



Calday Grange Grammar School

Newsletter (25th September 2020)

Calendar

Mon	28 th September	
Tues	29 th September	
Wed	30 th September	
Thurs	1 st October	
Fri	2 nd October	

Mon	5 th October	A Level exams (all week)
Tues	6 th October	
Wed	7 th October	
Thurs	8 th October	
Fri	9 th October	

MESSAGE FROM MR GRAY, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parent/Carer

As we draw to a close on week four of the half-term, I have a few matters to update you on. The students continue to be a credit to everybody, as they adapt to new processes and procedures in school.

The situation with Coronavirus

As you will be aware, infection rates are increasing both nationally and locally. We currently have two students in Year 7 who have tested positive for COVID-19 and three in the Sixth Form. There are no staff cases. Appropriate action has been taken and this has resulted in sending home a small number of Sixth Form students and two Year 7 form group 'bubbles', to self-isolate for fourteen days. These are decisions that we do not enjoy taking and we enter realms that I never envisaged going into in my career, but please be assured that we liaise with the appropriate public bodies and act accordingly. I realise that this can cause some frustration amongst parents and carers. Please remember that if a child is a 'contact' of another who has Coronavirus, he or she MUST self-isolate for fourteen days, even in the event of a negative test. As a public institution, we have delegated powers to determine who is a 'contact' and we must adhere to national guidance. Unfortunately, a small number of parents seek to challenge this guidance or have sent children into school while awaiting test results (as an example). In the interests of public health and the safety of everybody in the Calday community, I ask that you do not take this course of action.

One of the cases came to light last Saturday (19 September) and Senior Staff acted swiftly to put measures into place. This illustrates the challenges that the current situation poses; it can certainly strike at any time. Difficult decisions have to be taken and I appreciate your understanding on this matter.

Site procedures

As the weather worsens, we will make further adaptations to the site. For example, after October half-term, it is envisaged that Years 10 and 11 will not go across to the football pitches at break or lunch time. We are looking at a number of proposals to improve the flow of the site and enhance social distancing amongst students further. I will inform you about these in due course.

We are hoping to re-institute the catering function in October. This will involve different year groups having different catering outlets. Again, more information is to follow on this matter.

Selective testing

As stated in previous correspondence, the selective tests will take place on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 September (the final two days of this half-term). You will be informed if these dates change at all in the event of further lockdown measures being introduced. Work will be set remotely for students and they will follow their normal timetable pattern. We have done a great deal of work on improving remote provision and sought advice from other educational sectors on the strategies they employ. One recommendation was that staff do not 'lecture' constantly throughout lesson slots; variety is the key. Using online platforms and developing remote learning is a major element of our school improvement priorities this year.

I hope that you all have a pleasant weekend and I will be in contact again next week.

STUDENT SUCCESS



Calday's Development class F1 in schools team "Apollo Racing" successfully gained a place in the National Finals due to be held at Bristol Airbus in April. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, this was postponed. F1 in schools are now running a virtual event which will take place on Saturday 26th September, being live streamed on Youtube all day.

Advait, Luka and Siddharth have worked hard during lockdown to complete their preparations for race day, finalising two racing cars and portfolios. They will be racing during the course of the day and commenting on their work throughout lockdown towards the National Finals. In what has been a strange end to the competition, we wish them the best of luck and hope lots of people will be watching. Good Luck!

MFL NEWS

Each week, students are awarded raffle tickets for outstanding contributions in their languages lessons. On Friday, two winners are drawn out and are awarded a prize for their efforts.

The winners from 18th September were:

Owen James in Year 9 who is studying French

Joe Stott in Year 11 - who is studying Chinese

The winners from today (25th September 2020) are:-

Daniel Hillhouse and Benny Treasurer in Year 8 who are both studying Spanish

Well done - your prize will be making its way to you! Congratulations to all students who were awarded a ticket this week. From the MFL Staff

MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE FROM MRS STOREY

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and yours are coping in these difficult times. I just wanted to remind you of some of the agencies that have new mental health and wellbeing initiatives available to support our young people.

