

Our Ref: KIN/ELO

Date: 16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and are looking forward to some time spent with family over the Christmas holidays. I am amazed that this is my last bi-weekly Callerton Academy update letter of 2021.

We've got a long letter for the end of term. Please, as you usually do, take the time to read this carefully.

Centre for Life Trip – Well Done Everyone

The Centre for Life rewards trip was excellent yesterday – well done everyone! Keep an eye on the [news page](#) on our website for some pictures.

Free School Meals Vouchers for the Holidays

All families where students are in receipt of free school meals will get a £30 voucher emailed to them, this afternoon (Thursday 16th December). Please contact the school office before 12:30pm on Friday 17th December on 0191 605 3835 if you have any issues.

Household Support Fund for Families whose Children are in Receipt of Free School Meals.

The council has issued just under 10,000 letters inviting parents and carers whose children are in receipt of free school meals to apply for one off £50 payment for support with their utility bills.

More information about the scheme can be found at www.newcastle.gov.uk/householdsupport

People who are not digitally enabled and need support (or who have not received a letter and believe they should have) should call 0191 278 7878 and ask for Household Support Fund – this line is open Monday to Friday 9:30 – 15:30 (open 9:30 - 13:00 on 24 December 2021). It will reopen 4 January 2022 at 9:30.

Katie Innes Principal

Hugh Robinson CEO

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LFD On Site Testing – Tuesday 4th January

Students received a hard copy of their letter regarding onsite LFD testing on Tuesday 14th December. We have sent parents an email copy throughout the week and you should receive this by the end of the term.

Reminder – Review Evening Thursday 13th January 4:30pm – 6:30pm

We have a review evening in our calendar which is planned for Thursday 13th January. Students and parents will meet a member of staff, either their tutor, our SEND Team, the Pastoral Team, or Miss Anderson to review how students have settled over their first term at Callerton Academy. This will take place virtually via video conference on a very user friendly website called SchoolCloud. Families can access this video conference on most devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops. You will have a five minute time slot that you'll be able to pre-select via SchoolCloud and so won't be required for the full two hours! We will send you a letter on the return to school in January with more information.

Water Bottles

The vast majority of students have a reusable water bottle at school every day. We have water fountains that can be used by all, before school and at break and lunch time. Please make sure your child has a bottle with them.

Permanent Site Updates

There will be termly updates for you on how our Simonside permanent site is progressing. The first of these is on our website [here](#).

COVID-19 – Reminders as of Wednesday 15th December

With the introduction of the Omicron variant there have been quite a few recent changes in Government guidance.

We are a spacious and well-ventilated school. This has meant that our students have a lot of space to move between lessons. Our students are expected to wear masks as they move around the school building and are all aware that they can remove their mask if they wish during lessons and outside at social times. We are incredibly proud of our students' uptake of mask wearing in school and they know that they are keeping everyone safer by doing so. In school, we have regular hand sanitising, we remind students of our "catch it, bin it, kill it" culture and we keep windows open in all rooms to allow fresh air to move through the

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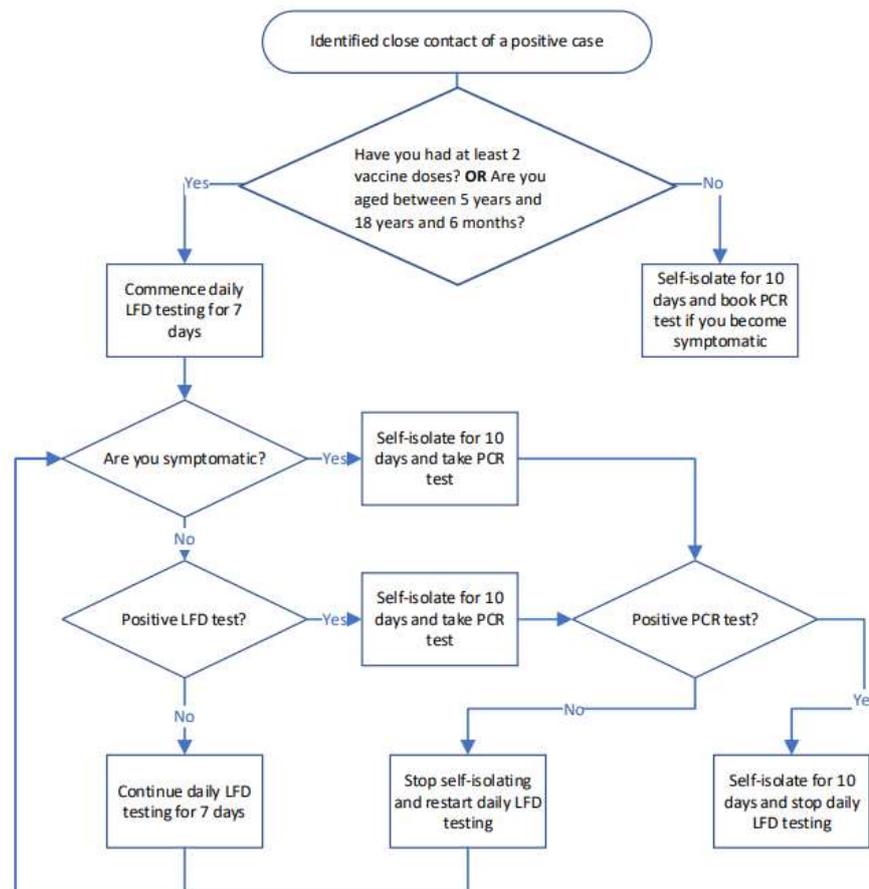
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school. Once again, our students hand hygiene has been excellent and if a student has been feeling ill, they have been quick to report it to a member of staff to keep their friends safe. From January, we will be encouraging all visitors, including parents and carers to take an LFD test before they come into the school building for meetings or events.

Students have been given packs of LFD tests to continue to use over the holidays twice weekly at home. Please follow the guidance in my previous letters regarding how you record the results with us at school and with the NHS.

There have been changes to contact tracing in the past week and the current guidance is highlighted below in the flow chart. This is only for people who are identified at close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case.

Self-isolation and testing requirements w.e.f. Tuesday 14th December 2021



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Information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds can be found in the [COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance](#).

If you are planning to travel abroad over the holidays, review the government guidance with regard to testing and isolation on your return. Please, as usual keep us informed if this will affect your child's attendance to school.

And finally, we have contingency plans in place for any eventuality for January – please keep an eye on your emails and our website over the holidays, if circumstances change.

If you have any immediate questions, please email the school office on admin@callertonacademy.org.uk or ring on 0191 605 3835 before 12:30pm on Friday 17th December. The school office will be closed from Friday 17th December until Tuesday 4th January. Please email or leave a message on our answer phone and we'll get back to you as soon as possible when we re-open in the New Year.

Thank you again for all of your support for our school. I am so proud of our students and staff on the completion of their first term at Callerton Academy and the community they are creating!

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Innes
Principal
Callerton Academy

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