

The Calder Learning Trust

Brier Hey Lane, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 5QN

Telephone: 01422 883213

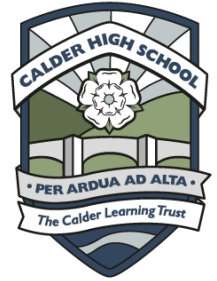
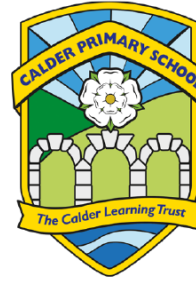
Enquiries: parentenquiry@calderlearningtrust.com

Website: calderlearningtrust.com

Head of The Calder Learning Trust - Mr A Guise

Head of Calder Primary School - Mrs K Lambert

Head of Calder High School - Mr A Taylor



Friday, 19 December 2025

Dear Parent,

As we leave 2025 and look ahead, I wanted to reflect on some of our recent achievements and share a few exciting opportunities to come.

Recently, I had the pleasure of watching the amazing school production of *Sister Act Jr*. I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of a school with such talented individuals—both on and off the stage. Thank you to all the staff, students, and relatives who supported the performances over the two evenings. It truly was remarkable.

We also secured the only **Gold Award for Healthy Schools**, with recognition for our Mental Health support for staff and students. In addition, our Student Parliament hosted a **Senior Citizens' Christmas Party**, a heartwarming event that beautifully showcased the positive interactions between different generations.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and offer my best wishes for the New Year.

Regards,

Mr A. Taylor

Headteacher, Calder High School

Changes from January 2026:

Reading lessons: As part of our commitment to the 'National Year of Reading 2026' we will be making some slight changes to the English curriculum for Years 7 and 8. Every week they will now have a stand-alone reading lesson, where we will be reading a book together and develop our skills of prediction, questioning, clarifying and summarising. Whilst the aim is to engender a love of books and reading for pleasure, research evidence suggests that reading is linked to a range of benefits including stronger writing skills, improved wellbeing and confidence, and even higher future earnings.

Changes to securing the site: Considering [Martyn's Law](#) and a review of site safeguarding, the school will be making changes regarding how parents and carers can access the site. Access for parents and carers will only be via **Brier Hey Lane** and the gate next to the English block. Visitor parking spaces are available in the car park for parents and carers.

There is also a safe box should you want to drop off kit or other items. Parents and carers will not be allowed on site during lunches and breaks, unless in emergencies when they will be collected from the gate. If students need to leave site during lunch or break, a member of the reception staff will walk with them to the gate. At lunches and breaks reception staff may not be able to answer the phones immediately. We would ask that parents and carers give school as much notice as possible when students need to be collected to attend appointments or events off site.

Are your contact details up to date? Parents can now update their own details on Arbor, should they change. Please follow this link [here](#)

Thank you for the feedback in the recent parent and carer survey. It was identified that many parents and carers asked for more information on how to support their children to ensure they are safe online. As a result, the [school safeguarding page](#) has been updated to include a range of factsheets on popular applications and websites and links for further support aid parents and carers to help children remain safe online. In school online safety is highlighted in assemblies, PHSE and IT classes. School also has Filtering and Monitoring systems in place to ensure our students are safe online whilst at school.

Parent Pay: To allow parents to manage their child's spending we are capping students' accounts at an overdraft of £5. If your child goes over this, we will not be able to provide food. Please can we politely ask parents with overdrawn accounts to balance them over the holidays.

Unfortunately, we have had to make the difficult decision to raise our prices, this is not an easy decision or one that we have taken lightly. As we all know, food prices have continued to rise, and we have made every effort to avoid passing these costs on to our students and their families. This will not have an impact on students who claim Free School Meals. Please note that we continue to offer a meal deal at £2.60. For more information on pricing, please visit the our [website](#).

Over the past three years we have increased our prices once, and continuing to operate at the current prices would make the diner here at Calder High unsustainable. Our commitment to fresh, in-house cooking remains unchanged, with a strong focus on both taste and nutrition.

We hope you understand why we have had to make this decision. We will continue to review our food offering and hope to get more students' voices and input on food choices and menus. We also plan to run more special event days for students to enjoy.

Everybody, Everyday

