

Our ref: KIN/ELO

Date: 4th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with only two weeks left of our half term. We are steaming ahead with learning at Callerton Academy. As you all know, our students are progressing exceptionally with their daily reading homework, reading in school, in lessons and reading for the joy of it! We all should be very proud of our community and how much value is placed on everyone being a fluent and excellent reader. Our latest news story about reading and the first of many Millionaire Readers is [here](#).

Chinese New Year Day

Chinese New Year Day was a resounding success. The students and staff had a wonderful time immersing themselves in Chinese culture. Please see the news story on the website [here](#).

Mobile Phones in School – a Reminder from Mr Davidson

Given our current location at our temporary site in the city centre, we understand that some parents may feel more comfortable sending their children in to school with a mobile phone which they can use to contact home as they are travelling to and from school. We also understand that smartphones can be a distraction for students and so at Callerton Academy, we expect all students to have their phones turned off and in their bags for the whole school day. We have reminded our students that if a phone is not in their bag or is not turned off it will be confiscated, labelled and stored securely until the end of the week. The student will also receive a **P** comment in their planner. We will contact you to let you know that your child's phone has been confiscated. If you require your child to use their phone before the end of the week then you may collect it from the school office.

We have also noticed more students wearing smart watches. Students are allowed to wear smart watches in school, however if they are using their smart watch in a lesson or if it is becoming a distraction then the smartwatch will be confiscated in the same way as a phone and the student will receive a **P** comment in their planner. Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Parent Support for Keeping Safe Online

As you know, at school we support students and families with safeguarding, promoting how they can access support, if at any time they don't feel safe, or need support. One aspect of life where

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students can show more risk taking behaviour is online. As we work together to protect students, in school through education and support, I know that you at home are working to support your children online. One way that you can support at home is checking their use of technology, through safe settings, controls and monitoring. [Here](#) is a very useful website to support you with this. There's lots of information on this website for parents and carers about all aspects of online safety.

As usual, please don't hesitate to contact us for support and help on 0191 605 3835.

Biometric Data – Cashless Lunch System

As I mentioned in my letter dated 7th January 2022, we have moved away from facial recognition for our cashless lunch system. We are now moving towards using finger print recognition. We have to have your consent to use biometric data, which we have for the majority of students. You can withdraw or give your consent at any time. Miss Lockhart has written a letter with more information about this, which has been given to your child today in school or if your child is not in school today, sent in the post.

Recruitment of Staff for 2022

We have lots of interviews happening in the coming months at Callerton Academy for the recruitment of new staff for September 2022. All students will be involved in the interview process, either in lessons, on tours or student panels. Our students are a credit to our school and community and I look forward to all the hopeful candidates being 'wowed' by them.

Free School Meals Vouchers for the Holidays

We are delighted that we can confirm all families where students are in receipt of free school meals will get a £15 voucher emailed to them, before Friday 18th February. Please contact the school office before 3:00pm on Friday 18th February on 0191 605 3835 if you have any issues.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Innes
Principal
Callerton Academy

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