



Newsletter

11 December 2020

Calendar

Mon	14 December	
Tue	15 December	
Wed	16 December	
Thu	17 December	School site closes to students at 12:30
Fri	18 December	School site closed to students
Mon	4 January	School reopens to staff and students in Years 7 to 11
Tue	5 January	
Wed	6 January	
Thu	7 January	
Friday	8 January	

A message from the Headteacher

Arrangements for students from 4 January 2021

You may recall that I have referred to potential changes to procedures for students in recent correspondence. I would like to take this opportunity to apprise you of the main changes below.

The current situation


- All year groups are in 'bubbles'.
- Year 7 and 8 students are mainly based in one classroom and staff move around the building.
- Year 9-11 students have more movement, but this is limited.
- One-way systems are in operation in two buildings.
- There are restricted areas where students cannot enter.

What are we proposing?

- To allow students to move around the buildings more and access specialist areas, such as science labs and design workshops. Movement will still be restricted as much as possible.
- Staff will mainly be based in their own rooms.
- Students will be able to move around the school and take the quickest route to their next lesson. Therefore, the one-way system will be relaxed.
- If moving between buildings, students are encouraged to go outside in the fresh air as much as possible.
- Face coverings must be worn when moving between lessons, even outside.
- It is vital that students from different year groups do not congregate between lessons.
- The current procedures for entering the school, catering and breaks and lunches will remain in place.
- Enhanced cleaning and hand sanitisation will remain in place.

Why are we doing this?

- Infection rates on Wirral have fallen significantly. Currently, there are 53 cases per 100,000 people when there were previously around 300 per 100,000 (Wirral is currently 289th when compared to other areas, when it was previously in the top 10).
- Public Health Wirral believes that the vast majority of the transmission has been in the community and not schools.

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- The rooming arrangements were for the month of September in the first instance. It is now time to review this.
 - School life is becoming monotonous for some students and moving around from classroom to classroom is tiring for staff and can delay the start of lessons.
 - There are four new testing centres which have opened. This will assist with the management of the virus.
 - We are maintaining other control measures in school.
 - We have sought advice from a specialist health and safety company we buy into and Wirral Local Authority. Both support our approach.
 - A number of other schools in Cheshire and Wirral are changing their procedures.

The Sixth Form

Sixth Form students have accounted for a significant number of cases in the school. It is also more likely that Sixth Form students will have more interactions out in the community over the Christmas period. Therefore, we are going to deliver the curriculum to Sixth Form students remotely for the first week after the holidays. As a result, Sixth Form students will not be on the school site until Monday 11 January. The arrangements will be as follows:

- Sixth Form lessons will run at the normal times and students will attend virtually.
- Registers will be taken at the start of each lesson.
- Mr Hayes will be monitoring the attendance to lessons.

We believe this is a measured approach that will help prevent a reactive 'shutdown' of learning at some point in January. It will also allow us to embed the new procedures across the school with a significantly smaller number of students on site. Sixth Form students are encouraged to have regular tests at one of the centres listed below.

I do apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause, but we are doing it for the right reasons.

In conclusion

Please be assured that we will monitor the situation closely and will modify procedures in the future if required. The four testing centres which I referred to are:

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

You are encouraged to have your child tested regularly, even if they do not have symptoms. This will help us to manage any potential outbreaks of the virus.

We will inform students about the new arrangements over the next week, ready for their return in January. Any room changes will go live on Edulink on Monday 21 December, so please check this and encourage your child to do so. On Monday January 4, students will have a form period instead of their first lesson. This will give them the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with the changes and for Year 7 students to become familiar with new areas of the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past few months. I am delighted that we have got through the first term without any major disruption, such as enforced closure. I imagine that it has been immensely frustrating for you at times, but your patience and understanding is much appreciated. I have learnt since taking up post in April that we cannot look too far ahead and that decisions have to be based on what is best for our students and school community.

Finally, I would also like to extend my thanks to all our staff and students for their hard work and dedication during this term.

Have a peaceful Christmas and I will be in contact again in the New Year.

Best regards

Mr S Gray

School News

Transport information for 17 December

The school site will close to students at 12:30pm on Thursday 17 December 2020.

School operated transport to Wallasey (C1 & C2) and to Ellesmere Port/Chester/North Wales areas (W1, W2, W3, W4, W6 & W7) will leave at the earlier finish time of 12:30 pm.

