

Our Ref: KIN/ELO

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, let me start with a big thank you for everyone that managed to attend either a coffee morning or parents' evening this week. They have been wonderful, and as expected the student tour guides shone. For those of you that could not attend, I look forward to welcoming you to our school at a future date.

### **The Flu Vaccine for All and COVID-19 Vaccine for 12-15 year olds**

As you will have seen on the news, all students in secondary schools are being offered the flu vaccine and students who are 12-15 years old will be offered the first COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines in schools are administered by the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS). The date for our flu and COVID-19 vaccines is Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Students have been given a consent form for the flu vaccination today to take home and for those not in school, it's been sent in the post today. This consent form needs to be returned to tutors by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Consent forms for those who will be 12 by 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 will be sent home nearer the vaccination date. For general information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please see [here](#). For general information about the flu vaccine, please see [here](#).

Before the vaccinations we'll do an assembly with the students explaining what will happen. Alongside the SAIS staff, Callerton Academy staff will be there on vaccination day to support our students.

### **Assessments**

This week, the students have undertaken their CAT4 baseline assessments. They have approached these assessments with an excellent attitude. For students who have missed these assessments, they will be caught up in the coming weeks.

**Katie Innes** Principal

**Hugh Robinson** CEO

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## **The Callerton Academy Passport**

Students all have a 'Callerton Academy Passport' to complete by the end of the half term as part of our transition programme. Students have tasks and skills within the passport to show their teachers which, if they complete, they get stamps in the passport. I would encourage you to discuss the passport with your child. We hope to have a parents' evening before October Half term to celebrate the students' success with transition, which is shown through their passport.

## **Free School Meals Portal from NCC**

NCC have made it easier for you to apply for or to see if you're eligible for your children to get Free School Meals. This is through their Citizen portal [here](#). Attached to this email is some guidance on how to use the Citizen portal. Please check the criteria for FSM [here](#) and apply if you feel that you might be eligible, it doesn't take long and it is worth the effort.

## **Reminder: Training Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

We have a training day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Students will not be required to be in school on this day.

## **Biometric Payment System for Lunch Payments**

As you know, we have provided free school meals for all students until 6<sup>th</sup> October when we should have our cashless payment system. Our cashless system will use student's biometric data (a thumb print) to identify them when picking up their school meal from the canteen. We need your consent for us to store and use this data. See the attached Gosforth Group Biometrics Policy which explains how we will use and store this data. For you to give consent, we have given the students a consent form for you to complete by 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This will be sent in the post for those who are absent today. I'll be in touch next week with more information about how you can load the system with money to pay for school meals. Thank you for your patience with this!

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Registered Office: Gosforth Academy, Knightsbridge, Great North Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2JH

## Parent Academy Advisors

We would like to recruit two parents and carers to join our school Governance structure. Please see the letter and application form on our website.

## Callerton Academy Open Events for 2022 Year 7s

We are opening our doors for prospective parents and carers of the incoming Year 7 of 2022 over the coming weeks. We have some coffee mornings next week and an open evening on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Again, we'll be using the students as tour guides and ambassadors for the school. On the coffee mornings we will be prioritising students who have not been able to be tour guides this week due to illness and on the open night I would like to ask for volunteers to act as tour guides. We expect a large number of prospective parents to come to the event, so I would welcome as many student volunteers as possible. If your child would be willing to volunteer from 5:45pm to 7:30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, please complete this [form](#).

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Innes

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