

VJJ/KMC

30 March 2021



Dear Parent and Carers

This half term has gone by very quickly; it seems like no time at all since we welcomed students back into school. We fully reopened on Monday 8 March and our students returned in a phased way to allow the COVID Lateral Flow testing to take place. I would like to congratulate all our students on their mature attitude and behaviour during these tests. This must have been a very difficult experience for them and I was very proud of the way they coped with this.

All our students have been back with us for four weeks and I have been impressed with the way that they have returned. Now we are nearly at the Easter holidays I wanted to write to you to update you on a number of important areas.

Uniform

We have taken a relaxed approach to uniform over recent weeks as we were aware of the difficulties that shops being closed presented to parents and carers. However, non-essential retail is opening over Easter and we expect our students to be back in full, correct uniform after the Easter holidays. A separate letter will be sent to you about our uniform expectations.

Test and Trace support payments

Please be aware that some parents of children asked to self-isolate are now eligible for financial support under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. Details can be found by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>

Asymptomatic testing

Thank you to students, parents and carers for their support with home testing. This should continue to happen over the Easter holidays with students being tested on Monday and Thursday mornings. Please remember to log the result of the test (even if it is negative) with NHS Test and Trace and the school. Details of how to do this are in the booklets that come with the test kits.

If you would like your child to be tested in school after the Easter holidays please let us know by emailing student.testing@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

Positive Cases

If your child has a positive PCR test result in the first 6 days after the end of term (Friday 2 April - Wednesday 7 April) please inform the school by emailing vicki.jackson@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk and paul.hammond@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk so we can do contact tracing. In the email please tell us the date of the test and when symptoms started.

If your child has a positive Lateral Flow test you should arrange for them to have a PCR test. Please let us know the result of this.

Summer Term

As previously advised in the end of term letter at Christmas, students will return to school for the summer term on Friday 16 April.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support over the past few weeks. The past year has been a difficult and anxious time for everyone and without the support of parents and carers things would have been even more difficult for us. I just really hope that the improvements in infection rates and the roll out of the vaccine mean that a more normal life isn't too far away. I can't wait until we can get our school back to normal!

I hope that you are all able to have a lovely Easter holiday.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vicki Jackson
Headteacher