CAMHS: The CAMHS MyMind website has resources and guidance for young people who are experiencing anxiety and low mood. CAMHS also provide support for young people with moderate to severe mental health problems: families or professionals can make a referral to CAMHS through the referral form on the MyMind website: <https://www.mymind.org.uk/services-and-contacts/wirral/wirral-camhs-0-18-service/>

There is a telephone line helpline for anyone who may need support in a mental health crisis in and across Wirral and Cheshire. Wirral CAMHS provides a 24/7 Crisis Line - telephone 0800 145 6485

Kooth: an online counselling service (they have updated their support for the new term). Please visit kooth.com or [click here](#) to access their Returning to School after lockdown tips and advice for students.

Childline – 0800 1111

The Open Door- <https://www.theopendoorcentre.org/>

Rockpoint Community for students living in New Brighton Instagram: @rockpoint.community

In school, Year 7 are starting mindfulness sessions with Mrs Gaston this term and Year 12 and 13 are holding Friday lunchtime wellbeing drop in sessions with Mrs Borodin and the Year 13 CAMHS ambassadors starting next week. We also have a series of events planned throughout the year for years 8-11.

We continue to offer face-to-face counselling 3 mornings per week and have the services of Learning Mentors and a motivation coach. If students or parents would like to contact me, please email me on vicki.storey@calday.co.uk for further details.

GUIDE TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Please [click here](#) to access a copy of the student guide to Google Classroom, written by Mrs Mounsey. It explains the basic features such as how to login, how to join a class and how to submit work. Most students understand these features but we thought it would be beneficial for parents and students to have the instructions available at home.

SUPPORT FOR YEAR 7

We have a new section on our school website that our new Year 7s may find useful: www.calday.co.uk/y7support

Here students can find subject overviews for the year, links to additional resources and tips, and will be updated with study skills advice and revision support later in the year.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Please note that the deadline for submitting online requests for school photographs to ensure free postage to the school is 30th September 2020.

VACANCIES

We currently have the following vacancies:-

- Catering assistant (temporary)
- Support Assistant in Mandarin Chinese

Please see the vacancies section of the school website for more detail.

LOCKERS

Parents will be aware that lockers for 2020/21 were made available for purchase prior to the School being aware of the guidance for students to be organised into safe 'bubbles' for this term. Some students such as those in Year 7 have full access to their locker, whereas others may have access if the locker purchased has coincided with the location of their 'bubble'.

We acknowledge that for some students they currently have no access to their locker and apologise that these unforeseen changes have given rise to this situation. At present we have no knowledge of how long the current arrangements will last. If these arrangements continue for an extended period we will review what remedies might be available with the external locker provider.

We are aware of the frustrations of some students and parents and thank you for your patience with this matter. We politely request that you refrain from contacting the School or the locker provider until the situation becomes clearer. Further updates will be issued in due course

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Year 7s leading the way

143 books have been borrowed so far this year - a significantly lower number than this time last year (pre-Covid, of course) - yet it is so encouraging to see students, in particular many Year 7s, navigating the Libresoft catalogue and the Google form. As Sixth Formers can use the LRC during their study periods, they do not have to complete the form - they may borrow books directly from the library taking all hygiene precautions first. If any student is having difficulty borrowing or returning books, please email me at rachel.eckford@calday.co.uk.

