

VJJ/KMC

5 January 2021

Dear Year 11, 12 and 13 students

I wanted to write to you to say how saddened I am that you will not be attending school in person until after February half term. However, your education will continue remotely and your teachers will continue to set work and deliver live lessons via Firefly.

The Prime Minister has announced that exams will not go ahead as planned. I know how hard you have worked towards your exams and I wanted you to know that we recognise this and that all the staff at Caldew School are very proud of you.

At the moment we do not know how your qualifications will be decided but I want to reassure you that you will not be disadvantaged by this decision. Remember, all students in your year group all over the country are in the same position. For now, please be reassured that the education system and your teachers will sort this out for you.

However, what is really important is that you continue with your learning so that you have the knowledge and skills you need to progress to the next stage in your education or training. This means that it is important that you continue to access your remote learning and complete all the work that your teachers set. If the exam grades are determined by teacher assessment, as they were last year, the work you do will be important in judging what exam grade you receive.

Even though school is now closed, we have not forgotten you and we are here to support you if you need us. I will make sure we keep you and your parents informed about what is happening with exam grades and transition to the next stage of your learning, whether that be Sixth form, college, apprenticeships or University.

We are still planning for the Sixth Form Open Evening that will take place remotely on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January and we send you more information on this as soon as we can. If you have not decided between Sixth Form, an apprenticeship or College Course and would like impartial advice and guidance to support you in making those important decisions please contact our Careers Leader to make an appointment. Please email [Cheryl.Eastburn@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:Cheryl.Eastburn@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk)

We also know that it is an important time for Year 13 students, not only for your exams but also about your next steps whether that is to go into employment or onto university. The application deadline for applying to university through UCAS is 6pm on Friday 15 January 2021. UCAS applications will still continue to be completed and references written. It is clear that universities are trying to be as positive as they can be with applications and they are aware that this has been a time of disruption for you all so they are often lowering offers. This is a reflection on the situation and not on the quality of students and they are planning how they can support first year students coming from this situation. This means you should not worry about being able to do well at university because we know your potential and with support you will go on to be successful. Those of you not planning to apply to university will be helped with applications for apprenticeships and jobs. Again, we will write references for you if you need them which will outline to potential employers what potential you have. If you need any help please email your form tutor or Mr James.

If you have any questions, please contact your Head of Year, form tutor or myself by email and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

We look forward to seeing you back in school after February half term



Vicki Jackson  
Headteacher