The A1 bus operated by Als Coaches to the Neston areas will also leave at the earlier finish time of 12:30pm.

However, Merseytravel are not able to alter the schedules for local buses serving schools (614 through to 685) as they are registered bus services and will be running as normal.

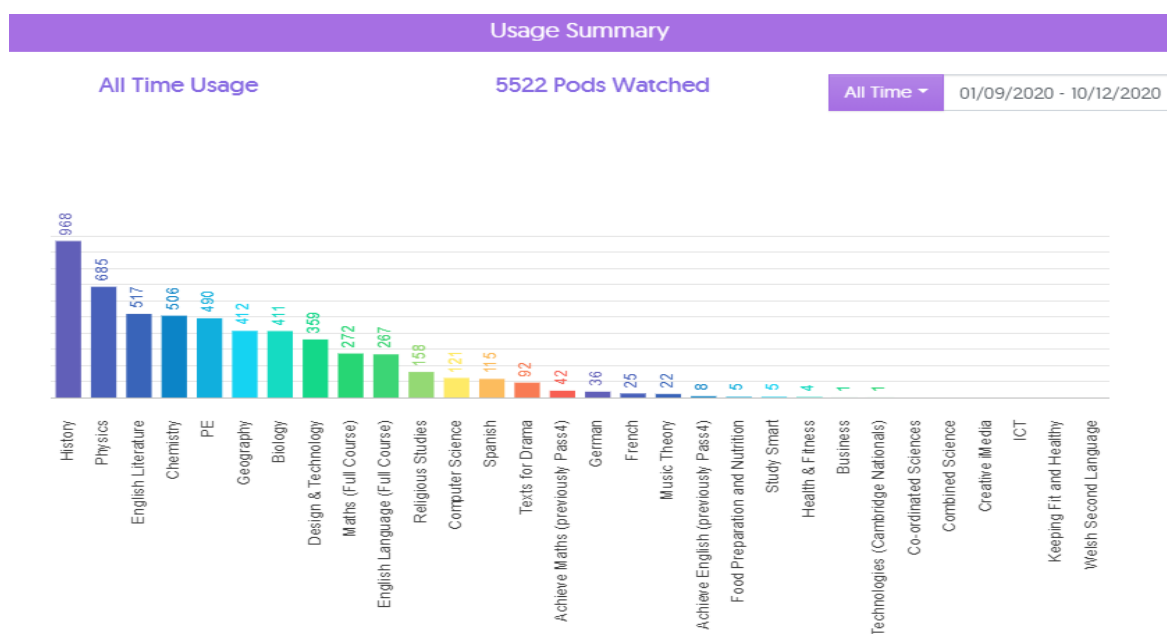
We would therefore be grateful if parents could make alternative arrangements for their children to get home. If required, the school can provide care for students on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning until 12:30. Please contact the [main school reception](#) should you need this facility.

Year 13 Trial Examinations Subject Support

Year 13 students should visit calday.co.uk/y13mocksupport for information about the Year 13 trial exams in March. The page including topic lists, revision materials and useful links for each subject. Students should speak to their subject teacher if they have any specific questions that aren't answered and they should check their Google Classrooms regularly for any further updates and support.

GCSE Pod

We introduced GCSE Pod to Year 11 in October this year. This resource allows students to watch short videos on many of the topics covered at GCSE. Students can also test themselves with the "Check and Challenge" option. As you can see from the summary below, students have watched over 5000 of these revision pods in the run up to the Mock Examinations. It is another resource available to help students vary their revision. If you or your son has any feedback on the resource please let [Mr Adamson](#) know.



Unifrog

In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school, we will now be using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform. We are introducing Unifrog initially to Year 11-13. However, all students in Years 7-13 will have access to this excellent online careers platform by the end of January, as part of our new Careers provision. Students will receive an email on Friday afternoon from Unifrog, which will allow them to set up their Unifrog account. We would like all students to have signed up to Unifrog before Monday, as Form Tutors will be delivering sessions during morning registration next week on how to use it.



Unifrog brings into one place every undergraduate university course, apprenticeship, and college course in the UK, as well as other opportunities, such as School Leaver Programmes, MOOCs and every college at Oxford and Cambridge. This makes it easy for students to compare and choose the best university courses, apprenticeships or further education courses for them. They can also explore exciting opportunities further afield by looking at English-taught undergraduate programmes available in Europe and the USA.

