

VJJ

17 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Today, the government has announced that there will be a staggered start to the new term in January 2021 for secondary students.

The Spring term will start for all students on Monday January 4th 2021. However, not all students will be attending school. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will not be attending school for the first week of term. These year groups will have online remote education, including some live lessons delivered via Microsoft Teams. Students should follow their normal timetable and can access their lessons via Firefly. It is vital that all students access the lessons that are provided for them so that they do not fall behind with their learning. If your child does not have access to a digital device or the internet, please email returntoschool@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk **by 4pm on Tuesday 22nd December** so we can arrange provision for them. Each child in your household will need access to a digital device during the school day.

Year 9 exams that were planned for the first week back will be postponed and rescheduled. We will let you know the new date for these as soon as we know.

Students in Years 11, 12 and 13 should attend school as normal and their timetabled lessons will be running. It is of utmost importance that students in these year groups attend school as normal as they have exams to prepare for. At Caldew School we have very stringent protective measures in place and this is one of the factors that has led to us having so few cases at school. As other year groups are not in school, students in Years 11, 12 and 13 will come into contact with fewer people and this minimises even further the risk of catching the virus.

We will also be providing full time provision at school for the children of critical workers (these are people whose work is critical to the Coronavirus response), those students who have Education Health Care Plans and those with a social worker. Students in these categories can attend school as normal from Monday 4th January. If your child falls into one of these categories please email returntoschool@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk **by 4pm on Tuesday 22nd December** with the name of your child and their year group if you intend to send them to school. We apologise for the short deadline, but in order to finalise our plans, we need to know the number of students we are expecting to attend school. For the children of critical workers, you may be asked to provide evidence of eligibility for this provision.

School transport should be running as normal.

I appreciate that it is the end of term and that this change is happening with very little notice, but this has only just been announced by the government. The statement from the government can be found using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/staggered-rollout-of-coronavirus-testing-for-secondary-schools-and-colleges>

The government has said that the staggered start to the new term is to allow schools to set up the National COVID testing scheme. I will write to you again in the New Year explaining how this will happen at Caldew School.

As you will be aware, the number of positive COVID-19 cases, both nationally and locally, is rising. Please can you take this opportunity to talk to your child about the importance of following the rules to minimise the risk of them catching the virus over the holidays. In particular:

- Not mixing indoors with households outside your bubble
- Maintaining 2m social distancing
- Washing and sanitising hands regularly
- Wearing a face mask

Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

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