

From: *Friends and Supporters of Rusty and Steve*

Dear parents and friends of Calder High School

**STOP! Don't read this letter**

Two of Calder High School's English teachers, Ms Leonora Rustamova, Social Cohesion Coordinator and Mr Steve Cann, Union Rep, have been suspended.

While the reasons for Mr Cann's suspension remain unclear, Miss Rusty's suspension relates to the publishing of a fictional story she wrote for and based around her pupils, to encourage them to read. Both teachers had conditions imposed on them forbidding any contact with pupils, parents, and teachers.

The children of the school have shown overwhelming support for these teachers by protesting and writing glowing testimonials on web forums. They report that attempts at dialogue and requests for information from the Head have been rejected. Meanwhile, many concerned parents and friends of the school have been afraid to act for fear of making a bad situation worse.

*Friends Rusty & Steve* think it's time to act and encourage the school to make positive decisions, ensuring that the pupils of the school and these two extraordinary teachers are treated with fairness, dignity and respect. We are writing to invite you to **take action**:

- Come along to an **open meeting** on Thursday 26 March, 7.30pm, at Salem Mill, (behind the Co-op), Hebden Bridge to voice your support for Mr Cann and Miss Rusty and discuss how the community can best support the school to reach a positive outcome for everyone.
- Creative writing exercise: **add a testimonial** on your positive experiences of the influence Miss Rusty and Mr Cann have had on you or your children. Have your testimonial recorded as an interview at the meeting, or write it and send it to the clerk to the governors, or to us at FORAS09@gmail.com.  
The Clerk to the Governors is Christine Welch and her email address is: cwelch@calderhigh.calderdale.sch.uk.  
Join the Facebook group: "Save Miss Rusty's job... and Mr Cann's"  
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52674216315&ref=nf>
- Talk, think, be creative and don't be afraid!

Thank you for joining us to show support for two fantastic teachers who have given their all for the pupils of Calder High School for 40 years between them.

Yours sincerely

*Friends of Rusty and Steve*