

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. Now we are nearly at the Easter holidays I wanted to write to you to update you on a number of important areas.

As we approach the final weeks of Year 11, our students are working hard, demonstrating what they can do in their different subjects, building evidence towards their final grading. We recognise their resilience and value their warmth, kindness and humour. We remain very proud of them.

Exam Grading

As you will already be aware, this year's exams have been cancelled and on Friday, the Joint Council for Qualifications published the detailed guidance on how exams will be graded this year. There is a summary for students and parents which I have included with this letter. We are looking at the detail in the guidance carefully to ensure that our students are given the best possible chance to achieve their potential in their qualifications. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure our students that we will be following the guidance and ensuring a fair process is in place. Students should not worry about this process. They should continue to work hard and follow the advice of their teachers.

Results Day

Results day has been changed this year and will take place on Thursday 12 August 2021. We will let you have details of this nearer the time.

Leaving Date

The government is not changing the legislation that governs when Year 11 students leave school. As usual, Year 11 students cease to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday of June. This means Year 11 officially leave on Friday 25 June.

However, in light of the fact exams have been cancelled and most students will have completed all their assessments by May half term, we are making adjustments to the times students are required to be on site and the activities they will be taking part in.

Students who have a full set of evidence for all their subjects will not need to come to school after May half term, unless they are planning to come back in the Sixth Form (see below).

If your child does not have all of their evidence, they will be required to attend school after half term, until Friday 18 June. We will inform you if your child is one of these people.

Students returning to the Sixth Form are expected to attend school for 3 weeks from Monday 14 June until Friday 2 July. This will allow them to take part in induction activities and lessons in the subjects they are planning to take next year. These lessons will help to fill any gaps caused by the disruption to learning that students have experienced and ensure they are ready for Sixth Form. We will provide further details of this next half term.

Students who are going to college will be provided with information on how they can access work and support to prepare them for their courses.

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.

The Prom

Understandably, students have been asking about the possibility of a prom to celebrate their achievements at the end of Year 11. Given the current situation with COVID-19 and the inevitable degree of uncertainty around the current restrictions being lifted, it is not possible to hold a prom in the usual way. However, we are exploring the possibility of holding a prom in school on Friday 9 July. We know that this is not what any of us would have envisaged, but we are focusing on what we are able to do for our students in the current situation.

We will write to you again as soon as possible to confirm whether we are able to go ahead with this and what the cost would be.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Clarke, Head of Year 11.

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



Vicki Jackson
Headteacher