

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I have written this letter a little early this week to allow you to follow up with any questions to the office over the coming days before the half term break.

School Uniform and PE Kit Donations – Message from Miss Robson and Mr Middlebrook

We would be hugely grateful if you have any used PE kit or school uniform in good condition to add to our uniform stocks at school. If you do, please send it in with your child and ask them to drop it off at Main Reception. Thank you in advance!

Free School Meal Vouchers for February Half Term

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals at school, you will receive a £15 voucher to cover the cost of a meal per day over this half term holiday. You will receive the voucher via email and you can select which supermarket to use it at, whichever is best for you. At Callerton Academy, we use a company called Wonde to provide these vouchers for parents and carers. The system is easy to use and those eligible will be sent an email with guidance this week.

If you think that your family might be eligible for free school meals, you have to apply through the Newcastle City Council website [here](#). If you need any support or help with this, please contact Miss Robson on 0191 605 3835 or via email on admin@callertonacademy.org.uk.

School Coats after February Half Term

From Monday 3rd March, it is no longer compulsory for the students to wear a coat to school. If they do wear a coat to school, however, it must be the school waterproof or the school fleece.

Katie Innes Principal

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Parent and Carer Questionnaire Results

Thank you to everyone that completed the parent and carer survey, we had 80 responses out of 480 families. We think it's important that we take feedback on board and that we are open and honest regarding the responses we receive. We've summarised these responses below and over the coming months we will share more with you and provide further opportunities for more of you to share your views.

The three biggest strengths highlighted by parents and carers in this survey were that:

1. 86% of responses felt that the school has high expectations for their child.
2. 82% of responses felt that there was a wide range of subjects available for their child.
3. 85% of responses felt that their child is doing well at Callerton Academy.

However, there were some key areas where parents and carers highlighted that we want to improve, namely:

| You said: | Our response and actions: |
|---|--|
| 76% of responses suggested that their child feel safe in school. | We want all parents and carers to feel that their children feel safe in school. Our student voice and student survey activities conducted by both our staff and other local agencies (such as Children North East) have suggested that over 95% of our students feel safe in school. We will look to delve deeper as to why parents and carers have suggested this score in order to improve it. |
| 52% of responses suggested that school communication is good and 51% of responses felt that school keeps them informed about how well their child is doing. | We recognise that communication can mean different things to different people therefore we will be delving deeper with parents and carers this year to ascertain what additional communication opportunities parents and carers feel would be helpful to increase this response next time. Each student receives a termly report and there is at least one parents and carers' evening a year. We have enhanced contact for Year 10, with two parents and carers' evenings this year. As we move into our new, permanent site there will be greater opportunities to meet with our staff face to face. |
| 68% of responses suggested that their child take part in extracurricular activities | We have a comprehensive extracurricular programme for students through 7Up (last lesson on Tuesday and Wednesdays) with 100% of Years 7, 8 and 9 take part in the school day. We also run a wide range of free or low-cost trips, especially as part of our end of year Yellow Week. When we move to our permanent site, we will be able to offer more clubs after school and additional residential trips. |

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We will be doing other surveys at the upcoming Year 9 Options Evening and Year 10 Parents' Evenings to delve more deeply into this initial feedback. Alongside these surveys, we have also collected student voice through our work with ImpactEd and Children North East. As always, we are constantly reviewing our practice to ensure our students and families are supported.

Year 10 Parents Evening – Advance Notice

We will have face-to-face evenings on Thursday 3rd April (10A and 10C) and Monday 7th April (10B and 10D). This will be another opportunity to engage with parents and carers following assessments in March and as we move into the Summer Term.

Year 9 Options Evening – Advance Notice

This will be on Tuesday 11th March and all students, and their parents/carers are invited to attend. The evening will outline the options process and will be an opportunity to meet with subject teachers to share what the different subjects we offer involve. The evening will start from 5pm. We will share more details with you in a separate communication straight after half term.

February Half Term Activities

We are very lucky in our region to have so many days out on our doorstep, such as the beach, or walks in Newcastle or Northumberland, but sometimes it's good to have a bit of help for inspiration for what to do so, please check out this February Half term guide in Newcastle and Gateshead, [here](#).

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School Office Closed Over Half Term

The School Office will be shut over the February half term. If you need to contact us over the February holidays, please leave a message on 0191 605 3835 or email us on admin@callertonacademy.org.uk and we'll get back to you as the office opens on Monday 3rd March at 8am.

Thank you

As usual, this half term has been wonderful with our fantastic students. But it has been very long for everyone, especially students and families. I hope this school holiday will allow you to have some relaxing time with family and friends. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing all students back in school on Monday 3rd March at 8:30am.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Innes
Principal
Callerton Academy

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