

10 July 2020



## West Kirby Grammar School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

This is my last weekly newsletter to families as we begin our summer holidays and a period of complete closure for the school. It marks 17 weeks of partial closure, much longer than any of us anticipated on the day that we closed. I know that there have been times when some students (and families) have experienced challenge and loss through this period and times when for others there has been real celebration. Whatever your journey has been, we have been thinking of you, and we have missed our normal school life and the corridors and classrooms have been too quiet for too long. The summer break is however a time for everyone to find some time to pause and to relax. School will be completely closed over the summer break including for our key worker students who have worked with such commitment throughout this extended period.

At this time of year, we always celebrate the culmination of our House events and reveal the overall totals following a host of competitions throughout the academic year. We have had some new additions during lockdown and it has been great to see so many students taking part. The results are now in and are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wallis 74 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gonner 73 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Stewart 68.5 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> Hudson 68 points
- 5<sup>th</sup> Furniss 62 points
- 6<sup>th</sup> Paton 53.5 points

Congratulations to all who participated this year, it has been an absolute delight to see what a wide range of talents our students have.

As we end the week and the academic year, all Year 10 and 12 students have now had the opportunity to return to school, albeit briefly, but they have seemed happy to be back and have enjoyed checking in and preparing for returning to school in September. Year 12 students should now be aware of the timing of their assessment period in September, which was postponed from the end of this academic year. These assessments will take place in lessons from Monday 7 to Friday 18 September and will help to inform UCAS predicted grades, alongside performance this year. The exams are not mock exams which are scheduled later in the year, but they will be used as important indicators of potential outcomes and so students should take time to thoroughly prepare, though being mindful of the fact that they too need some time to switch off from their academic studies.

Before we finish for the summer, we know that parents want to be clear on the plans for reopening in September. This information has already been shared by Mr Clarke and is available on the school website. To be clear on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September Year 7 and Year 12 return to school, with all year groups attending from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. The link to the government document providing general information on the return to school is once again shown below for those who require further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Over the summer period, if there are any safeguarding concerns and you wish to contact the school safeguarding team, then please send an email direct to [dsl@wkgs.net](mailto:dsl@wkgs.net)

If you however have an **urgent safeguarding concern** during this period, please call the Integrated Front Door on the following numbers:

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm 0151 606 2008

At other times 0151 677 6557

General information is available on the Wirral Children's Safeguarding Partnership website and here you will also find links to other local support groups. <https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/>

We say goodbye to some staff today. A number of staff are retiring after a significant period of time at West Kirby Grammar, Mrs Wrightson, Dr Carrick and Mrs Smith are all saying farewell today. These staff have supported many, many students in their time at West Kirby and we are very sad to see them go. There are a number of other staff also moving on including Mr Marley, Miss Morgan and Mrs Savidge. We wish them all good luck in their future endeavours and thank them for their contribution to our school community. They will be very much missed.

Sadly, it is also almost time for me to end my time at West Kirby. It has been a joy to be the Headteacher here; it is without doubt one of the best school communities that I have ever worked in. I will miss the students and staff so much. Leaving a school is always hard, but leaving in the midst of a global pandemic makes it so much harder. My main regret is that I will not be here to welcome the whole school community back together in September. Although I am beginning a new adventure in Cumbria, I will be leaving a piece of my heart here at West Kirby. I very much hope that I may see you when I return to visit.

Have a good summer and thank you for all of your support and encouragement. It is very much appreciated.

With kind regards



Elaine Sargent  
Headteacher