

VJJ/KMC

12 May 2021



Dear Parents and carers

I wanted to write to you following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday night that we will be moving to Step 3 of the roadmap out of lockdown from Monday 17 May 2021. This means that students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in classrooms or communal areas from Monday 17 May.

Students will still be expected to wear face masks on school buses and follow their seating plans. We will be helping the bus companies to ensure students comply with this.

As in September, any student who wishes to make the decision to continue to wear a mask in school, whether in corridors or in classrooms, can of course do so. Staff will still be required to wear face coverings in communal areas where social distancing is not possible.

This decision has been taken due to the significant reduction in the number of positive cases and the low local infection rates. However, we all still need to remember that there is still a risk of infection so it is vital that we all continue to follow the other protective measures that the school has in place.

This includes:

- Keeping classrooms and other areas within the school well ventilated
- Staying 2m away from other people wherever possible
- Cleaning hands regularly
- Thorough cleaning of the school site and equipment
- Taking 2 Lateral Flow Tests each week

We all need to continue to do these simple things in order to keep each other safe and drive down the transmission of the virus.

Lateral Flow Tests

Lateral Flow testing is an important measure in reducing transmission as it identifies people who have high levels of the virus and are most infectious. Please can I remind you that students should be tested on a Monday and Thursday morning before school and the results emailed to student.testing@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk and registered with NHS Test and Trace.

Students can also be tested in school if they do not want to carry out home testing.

We really do appreciate your support in ensuring your children are tested twice weekly as this helps to ensure any positive cases are identified and do not come into school, especially as society opens up more.

Moving Forward

Now that local infection rates are low, we are looking at what changes we will make to the way the school operates after half term. We will still follow the guidance laid out by the Department of Education on what control measures need to stay in place. However, we are keen to start to move the school forward. We will let you know more details when they are decided.

Like all schools we are evaluating how the school systems have changed since COVID-19 restrictions were introduced and deciding which ones will be beneficial to keep in place. As we go through next half term we will update our information for parents and students accordingly as systems are confirmed.

Year 11 Induction into the Sixth Form

All students who have applied to join the Sixth Form next year are required to attend the induction weeks that run from Monday 14 June to Friday 2 July. This will allow the students to undertake transition lessons in their chosen subjects as well as understand what it means to be a member of our Sixth Form.

Any student who has not applied to the Sixth Form, but now wishes to do so, should contact Mr James, Head of Sixth Form at Allan.James@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk

We expect any student intending to join us in September for the Sixth Form to take part in the induction program.

This has been an extraordinary year in school and, at times, a challenging one for families, students and staff. I am very proud of how all of our school community has worked together to support each other through this difficult time. Caldew students have been amazing in the resilience they have shown in coping with the changes and disruption to their education. Since returning to school in March, the vast majority of our students have been working hard and are making good progress in lessons.

Now that things are improving, we can all feel more positive about the future. As a school we are planning how we will move forward to ensure that our students get the best possible opportunities in the remaining weeks of the school year and that they feel positive about the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vicki Jackson
Headteacher