've heard a lot tonight about the different coloured ties you'll be wearing if you join the school next September. In 2008, when we were in our first year here, there wasn't even a college system. It's hard to articulate how much the school has changed since then. As year 13's in our final year, we have had the advantage of seeing the college system grow from nothing to the success it is today.

This meant that we were able to witness, first hand, the incredible changes that took place within our school. The mixed colleges allow for a cohesive and inclusive school, as older students take the opportunity to mentor and guide younger students through social and academic experiences that were our own only a few years ago.

Tonight you'll hear from students, teachers and staff. Miranda and I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you as students in our final year what a great school this is to go to.

We hope that tonight you will embrace the opportunity to look around the school we are extremely proud of. Please ask myself and Kieran as many questions as possible to help you gain a real feel for our school. We hope you enjoy your evening.

[John Doyle, Acting Headteacher]

Thank you Kieran and Miranda.

Thank you very much for taking the time to visit Carr Hill High School I hope you all have an enjoyable and informative evening.