

VJJ/HEV

14 December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

As we draw near to the end of 2020, I would like to take a moment to reflect upon what has been a very different year. Despite all the challenges that this year has presented us all, I think it is important that we recognise how much we have achieved together. I am incredibly proud of the Caldew community and the way we have all supported each other.

Our students have been a credit to us all. They have coped admirably with the changes to school life since September and shown a great deal of maturity in following all the new safety rules. Attendance has been good; it is higher than both the local and national averages. Students' attitude in lessons is good, catch-up support is in place and this is leading to good progress. Students should be proud of what they have achieved.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who have worked tirelessly this term to ensure the school has operated effectively. Despite the challenges, we have been delighted to see our students back in school learning

I would also like to thank parents and carers for trusting us; we are well aware that many of you have your own concerns and worries about the current situation. Your messages of support have meant a lot to us.

Although we have seen a small increase in the number of COVID cases in school in the last two weeks, particularly affecting Year 11, we have still had a relatively small number of cases and less than the majority of local schools.

As the end of term approaches, I would like to update you on a couple of things:

Pilot Mass Testing in Cumbria in January

You may have heard the announcement made in the local press by Cumbria County Council that a pilot mass testing of secondary age students will be taking place in some schools in January. Caldew will not be taking part in this pilot-testing programme. Whilst this is an idea we support in principle, there are significant logistical challenges for schools with large catchment areas and serving rural communities.

We support the plan from the local authority to run a pilot in a small number of schools to ensure that these challenges are best understood in case a wider rollout is necessary at some point in the future.

If any student is displaying any symptoms of Covid19 as they approach the return to school in January, they should take a test as soon as possible.

School will resume as planned for all students on Monday 04 January.

Positive Cases over Christmas

I really do hope that there are no further positive cases in the Caldew community over the Christmas holidays. However, please can you make note of the following arrangements just in case. The school will be involved in tracing close contacts for the first 6 days (Friday 18th December – Wednesday 23rd December).

If a student tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (Friday 18- Saturday 19 December), you should contact the school directly by emailing vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk and paul.hammond@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

If a student tests positive having developed symptoms more than 48 hours after being in school, parents and carers should contact NHS Test and Trace and follow their contact-tracing instructions. Parents should not contact the school directly.

Please continue to keep us informed of any tests and results so that if a student is required to self-isolate in the New Year, we can ensure work is set for them.

I hope that you all have a lovely and happy Christmas. I look forward to seeing all our students back in school in January for what will hopefully, be a better 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vicki Jackson
Headteacher