

The Calder Learning Trust

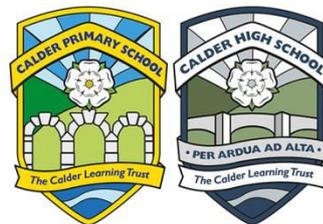
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Dear all

I am writing to inform you of the temporary introduction of additional COVID-19 measures we are going to implement from tomorrow until the end of this half term. I have included the joint-letter from the Director of Public Health and the Director of Children and Young People's services that outlines the broader scope of measures that schools can take across Calderdale.

Across The Calder Learning Trust, we have seen relatively low rates of coronavirus transmission when compared with other local schools and those across the country. Despite this, the rates in Calderdale are worryingly high with 1 in 40 secondary age children testing positive for COVID-19.

As a trust we are still working to the principle that '*the safety of pupils, students and staff is paramount*' and we will be following some of the Calderdale advice in implementing additional measures to reduce the rate across our two phases.

Please share and discuss these measures with your child/children tonight as we are asking for your support in introducing from tomorrow until Friday 22nd October (when we break up for half term) the following precautions:

1. **If someone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 (on LFD or PCR), advise children and young people who attend school to stay at home.** If they develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test straight away. If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test 3-5 days after their household member started with symptoms (or took their test if they had no symptoms). If this test is negative, the child can return to school but must stay at home and arrange another test if they go on to develop symptoms.

Some children are exempt from this advice:

- 12–16-year-olds who have had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago
 - Any child who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days.
2. Recommending the use of **face coverings** in classrooms for secondary age education settings, and the use of face coverings by adults in all schools in communal areas, including on dedicated school and public transport.
 3. Limiting visitors to the school.
 4. Considering the safety of educational visits.

From September we had continued to follow some of COVID security measures including facilitating good ventilation in classrooms, reducing mixing between groups and risk assessing events and trips in line with the latest advice.

'Everybody, Everyday'



From Thursday 14th October to Friday 22nd October, we are asking that:

1. If someone in your household does test positive for COVID-19, either on LFD or PCR, please keep your children at home and follow the advice on testing. In line with government advice, we have been continuing to provide an on-line provision and we hope that any young person who has to stay at home will be able to continue to access their learning remotely.
2. All secondary age students and staff wear face coverings in communal areas, including those areas outside where larger groups of students gather. We are also recommending the wearing of face coverings in secondary classrooms for this limited period. Any student travelling on school or public transport should also wear a face covering for the duration of their journey.
3. Parents do not enter either the primary or secondary buildings and maintain social distancing at drop off and collection times.

Since the start of term, we have tried to ensure that as many young people have access to the wider experiences that have been denied them through the earlier stages of the pandemic. This has meant that we've had record numbers of pupils and students attending extra-curricular clubs, fixtures and Calder-wide events. Unfortunately, we have had to postpone a number of trips and visits that were due to take place before half term but we will be running these later in the year.

Our 'Meet the Tutor' evening for parents of our Year 7 students will still go ahead and we ask that parents stick to their appointment times to minimise the number of people in the Theatre at any one time. And our other big event this half term is the 'Open Evening' for prospective parents. This too will be going ahead but we will be placing restrictions on the number of people to ensure safe occupancy levels in the Theatre for my presentation and in classrooms. Further details will be posted on the website next week including times of the main presentations.

Finally, we have been receiving numerous emails and phone calls regarding the forthcoming vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds. This programme is being managed by UK Health Security Agency and Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust and details of our involvement in the programme will be sent to all parents next week.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope that our actions now will allow us to be 'back to normal' after the half term break and we can continue to provide the education and opportunities that our young people deserve.

Take care and stay safe.



Anthony Guise
Headteacher
The Calder Learning Trust