



Calday Grange Grammar School

Dear Parent/Carer

We have reached the end of an unprecedented school year. Nobody could have foreseen the events that have taken place since March. Sadly, Year 11 and 13 students left school without the opportunity to sit their examinations and without a proper 'farewell'. Classrooms were replaced with online lessons and communication has taken place via platforms we had never heard of back in March, but are now very much part of our lives. In amongst all of this, Calday Grange Grammar School had a new Headteacher. It has certainly been an interesting start to my time as a Head and I have already developed a deep affinity for this wonderful school.

The main purpose of my communication is to inform you about the arrangements for the start of term, in September. We are having to make some interim arrangements until we can fully 'return to normal'. Initially, many of these arrangements will last throughout September. I have grouped the main points under headings for ease of reference:

Health and safety

Our primary consideration is the health and safety of staff and students. Please find a link below to our full risk assessment. If time is short, please refer to the 'actions' at the back of the document (page 27 onwards), which acts as a useful summary.

[Risk Assessment](#)

Please remember that no-one should attend the school site if they show symptoms of Coronavirus.

Transport

Normal bus services will resume. However, there will be enhanced hygiene measures in place. Students will have to sanitise their hands at the start and end of their journey and wear a face covering, in line with national guidance. Please speak to your child about the importance of following these guidelines and behaving in a sensible manner when on school or public transport.

'Bubbles' and the school day

Please note that we are unable to accommodate students before the start of the school day, so therefore students should not be coming onto site before 8.20 am. This is due to social distancing requirements and the need to maintain effective 'bubbles' and I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Students will be in year group 'bubbles'. They need to enter the site at the entrance nearest to the block they are based in. Movement around the site will be kept to a minimum. Staff will generally go to the students, rather than the usual arrangement whereby the students move. After an initial form time of 20 minutes, students will go to lessons, which will now be 55 minutes in length. This allows for 'movement time' and for lessons to be staggered (at the start and end) around the site.

Rooms will be ventilated and there will be no bells.

There will be one-way systems in place within buildings and designated areas for year groups during break and lunch times. Food will be consumed in these areas. We are still finalising the catering arrangements and will confirm them in due course.

There will be numerous hand sanitiser dispensers around the site and we have had extra handwashing 'troughs' fitted.

The final lesson will end at 3.30pm, to allow students more time to exit the school site.

Please refer to link below with details of where year groups are based:

[Format of school day and designated areas](#)

Uniform

Students will return in full uniform, in line with Government guidance. If they have PE, students can attend school in their sports kit and wear it throughout that day in order to remove the need to change.

Marking and assessment

As a school, we will have to adapt the way in which we mark and assess work. Online platforms, such as Seneca or Google Classroom, will be used more.

Gatherings of people

There will be no major gatherings of people for the foreseeable future. Therefore, there will be no assemblies or mass events.

Behaviour and mobile devices

Normal expectations of behaviour will resume in September. Please refer to the school's 'Behaviour Contract' via the link below for a summary of our main expectations:

[Behaviour Contract](#)

The school will be taking a firm line on mobile devices in school. We appreciate that young people will have been using mobile devices a great deal since March and we will use the first few days of the new school year to remind them of our expectations. It is expected that students will put away mobile devices (including ear phones) when they enter the school site. Use of devices is not permitted around the school site, including at break and lunch times or in lessons, unless directed by the teacher (for example if the class is doing an interactive quiz). Ear phones and the device will be classed as one and the same and both will be confiscated if used inappropriately. Sanctions will then be imposed. May I ask that you do not contact your child via mobile phone during the school day. Any messages should be relayed through the school office. We are taking this stance on safeguarding grounds and to maintain a positive learning environment in classrooms. I will be in contact with further details over the coming weeks.

A reminder of key dates

Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 September are both INSET days. On Thursday 3 September, new Year 7 students are to enter the school site via the entrances on Grammar School Lane or Column Road. Staff will be on duty and advise students where to go. On Thursday, new Year 12 students will also be in school from 8.35 am until 12.30 pm, along with selected Year 13 students (who will be notified by invitation).

On Friday, all of Year 7 and 12 will be in school. Other years groups (Years 8-11 and Year 13) will return to school on Monday 7 September. Lessons will start straight away following a short time in form groups.

You will be reminded of these dates and be provided with further details nearer the time.

Equipment and practical lessons

Please ensure that your child is fully equipped for school, as sharing of equipment will not be allowed. It would be advisable to make alcohol-based hand sanitiser a 'stock item' of equipment, to complement the school's supplies. Unfortunately, practical lessons will not be taking place in the first instance and PE lessons will be restricted when compared to normal.

Contact with the school

The main method of contact will remain to be via telephone or email. You must not enter the school site without a prior appointment. Face-to-face or online meetings (via Google Meet) will continue to take place.

Results days (current Year 11 and 13 students)

We have created a system for results days. Please refer to Mr Procter's forthcoming correspondence for further details on this matter.

Safeguarding

The school will be fully closed during the first two weeks of the summer break. If you have an urgent safeguarding concern outside of school hours you should call the Local Safeguarding Board Central Advice and Duty Team on the following numbers:-

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm 0151 606 2008

Outside of these hours 0151 677 6557

In an emergency, call 999

Mental Health and Wellbeing

CAMHS

If you have concerns about a young person's mental health we would direct you to the following resources:

The new mental health helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is for residents of Cheshire West, Cheshire East & Wirral. It is open to people of all ages who need urgent mental health support. The number is 0300 303 3972.

Their website www.mymind.org.uk has various resources, self- help guides and information on local services. We have been updating the website to include resources specific to Covid 19. Also on the website is a self-referral form should you wish to refer your child into CAMHS. You can also still refer via any other professional (GP, social worker). CAMHS are also offering support to older students through the following link moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk

If you, or someone you know, is struggling, there are many resources on the link below that might help you or them: mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus.

The following topics are covered:-

- Mental health tips
- Looking after your mental health and well-being when staying at home
- Living with the pandemic if you already have mental health problems
- Parenting during the coronavirus outbreak
- Coping with coronavirus - a guide for young people
- Random acts of kindness

Childline - 0800 1111

Kooth - visit kooth.com

In Summary

This has been a very difficult period and it will take some adjustment for both staff and students. I would like to think that one thing that the pandemic has taught us is the value of people. It is vital that students are given support to adapt back into school life and the onus will be on ensuring that this is in place. Teachers will review key content, check misunderstanding and adapt programmes of study to ensure that the impact of missed schooling is minimised. I have also taken a number of steps to ensure that this is the case, which I will inform you about in future correspondence.

I do apologise for the length of this communication, but hopefully it provides you with a more detailed idea of how September will look.

It is envisaged that we will run these arrangements for at least September in the first instance. As I am sure that you appreciate, it is a constantly evolving situation and plans will be adapted as required.

Please do monitor your emails over the summer and the school website. I will send information at appropriate times in advance of the new school year.

I would like to thank you for the many messages of support we have received over the past few months. I must say that the staff have done the school proud. It has been an immensely challenging period for everyone and the school has remained open for 'key worker' children and other year groups. Staff have had to deal with their own personal family matters, as well as setting work for their classes, assessing work and delivering online lessons. It has been disappointing to see some of the media coverage of the profession. Teachers want to be in school teaching children, it is what we do. Nobody wanted the recent situation and I firmly believe that the profession has risen to the many challenges posed.

I hope that you and your family have an enjoyable and restful summer.

Warm regards
Mr S Gray