Additionally, the platform helps students successfully apply for these opportunities by using Unifrog to write their personal statement, applications and CVs and guiding them through the process, allowing teachers to give live feedback.

Students access the platform by clicking a link in their welcome email, where they create a password and can begin using the platform. They login to Unifrog using their email address and password and they can do so from any computer, tablet or smartphone. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of deciding their next step.

We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to truly support your child. The form code you need is: 'CLDYparents' and you can sign up here: www.unifrog.org/code For more information please go to www.unifrog.org

Art and Technology Aprons

After Christmas, we will be moving towards reinstating some practical work. Following advice from health and safety professionals, we have decided to make it a requirement for students to have their own apron, which will be available to purchase from the [School Shop](#) in due course. This applies to all Year 7 Year 8 students, as well as those who study GCSE and A Level art and technology subjects. The school will fund this for students in receipt of free school meals or those who qualify for Pupil Premium funding.

Junior and Senior Band

The music department are delighted to announce that from January both Junior and Senior Bands will start again.

- Senior Band (Years 10 to 13) Tuesday evening after school
- Junior Band (Years 7 to 9) Wednesday evening after school

The bands will be organised as above until it is safe to rehearse in higher numbers. Both bands will be held in the sixth form common room and will finish at 4.45pm. Students will need to help pack up after the rehearsal.

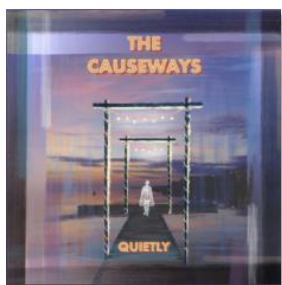
If your son/daughter would like to participate in either of these extra-curricular activities please email [Mrs Gilbert](#) with Junior or Senior band as the subject. The email should state the name of the student, form, instrument and standard. This is to ensure that students have appropriate music. Replies should be received by 16 December to secure a place.

Wind Band is held on a Friday evening until 4:45pm. This is open to students who are grade 4 standard and above. Students must be willing to commit to extra rehearsals on the run up to a competition.

Mental health update

We would like to remind you of some of the agencies that have 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. 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 on 0800 145 6485
- [Kooth](#) an online mental wellbeing community for free, safe and anonymous support.
- Childline – 0800 1111
- [The Open Door](#)
- Rockpoint Community for students living in New Brighton. Instagram [@rockpoint.community](#)
- [The Hive – Wirral Youth Zone](#) offer support for students who have to self isolate.
- [Wirral Safeguarding](#) board that has a section for parents that might be useful



Student's band success

Year 13 student Sam Silver's band 'The Causeways' has just released their debut single 'Quietly'. *"The lyrics delve into the struggle to find your purpose in a vast world, and how you carry the weight of this"*. They have already been in contact with the BBC to go on Radio Merseyside, and are preparing an EP for next February. You can listen to the song here on [Spotify](#)

Nathan competes for GB

Student Nathan Smith is pictured here competing in round 1 of the World Cup Cyclocross series in Tabor, Czech Republic. Nathan was racing for Great Britain. He came 9th in his race and 1st for his age. He hopes to be selected for the next round in Belgium at the end of December. Well done Nathan – wishing you lots of luck!



Learning Resource Centre News

Year 7 author visit - inspiring our young readers and writers

Last week we arranged for Jennifer Killick, author of Crater Lake - the most popular Bookbuzz book - to give Year 7 a virtual author visit. Her inspirations for writing include Star Wars and Stranger Things and she said she might even start a story by looking at a crack in the wall or a one-legged pigeon!! The most important message she gave us was to keep feeding our imaginations - read, daydream (not during lessons) and to write from the heart. The students in 7BQ asked her some fantastic questions and behaved excellently throughout the talk. They are looking forward to the Crater Lake sequel coming out in the Spring.



Reading challenge results so far

YEAR 7 - 6 books in 6 weeks CHALLENGE - Many congratulations to the 21 students in Year 7 who have managed to borrow 6 or more books from the school library since half-term. They will receive prizes in due course. A special mention goes to Sankarshan Dahiya in 7HT who has read an amazing 29 books in this time period and also to 7BQ, 8 of whom have completed the challenge. Great reading!

YEAR 8 to YEAR 13 - I look forward to awarding prizes to those who completed the Reading Bingo challenge too.

