

The Calder Learning Trust

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

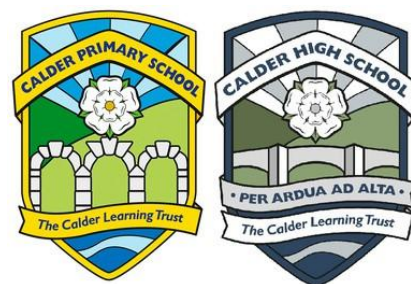
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Head of Calder High School – Mr A Taylor

Head of Calder Primary School – Mrs H Hopper



Friday, 04 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Start of Year 2026/27

Welcome to the new academic year!

We hope you and your families had a wonderful, restful summer and are feeling recharged for the exciting journey ahead. It has been an absolute joy welcoming our students back through the doors this week. Guided by our core school values of care, commitment, and courage, we are bursting with enthusiasm for the months ahead, a year that promises to be packed with vibrant learning, fantastic achievements, great fun, and inspiring new opportunities.

To help us start the term smoothly, we would like to share a few helpful reminders, updates, and key changes in recent legislation designed to support our students and families.

Exciting Legislative & Guidance Updates

- **Mobile Phones:** To ensure our students stay fully engaged, present, and connected with each other, we are continuing our successful phone-free policy. In line with the updated [UK government guidance on mobile phones in schools](#), devices must remain safely stored away during the school day. Should your child ever need to get in touch with you, our caring Student Services team is always on hand to help facilitate a call home.
- **School Uniform:** The government has introduced updated guidance to ensure school uniforms remain affordable, asking schools to limit compulsory branded uniform items to a maximum of three ([GOV.UK Cost of School Uniforms guidance](#)). We are delighted to share that we are already fully compliant with this 'Rule of Three', keeping quality high and costs low for our families!
- **Free School Meals:** Great news for household budgets, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals have expanded. All children in households receiving Universal Credit are now eligible, regardless of net household income. We encourage all families to take a moment to explore the updated [GOV.UK Free School Meals guidance](#) to see if your child can benefit from nutritious, cost-free daily lunches.
- **Allergy Guidance:** The health and safety of our students is our top priority. New statutory safety guidance has been introduced to strengthen allergy care across schools, including enhanced policies, staff training, and tailored healthcare plans. Please review the official [Department for Education guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions](#) and reach out to us if your child has any updated allergy or healthcare needs.

Everybody, Everyday



- **Attendance and Parental Fines:** Every school day is a fresh chance for your child to thrive, discover, and build strong friendships. Demonstrating our shared commitment to every student reaching their full potential, we celebrate strong attendance. Please review the national standards outlined in the [GOV.UK Working Together to Improve School Attendance framework](#) regarding unauthorized absences and remember to let us know as early as possible if your child is unwell so we can support them and authorize their absence where appropriate.

School Policies & Expectations

- **Uniform and Jewellery:** We take real pride in the strong sense of identity, equality, and community our uniform brings. To keep our community looking sharp and feeling united, please ensure all uniform pieces meet our guidelines, which can be found in full on our school website. A quick reminder that only permitted jewellery may be worn. Any non-permitted items will be safely stored and returned at the end of the school week (or collected earlier by a parent via prior arrangement). This gentle focus helps build an inclusive, distraction-free environment where everyone feels part of the team.
- **Detentions & Transparency:** To give you total peace of mind regarding your child's safety and daily schedule, we are making our detention process completely transparent. We will no longer adjust detention timings without communicating directly with you first. The activity and finish time shown on your child's Arbor calendar will always be exact, so you can always rely on the precise time your child will be leaving the school site.
- **Working Together:** Your child's happiness, safety, and academic journey are at the heart of everything we do. Through our deep care for our pupils and the courage to set high standards together, we are wholeheartedly committed to providing a warm, supportive, and nurturing space for every student. To champion this positive atmosphere, we ask that all interactions between home and school remain positive, polite, and constructive. In line with this, we have published our Parent, Carer, and Visitor Conduct Policy on our school website to ensure our staff enjoy a safe, supportive workplace while working in partnership with you.

We truly appreciate our strong relationship with our parent community and look forward to celebrating many wonderful moments together this year.

Here's to a vibrant, successful, and inspiring academic year ahead!

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Taylor
Head of Calder High School



Mrs H Jones
Deputy Headteacher

Everybody, Everyday

