

VJJ/KMC

5 January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you regarding the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 4 January 2021 to say how saddened I am that once again the school is not open for all of our students. I want to try and reassure you and your children that we will continue to do our best to support and educate them during this difficult time.

In line with the government's announcement, all students will be learning remotely and we will be delivering this via Firefly as previously explained to you. Students should follow their normal timetables and access their lessons at the normal time. If you have any issues with accessing remote learning, please email ITSupport@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk and we will be happy to help.

If you do not have access to digital devices or the internet, please let us know by emailing returntoschool@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk so that we can support you.

We will do our best to ensure there is remote learning for all of your child's subjects, but please be aware that our staff can become unwell, have to self-isolate or have family members who become unwell and this may have an impact.

We can provide full time provision for the children of critical workers and those students who are classed as vulnerable. These students will be supervised in an IT room and will complete the remote learning set by their teachers.

If you are a parent or carer of a student in one of these groups and want a place at school, please email returntoschool@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk by 3pm on Wednesday to book a place for the following week stating which days are required.

We have contacted school transport and transport will still be provided for those who are critical worker children/vulnerable children. Please can you let us know if you will require school transport when you email to book a place. At present the Irvings of Dalston, IOD01 and IOD02 routes are not running.

The mass testing programme for staff and students has been put on hold for the moment. However, weekly testing will be offered to those students who attend school and we will provide more details of this to those parents as soon as we can.

For parents and carers of students in Years 11,12 and 13, I know there is the added concern about qualifications. The Prime Minister announced that exams would not go ahead as planned this summer. The Government are yet to announce how qualifications will be awarded, but I will write to you again as soon as there is an announcement. However, what is really important is that students need to continue with their learning so that they have the knowledge and skills they need to progress to the next stage in their education or training. This means that it is vital that students continue to access their remote learning and complete all the work that their teachers set them. If the exam grades are determined by teacher assessment, like they were last year, the work students do will be important in judging what exam grade they receive. Please discuss with your child the importance of continuing with their remote learning and that they need to try their best in all their subjects.

Even though most of our students are at home, please remember we we are here to support them. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either myself, a member of the school's leadership team or your child's Head of Year by email and we will get back to you as soon as we can. If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Miss H Howson. All school email addresses are on the staff page of the school website.

I know this is a difficult and worrying time for all our community and as a school we continue to do everything we can to support our students and their families. I am very proud of the way we have worked together over the past few months. Thank you for all the positive messages we have received; it really does mean a lot to all of us at Caldew School. We will stay in touch and update you when we have new information.

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