Chill out with a good book

Our displays are encouraging students to borrow some winter reads -



If you are buying books this Christmas

Consider supporting www.bookshop.org - an online bookshop with a mission to financially support local, independent bookshops. You can support a specific local bookshop to receive the full profit from your order, or your order will contribute to an earnings pool that will be evenly distributed among independent bookshops.

Christmas book quizzes

Why not try these out with the family?

[So this is Quizmas](#) OR [The World Book Day Christmas Quiz](#)

Alumni News

Shortlisted for Deaf Sports Personality of the Year

Former student Nathan Young left Calday in 2018 to commence a Sports Science degree at Liverpool John Moores University with a scholarship gained from his swimming prowess.

Nathan, who is deaf, has competed all over the world at the Deaf Olympics and World Championships with great success and has won multiple medals. He is now shortlisted for Deaf Sports Personality of the Year. Alongside studying, training and competing, Nathan has made it his mission to get funding for all deaf athletes, alongside Olympic and Paralympic athletes, to gain equality and fairness in sport.

You can support Nathan for his efforts and [vote for him](#) simply clicking by his image on the link.

Peter Pan Star!



Old Caldeian Felipe Pachcho is starring as Peter Pan in the Christmas production at the Alban Arena, Herts.

Since leaving Calday Felipe has finished his degree in Acting at Surrey University and has toured with his own company (Buried Thunder) as well as working for the country's foremost physical theatre company, Frantic Assembly. In the summer he appeared in Henry V at the Roman amphitheatre in St Albans.

Charity News

Charity FUNdraising - 17 December

As is traditional at Calday, on the last day in school (Thursday 17 December) Sixth Form students will be dressed in fancy dress, whilst other students will be wearing Christmas jumpers over their school uniform.

Donations of £2 or more may be made on [ParentPay](#) and all monies raised will be donated to Claire House. Thank you for your support.



CTROSC raffle



The Calday Tranmere Rovers Official Supporters' Club is hosting a raffle at £1 per ticket to win one of three sweet and chocolate hampers.

The Club are the official sponsors of ex-Liverpool and current Tranmere midfielder, Jay Spearing, and they are looking to raise money to cover the cost.

They also hope to hold other similar events in the future. Raffle tickets can be purchased via [ParentPay](#), the deadline is Wednesday. Good luck!



Tranmere Rovers – Super White Christmas Appeal



This year we are working alongside Tranmere Rovers and their Super White Christmas Appeal to try and make sure that all children in the area have something to open on Christmas morning. The deadline for donations **Monday 13 December** when Tranmere Rovers will be coming in to school to collect our donations.

This year Calday is once again supporting Tranmere Rovers in the run up to Christmas. So far this year we have collected over 220 toys and gifts to provide to people in the area.

There is a collection point in Hawkins building inside the Year 7 and Year 9 bubbles. Year 8 students can drop their donations off at the

LRC (Learning Resource Centre), Years 10 and 11 can drop donations in D35 and Sixth Form students can drop donations off in D25.

Wirral St. John's Hospice

Wirral Hospice St John's Fundraising Team are running their [Christmas Tree Collection and Recycling Scheme](#) again this year in order to raise vital funds for the Hospice. Collections, for a donation per tree, are taking place from 15 to 19 January 2021.

If you would like to support them you would need to register at just-helping.org.uk/register-tree



School charity fundraising update

A huge thank you to students, staff and parents who have supported the following very worthwhile causes this term.

£1299 – The Great Calday Bake Off for MacMillan Cancer Support

£2360 - BBC Children in Need

£2087 - Wirral Foodbank, including 7 trolley loads of food

£215 Movember

As an alternative to sending Christmas cards, some members of staff are sending a virtual Christmas greeting and making a donation to Wirral Food Bank instead. So far, staff have raised over £180.



Important Information

Dropping and Picking Up Students

We would 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.

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.

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. Please visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to complete the short questionnaire.



Safeguarding

For urgent safeguarding concerns outside of school hours parents should call the Wirral Integrated Front Door Team on the following numbers. Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm 0151 606 2008. Outside of these hours 0151 677 6557. In an emergency please call 999.

Social Media

To keep parents up-to-date with what's going on at Calday, as well as this fortnightly newsletter we have a number of social media platforms for you to choose from. Please Follow/Like us on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) for regular news and updates.
