



Calday Grange Grammar School

23 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sorry to have to write to you during the festive period, but I wanted to update you on the arrangements for the reopening of the school from Monday 4 January 2021.

You may recall that I wrote to you on Friday 18 December and stated my intention to seek advice from different sources before finalising the arrangements for our return. During this time, I have contacted Mrs Ashcroft, our Chair of Governors, liaised with West Kirby Grammar School and Hilbre High School, our school link in the Department for Education and my professional association, ASCL. Our arrangements are outlined below:

The week beginning Monday 4 January 2021

The National Guidance, issued on Thursday 17 December, stated that there would be a 'staggered return' to school, with only students in Year 11 and Year 13 in school during the week beginning Monday 4 January. The Senior Leadership Team was hoping to accommodate Year 7 students during that week, in order to help working parents/carers and allow the students to become familiar with the new processes outlined in previous correspondence. However, I have been advised that the overriding principle of the national Guidance is to minimise the number of students in school that week. Therefore, only students in Year 11 and Year 13 can return to school on Monday 4 January. These students should return as normal, for an 8.40 am start. The first period will still be a form tutorial period, as outlined in our previous plan. This will give the students time to adapt to new rooming and to be made aware of any new procedures.

Please note that school transport will be operating as normal.

Provision for an additional INSET Day

The Guidance also gave schools licence to have another 'INSET Day' on Monday 4 January, in order to adjust to the forthcoming testing regime. We are not going to do that. I believe that parents/carers have had to deal with enough disruption to their family and working lives over the past few months and do not seek to create more.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

These students will return on Monday 11 January, to start at 8.40 am. Again, there will be an extra form tutorial session during period 1.

Ambition, Respect and Pride

Headteacher: Mr Stephen Gray

Calday Grange Grammar School, Grammar School Lane, Wirral CH48 8GG
0151 625 2727 | theschool@calday.co.uk | www.calday.co.uk

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Children of 'key workers' and 'vulnerable' students

Just as in the original 'lockdown' period, school will be open for these students in ALL year groups. This group includes students who have an EHCP or are open to social services involvement. Please click on the link below in order to register your child if you intend to use this facility during the week beginning Monday 4 January. These students will be grouped separately and supervised by school staff. Students should attend school in full uniform and bring the correct equipment for lessons. The normal timetable schedule will apply.

<https://forms.gle/4VuZLddw3A6LG2dCA>

PE Lessons

PE lessons will continue for Year 11 and 13 students from Monday 4 January and the rest of the students from Monday 11 January. Please note, the changing facilities will be open (with enhanced cleaning) and therefore students should attend school in full uniform and bring their PE kit with them.

Covid Testing

Schools are going to be involved in regular Covid testing of staff and students from Monday 4 January. A great deal of detail is still to be established on this matter and I will be in contact when we know more about how exactly this programme will be delivered. I would encourage you to have your child tested before their return to school, using the four local centres:

- Floral Pavilion, New Brighton
- Birkenhead Market
- Greasby Library
- Eastham Library

Please be reminded that these testing centres are designed to detect 'asymptomatic' cases and operate on a 'drop in' basis. If your child develops any of the symptoms of Coronavirus, you must book a test through the usual channels.

Remote working for students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be educated remotely for the week beginning Monday 4 January (from period 2 onwards). Normal timetabled lessons will be followed and students need to access work through Google Classroom. Please be mindful that the most recent Guidance was only issued very late on Thursday 17 December, after staff had left school for the Christmas holidays. The Senior Leadership Team will be contacting Faculty leaders and we will seek to have as much work as possible put onto Google Classroom for students to work through in the early part of the week. I would envisage that there will be more 'interactive' teaching from Wednesday 6 January, once staff have had the opportunity to organise work properly. Please bear with us during this time.

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Acting Headteacher: Mr Mike Twist

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Catering arrangements for students in school and arrangements for those in receipt of free school meals

The catering facilities will be open from 4th January for students who are in school. For those students who are being educated remotely and who are in receipt of free school meals, our Finance Department will arrange for a cheque to be issued.

In summary

I really appreciate your patience regarding this matter and the kind messages of support that I have received. As you are aware, the national situation is constantly changing, but to all intents and purposes, this is the course of action that we propose to follow.

I hope that you have a pleasant Christmas and New Year and I will be in contact if there are any other major announcements to make you aware of.

With best wishes

Mr Gray
Headteacher

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