

Our Ref : SYL/SB

12 July 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you of the arrangements for the end of this academic year and the start of the next one in September.

End of Year:

School will close at 12.35 pm on Tuesday, 20 July and school buses will be available at that time. Lunch will be served for students who wish to stay in school but there will be no afternoon teaching periods and they will need to make their own way home after lunch.

Please complete the tear-off slip at the bottom of this letter and return it to the School Office if your son or daughter will be eating lunch in the diner on the last day of term and making their own way home. Students who receive free school meals should pick up their lunch at break time.

New School Year:

- The new school year will begin on Thursday, 2nd September 2010.
- New Year 7 students will arrive at 8.35 am at The Ted Hughes Theatre.
- Those commencing studies in Calder VI in Year 12 please arrive at 9.30 am at The Ted Hughes Theatre.
- Lunch will be available in the diner for Years 7 and 12 only.
- Students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 should arrive at 1.15 pm. Year 8 should go to the Ted Hughes Theatre for assembly, Year 13 to Calder VI for assembly and other students to their tutor bases.
- Due to rising costs a school meal will now be £1.85 for the 'deal of the day' which includes a main meal and a sweet.

Please see below the term time and holiday dates and training days for the coming year:-

Autumn Term 2010

	Closed	Wednesday	1 September (Training Day)
	Re-open	Thursday	2 September
Half term	Closed	Friday	1 October (Training Day)
	Close	Friday	22 October
	Closed	Monday	1 November (Training Day)
	Re-open	Tuesday	2 November
Christmas	Close	Friday	17 December

Spring Term 2011

	Closed	Tuesday	4 January 2011 (Training Day)
	Re-open	Wednesday	5 January
Half term	Close	Friday	18 February
	Re-open	Monday	28 February
Easter	Close	Friday	15 April

Summer Term 2011

	Re-open	Tuesday	3 May
Half term	Close	Friday	27 May
	Re-open	Monday	6 June
Midsummer	Close	Wednesday	20 July
	Closed	Thursday	21 July (Training Day)

I also list below an up to date uniform and essential equipment list which I hope will be helpful if items need to be replaced.

Please note the following minor changes to Uniform Policy for September –

- In colder weather – when an outer layer of clothing may be required in the classroom it must be a **plain** black jumper or cardigan – NO HOODIES. No other additional items will be allowed.
- If Asian heritage girls choose to wear a hijab – this must now be plain black
- **NO make-up** will be allowed for students in years 7 and 8 (this includes coloured nail polish)
- Students in years 9, 10 and 11 will be allowed to wear a small amount of **subtle make-up**. Students will be asked to remove it – if it is deemed to be excessive

School Uniform/Dress Code and Essential Equipment:

- **Years 7 and 8** - Navy blue polo-shirt with the school badge.
- **Year 9** – Navy blue or gold polo-shirt with the school badge
- **Years 10 and 11** - Pale blue polo-shirt with the school badge.
- Knee length, plain black school skirt. Skirts should be plain black and of an appropriate school style (not a fashion item).
- Plain black school trousers. Combats, jeans, leggings and tracksuit bottoms are not acceptable.
- Plain black sensible footwear, with black laces and maximum heel height of 4 cm. (Platforms, mules, boots and open-toed footwear are not acceptable.
- White trainers are not permitted to be worn other than for PE lessons.

Additional Guidelines:

- Fashion belts and other uniform accessories are not acceptable.
- Tights should be flesh coloured or plain black, footless and patterned tights are not acceptable.
- Where hair is dyed, the colour must be within the normal range of natural hair colours and restricted to one colour.
- Jewellery – students are permitted to wear a watch and one small stud in each ear. Facial jewellery eg. Nose, lip, chin, tongue or eyebrow rings/studs are not acceptable.

Calder High School reserves the right to judge what is and is not acceptable in terms of dress and appearance, including hairstyles. Parent and student cooperation is expected.

PE & Games:

For PE lessons, students will need the following items of kit.

Girls Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9:

A sky blue polo shirt with collar
Navy shorts
White socks
Trainers (a clean pair must be worn for indoor lessons)

Girls Year 10 and Year 11:

A white polo shirt with collar
Navy shorts
White socks
Trainers (a clean pair must be worn for indoor lessons)

Girls do not need to invest in football boots and shin pads unless they represent the school at football.

For outdoor lessons in cold weather (after October half term at the teacher's discretion), girls may wear plain blue tracksuit bottoms. These may have a small logo but no additional stripes etc. For all gymnastics and indoor lessons and outdoors during the summer term, shorts must be worn.

Sweatshirts may be plain blue/black. Hoods are not allowed for health and safety reasons.

Boys Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9:

A long sleeved rugby shirt (royal blue and amber stripe)

Royal blue shorts

Royal blue vest for indoor lessons (optional)

Football socks (royal blue and amber stripe)

Football boots

Trainers (a clean pair must be worn for indoor lessons)

Boys representing the school at football will also need shin pads.

Boys Year 10 and Year 11:

Continue to wear either the school rugby shirt or a white polo shirt with a collar

GCSE students however will also require a white polo shirt with a collar

Essential Equipment for Lessons:

You are expected to have the following with you for every lesson:

- A suitable bag for books
- Pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, student planner and the correct books.
- A Modern Foreign Language Dictionary
- A calculator
- Specialist items as required for specific lessons (PE/Dance/Technology/Art)

Independent Learning (Homework) Policy:

At the start of the new school year Calder High Students in Years 7, 8, and 9 will be set Independent Learning tasks. These tasks are to be completed outside lesson times and could be worked on in the Learning Resource Centre (before, after school and during lunchtime), at home or at another learning environment. Short independent learning tasks will be set on a weekly basis in Modern Foreign Languages and Science and on a fortnightly basis in Mathematics and Technology.

Independent Learning Tasks for other subjects will set an extended project/piece of research on a rota basis. The timetable will be issued at the start of the Autumn Term. The extended projects are designed to take between 2 to 3 hours.

Students in Year 9 begin their GCSE Courses in Mathematics, Science and ICT and therefore will follow the KS4 Policy.

PE and Expressive Arts subjects will not set regular independent tasks apart from Expressive Arts students following the BTEC Course in Year 9 who will be set weekly independent learning tasks.

However involvement in Expressive Arts performances and in sports teams will require attendance at rehearsals and practices outside class time.

A timetable showing when the extended tasks will be set will be given to students at the start of the new school year and will be published on the school website and the FROG Virtual Learning Environment.

At Key Stage 4: Independent learning tasks are set on a regular basis in all examination subjects. They will be designed to:

- Ensure students are properly prepared to sit public examinations
- Ensure coursework requirements are completed

Work will be set at the appropriate time by the subject teacher. Such tasks need to be completed by a set deadline. Parents are asked to support school and their children by ensuring adherence to the deadlines.

Over the summer break, there will be some redecorating and refurbishment works taking place at Calder High, and in September we will be joined by our new Headteacher Carol Spillane, along with a number of other new colleagues. I am certain that you will join me in wishing her, our new students and all new colleagues a warm welcome into our school, as we move into this next chapter of the school's history.

In the meantime, I hope you have an excellent and restful summer break and I look forward to seeing all of the students back in school refreshed and ready for the new school year in September.

Yours sincerely

Chris Sylge
Acting Headteacher

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Please return to the School Office as soon as possible

I/we confirm that _____ (name of student) in Form _____

will be staying in school at the end of term on Tuesday, 20 July 2010 at 12.35 pm for lunch and will be making their own way home.

_____ Signed Parent/Carer