

CMS/SB

28th November 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the autumn term I would like to thank you for the support you have given to the school and to thank also the overwhelming majority of our students who continue to meet our aspirations for them and are a credit to our school, their families and the community.

Learning Ethos and Code of Conduct

We have been spending time in assemblies and form tutor periods sharing the school values and our expectations of conduct and appearance. These are important elements of our learning ethos which we ask you to support. I have enclosed a copy of our **Code of Conduct** which will come into effect on **Monday December 5th**. Failure to follow the code of expectations for behaviour in school will result in a range of sanctions being applied depending on the nature and frequency of the failure. Please note that there is a change to the use of mobile phones/electronic equipment which have been the cause of a significant amount of disruption to teaching and learning within the school. Other incidents of great concern have been inappropriate or offensive text, picture and video messaging. The school accepts no responsibility for these items.

Uniform

We expect the students to wear their school uniform correctly and with pride. I have enclosed a copy of the uniform requirements. From **Monday December 5th** sanctions will be applied for those students who do not comply. I know that you will support us in this. Please note that students are allowed to wear the school jumper only. An outside coat may be worn over the jumper but any other jumper does not constitute a coat.

Lunchtime arrangements

We have made some improvements to lunchtime arrangements. Hot food must be eaten in the Diner and only cold food may be removed. Each year group has been allocated an area of school for their lunchtime use where they may eat and socialise. It is very important that the classrooms are clean and tidy for afternoon use and that the students do not leave litter and food debris behind. From **Monday December 5th** students will not be allowed to bring energy drinks such as Red Bull into school.

We ask that you talk with your child about appropriate behaviour whilst out in the community if they are allowed to leave the site at lunchtime.

Use of student planners

All students are expected to have their planners with them everyday and to present them at the start of each lesson. Merits are awarded throughout the school day and recorded in the planner. We are teaching students how to organise their learning through effective use of the planner. It should be signed each week by the Form Tutor and the parent. Please check that homework is being recorded and completed. Students who have lost their planner will be provided with a temporary replacement planner for a two week period but should then purchase a new planner from Student Services.

Thank you for your support in these important areas of school life.

Christmas at Calder High 2011

Please find below the arrangements we have made to celebrate Christmas at Calder High School.

Christmas Assemblies/Church Services

Our Year 7 and 8 students will be attending a Christmas service at St Michaels Church, Mytholmroyd led by the Reverend James Allison. The children will be accompanied to the church at 13:30, the service will finish at 14:45 and children are then free to go straight home afterwards or return to school to meet siblings, take the bus home etc.

If you would like your child **not** to attend this service please complete and return the slip at the end of this letter by **Friday 2nd December 2011**. Children not attending will remain in school until 15:00 as usual.

- Monday, 5th December Year 7
- Tuesday, 6th December Year 8

Our Year 9, 10 and 11 students will attend a Christmas Assembly led by the Reverend James Allison on the following dates:

- Tuesday, 13th December Year 9
- Wednesday, 14th December Year 10
- Friday, 16th December Year 11

The Reverend James Allison will also lead a Christmas Assembly for Calder V1 on Tuesday 6th December.

Staff and Student Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be available on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December 2011 in the Diner for staff and students. Vegetarian and fish options will also be available.

Christmas Hamper Collection

We would like to invite children to bring in donations of dried food and/or tins for the Food & Support Drop-In charity project operated by the St Augustine's Centre and Ebenezer Methodist Church in Halifax. This project supports local families facing hardship. Items will be collected during form time to be made into a Christmas Hamper.

2012 Calendars

This year Calder High School is offering a 2012 calendar for sale at £3.50 (proceeds to school) featuring photographs by our Year 12 Photography students. Calendars will be available from the **week commencing Monday 5th December**. Please order using the attached Order Form. Calendars can be collected from Student Services, payment is made on collection.

Christmas Show

Our 'Winter Showcase' will take place on Monday 12th December in the Ted Hughes Theatre. Please order tickets using the attached Order Form. Tickets can be collected from Reception.

Newsletter

The latest edition of the Calder High School Newsletter will be sent home via your child before Friday the 16th December.

Last Day of Term/ Start of Term 2012

Friday the 16th of December 2011 is the last day of term. Students will finish at 12:35 on this day. School will re-open for pupils on Wednesday 4th January 2012.

Adverse Weather

I felt that it would be wise to remind you of our arrangements in the event of adverse weather affecting the opening of the school

If we have heavy snowfall or flooding overnight and the school has to close, the information will be broadcast on Radio Leeds (92.4FM and 774MW and Digital Radio) and on the Pulse Radio. Information will also be posted on our website www.calderhigh.org.uk, the Frog home page and the Calderdale Council website www.calderdale.gov.uk.

If snowfall/flooding causes an early closure in the day, we will liaise with the bus companies and attempt to get all students onto their usual bus, but at an earlier time. Again, we will broadcast details on the local radio stations and on the Calder High and the Calderdale website. If you live in one of the outlying areas and wish to collect a student early, do feel able to do so; please report to Main Reception and we will arrange for your child to come from class.

Please note that we expect all students to have made arrangements for early closure. This might mean going to a friend's or a relative's house in the local area until they can be collected. It should not include remaining in school hoping for an improvement in conditions.

We recognise that a closure causes inconvenience for everyone associated with the school and we are reluctant to make a decision to close. However the safety of students will always be paramount and it is with this in mind that any decision will be taken.

May I take this opportunity to wish all families a Happy Christmas and send best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C M Spillane
Headteacher

Christmas Church Services

Name of student: Form:

I would **not** like my child to attend the Christmas service at St Michaels Church, Mytholmroyd on Monday 5th December 2011 (Year 7) / Tuesday 6th December 2011 (Year 8).

Signed: (Parent/Carer)

Please return by Friday 2nd December 2011

School use only: Slips to be coordinated by J Park

✂.....

2012 Calendars

Name of student:..... Form:.....

I would like to order the following number of 2012 Calendars at £3.50 each:

Total to pay: £.....

Signed: (Parent/Carer)

School use only: Slips to be coordinated by J Park

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Christmas Show

Name of student: Form:

I would like to order the following tickets for the 'Winter Showcase' on Monday 12th December 2011:

Adult Tickets @ £3.50

Child/Concessions @ £2.50

Family ticket for 4 @ £10.00.....

Total enclosed: £.....

Signed: (Parent/Carer)

School use only: Slips to be coordinated by D Kershaw