

VJJ

31 December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware, the government announced on 30th December 2020 that there would be changes to the start of the new term in January 2021 for all secondary schools. I can only apologise that we are having to relay this information to you at such short notice. The Secretary of State has announced that secondary schools in England will not re-open to all students following the Christmas holidays. All year groups will undertake remote learning starting the week of Monday, 4 January. It is currently expected that Year 11 and Year 13 will return to lessons on site the week beginning Monday, 11 January. Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will return to school on Monday 18 January.

However, the school will still be open from Monday, 4 January, as scheduled, for students classed as vulnerable and for children of critical workers. If your child falls into one of these categories and you will require provision for your child to work on their remote learning in a supervised ICT area in school then please email returertoschool@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk requesting a place for your child by 3pm on Friday 1 January. We will be unable to cater for any student who we have not been notified about by this date, as we need to plan provision. If you have already done this, you do not need to inform us again.

Remote learning will be delivered via Firefly and I have included with this letter a guide to help you support your child to access their learning during this time. Lessons will follow the normal scheduled student timetables. If your child does not have access to a digital device please email returertoschool@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk and we will arrange alternative provision. If you have already informed us of this, you do not need to contact us again.

Year 12 mock exams were due to begin on Monday 11 January and these will now be postponed and rescheduled for the week beginning Monday 25 January. There is an external Health and Social Care exam scheduled for Monday 11 January and this will go ahead. Students should report to main reception when they arrive at school. They can leave school once the exam is completed.

Those students in receipt of free school meals will receive a voucher for the week through the same platform as that being used to provide for the Christmas break.

We appreciate that this change is at short notice and may inconvenience you, but it is essential that we closely follow all government guidance on Covid-19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community.

I am sure that you are also aware of the other announcement made by the Secretary of State regarding schools offering voluntary lateral flow tests to students at the start of term, while students are being supported with remote learning. We will write to you early next week to explain how this will work at Caldew and how you can book a test for your child. Please be aware that students will need to make their own way to school at their scheduled time in order to take the tests. We will confirm arrangements as soon as we can next week.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, we will continue to do all we can to support our students during these challenging times and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. The signature is set against a light green rectangular background.

Vicki Jackson
Headteacher