BOOKBUZZ – Year 7 only

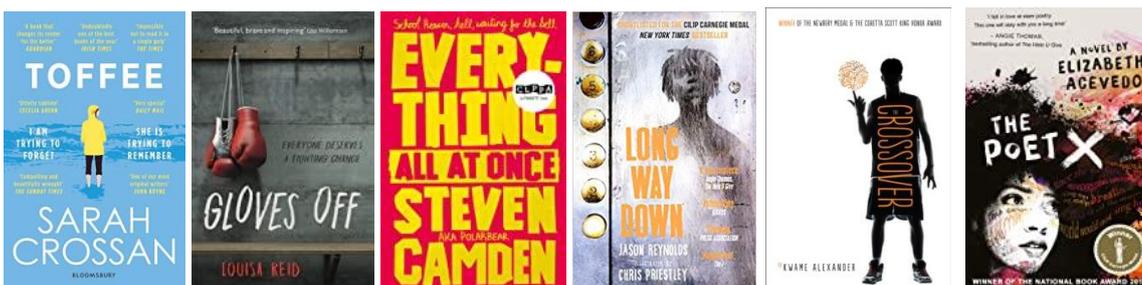


A reminder that ALL Year 7 students need to complete this Google Form before Monday 5th October to choose their Bookbuzz book. Deliveries should be made after half term.

Here is the link to the books to choose from this year:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/students/bookbuzz-books/>

National Poetry Day – Thursday 1st October



There have been many recent publications of some fantastic poetry and verse novels written for teens. Writers like Sarah Crossan, Louisa Reid, Steven Camden, Jason Reynolds, Kwame Alexander and Elizabeth Acevedo are really popular on our shelves. The themes explored include teenage life at school, friendships, social, political and racial issues. You can find more inspiration here: <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/poems/poetry-recommendations/>



NHS COVID-19 APP

Protect your loved ones with the official NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app. For more details please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/nhs-covid-19/>

SCHOOL SHOP UPDATE

The school shop has been busy issuing students with Blazers and PE kits. A large number of orders have now been given out. We are currently waiting for further deliveries of hooded tops, please bear with us if your order has been delayed. Please allow 48 hours for your order to be processed ready for collection. You will only receive an email if your order is out of stock or delayed.

Exchanges

Students who wish to make an exchange should return the item/s to the shop on their allocated collection day. If there is no price difference involved a straight swap can be arranged. If the new size you require is more expensive, please purchase the correct size of garment through the online shop and a refund will be processed on return of the unwanted garment.

The shop will be open at break and lunchtimes for students to collect orders and to exchange or return items at the following times. We are working hard to provide an efficient service but naturally the process is a little slower due to the current circumstances. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

Day	Year Group
Monday	Year 7
Tuesday	Year 8
Wednesday	Year 9
Thursday	Year 10 and 11
Friday	Year 10 and 11

Students in sixth form may collect orders during their free periods or should email the shop to arrange a convenient time.

DROPPING AND PICKING UP STUDENTS

We would also like to remind parents that they should not drop-off their children within the school car park, as this causes unnecessary congestion. Grammar School Lane also becomes congested, especially at the beginning and end of the day with buses arriving and departing and therefore we request that parents do not set down or pick up their children in the proximity of the school and certainly not in the areas with zig-zag road markings. To do so may cause serious traffic congestion and endanger lives. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

At Calday Grange Grammar School, we are committed to treating everybody with respect and courtesy, and to giving you a polite and effective response should you contact us. Our staff also have the right to work in a safe environment, free from verbal abuse and other intimidating behaviour directed at them. We will take effective measures to support any employee who is subject to any inappropriate behaviour. We therefore ask that parents respond to this by showing polite, respectful behaviour when in contact with our staff either in person, in written correspondence or via a telephone conversation. Thank you for your support.

SAFEGUARDING

If parents have an urgent safeguarding concern outside of school hours they should call the Local Safeguarding Board Central Advice and Duty Team on the following numbers:-

Monday to Friday 9-5 606 2008
Outside of these hours 677 6557
In an emergency please call 999

PARENT VIEW – YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT

Parent View offers parents the opportunity to tell Ofsted what they think about their child's school which in turn provides the school with valuable information to help us improve. We would be grateful if you could take the opportunity to visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to complete the short questionnaire.