

The Calder Learning Trust

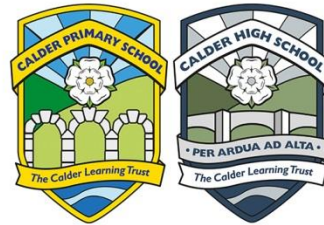
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Headteacher: Mr A Guise



March 2021

Dear Parents/Carer,

Welcome to Calder High School. We are delighted that your child has been allocated a place at our school and will start with us in September 2021. Outlined below are details of just some of the many ways in which we hope to make the transition to secondary school as enjoyable and trouble free as possible. Obviously, this year we will once again need to be doing things rather differently, however based on last year's experiences, and feedback from students and parents, we are confident that your child will have the very best possible start to their life at secondary school.

Attached to this letter you will find our **Student Data Collection form**. This is a vital document that we would like you to complete and return to us either electronically transition@calderlearningtrust.com or by post (address above). **Please return this form as soon as possible and no later than Friday 28th May.**

This year our **Transition Information Evening** will take place on **Thursday 24th June** at 6pm. This will be an online event with the aim of giving both students and parents a flavour of what life is like at Calder High School and what you will need to do in preparation for the first day of term in September. Details of how to access this virtual evening will be sent to you nearer the time.

Another part of the transition process involves the **CHS Roadshow**, a visit to our feeder primary schools by either Mrs McLaughlin (Head of Year 7), Miss Savage (Assistant Head of Year) or myself. The purpose of this visit is for Year 6 students to ask us questions about life in Year 7 and any aspect of the transfer process that may concern them. These visits will take place throughout April and May and this year could be either virtual or in person.

The final important event of the year is our **Year 6 Student Discovery Day** on **Friday 2nd July**. We very much hope that this will be able to take place this year as we want our upcoming students to be able to see the school in person and make new friends with those in their tutor group. During the course of the day students will complete a range of introductory and ice-breaker activities and a short piece of writing called a 'Proud Piece' showcasing their very best work in terms of content and presentation. Students will also take part in an inter-house quiz, representing their house for the first time and attempting to gain house points that contribute to our annually presented Calder Cup. All students will have a chance to sample our tasty school catering as they will be entitled to a free school lunch in the Diner before returning home with a Calder 'party bag' containing all the information they will need for a successful start to Year 7.

FAQs and other things you may wish to know!

Tutor groups – Year 7 tutor groups are not based on friendships; great care is taken in their construction to maximise academic progress for all. We believe very strongly that the chance to come to a new school is an opportunity to make many new friends as well as retain existing ones. Tutor groups are co-constructed with primary feeder schools and balance students of different genders, backgrounds and abilities.

School uniform – our dedicated school uniform supplier is Shaw-Hardcastle in Halifax. Tariq and his team will be able to advise you on all your child's uniform needs. Please however do not buy your child's school tie before you are informed what tutor group and house they are in! A letter informing you of this will be sent to you at the end of June. A link to a school uniform list can be found in the



transition section of the school website <https://www.calderlearningtrust.com/high-school/key-information/transition/>

Travel to school – the school has no involvement in the provision of bus passes. You should be contacted directly by Arriva regarding this. If you do not hear from them, please visit their website for further assistance <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/student-travel>

Parent Pay – we operate a cashless system for catering, trip payments, equipment purchases and any other items you may want to get from school. Your parent activation code letter will be given to your child on Discovery Day (Friday 2nd July) when students will get their thumb prints taken in preparation for the September start.

ClassCharts – is a system we use to communicate with students and parents. It is a platform that shows both you and your child the rewards and sanctions they receive and any homework they may have. You may also receive notifications via ClassCharts of important events and deadlines. Parents and students will receive their ClassCharts activation code in the first week of term in September. As a school we very much encourage both students and parents to check ClassCharts on a daily basis.

Peripatetic music lessons – if you would like your child to participate in individual music tuition while at Calder please go to our school website for further information regarding the range of opportunities and choice of payment methods <https://www.calderlearningtrust.com/high-school/key-information/transition/>

Summer School – this year we very much hope that it will be possible to deliver our ever popular Summer School programme in some form, although its character, duration and capacity may be somewhat different from previous years. Dates are yet to be confirmed, however this is likely to take place in the week beginning **Monday 23rd August**. Once again, we will e mail you further information at a later date.

When is the first day of term? We normally have a staggered start at the beginning of the school year. The first day of term for Year 7 students will be **Tuesday 7th September**. We are very much looking forward to seeing the new intake looking smart in their uniform that day. Staff will be at the front of school to greet them at 8.25am.

Finally, we realise that moving on to secondary school can be both an exciting and daunting time for all concerned, but we hope we can work with you to make the process as seamless as possible. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more about the transition process please do log onto our website for further details <https://www.calderlearningtrust.com/high-school/key-information/transition/>

We look forward to meeting both you and your child soon.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Washington

Associate Deputy Headteacher



Mr A Guise

Head of The Calder Learning Trust

