

5 June 2020



**West Kirby**  
Grammar School

Graham Road, West Kirby, Wirral CH48 5DP

T: 0151 632 3449 F: 0151 632 1224

Email: [office@wkgs.net](mailto:office@wkgs.net)

[www.wkgs.org](http://www.wkgs.org)

Dear Parents/ Carers,

In my more optimistic moments, I hoped that by now we might have been heading more rapidly back to normal school life. However here we are in the final half term and that is looking increasingly unlikely, particularly for Years 7-9 where home learning would appear to be the norm for the remainder of this academic year.

Of course, in England lockdown is gradually easing. As a consequence of this, the number of key worker children attending school is continuing to rise as parents and carers return to their work places. For many this has been their normal routine for many weeks now, but a number of others have joined more recently and we are now accommodating up to three classrooms of key worker children each day as they complete their online learning.

It has now been confirmed that secondary schools should begin to extend their provision for students in Years 10 and 12 starting from the 15 June. It is up to individual schools to make the best decision for their own communities in their individual settings. Following the questionnaire that we sent to parents/carers of these students, we know that some are very keen to return to school, while others are extremely anxious about returning and are worried that they will be left behind if they are not attending. We are now receiving daily communications from families with very opposing desires for the next few weeks and the remainder of this half term. Obviously, we cannot accommodate all of these preferences and we are also very conscious that we must consider the health and safety of our whole school community and that we minimise risk as far as possible. A detailed risk assessment for 'reopening' has been written and will be available on the school website from next week.

With that in mind, we are having a staged approach to extending our provision. Phase 1 will be from 15 June until 26 June. During this two week period we will be reviewing and evaluating what our provision will look like for students in Years 10 and 12 from the 29 June onwards.

#### **Week beginning 15 June – Year 10 only**

In the week beginning 15 June, targeted Year 10 students will be invited into school for one day in a small group of approximately eight students. A different group of students will attend each day. Our first focus will be those identified as vulnerable who are not currently attending school, along with students who we feel are finding engaging with online learning more challenging, plus those we feel would benefit from some additional face to face contact to get back on track. A single member of staff will supervise students in the group each day, and they will be able to offer advice and guidance and facilitate accessing the online learning provision. Ahead of this, a virtual meeting has been arranged for each student in Year 10 to allow any concerns to be identified whether due to wellbeing or academic.

#### **Week beginning 22 June- Year 12 only**

In this week, we will adopt a similar approach, but the focus will be on Year 12 students. Again, a single member of staff will supervise each group each day.

We are however acutely aware that we have been delivering our education virtually for quite some time now, and that students and parents/carers are finding this increasingly challenging without any more interactive

contact. Therefore, **from 15<sup>th</sup> June**, staff will begin to offer a mixture of ways of delivering lessons. These could include:

- Our current provision where tasks are set with material and instructions for students to work through independently, without any further interaction.
- Audio/Video supported PowerPoints (where the teacher 'talks' over the Powerpoint to give clarity to explanations). This is recorded in advance and uploaded to Google Classroom.
- 'Live' learning. This is where lessons are scheduled for delivery via a virtual platform, and staff and teachers are able to interact. There is no expectation that this will become the norm at this point, as situations for those within our whole school community vary greatly at this time.

We hope that we may be able to extend this home learning provision to other year groups also, but initially priority will be given to students in Year 10 and Year 12.

Those students who are our first focus will be contacted separately early next week to give further information about arrangements from 15 June. We will communicate our plans for further extending our provision from 29 June in due course.

I hope that students managed some time away from computers at half term, to do some different activities or just to relax. Next week, the Wellbeing Day will take place on Thursday. For those students of key workers who are attending school on this day, they should once again come prepared with activities for themselves. They will have computer access and can bring headphones, but the use of mobile phones will be discouraged.

Another reminder to you that if students are struggling they can email [wellbeing@wkgs.net](mailto:wellbeing@wkgs.net) for advice. This email can also be used by parents/carers to contact us.

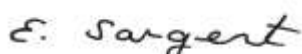
For families who are interested, along with this letter this week Mrs Duffey has asked me to circulate the latest SEND information, which gives an update on Wirral SEND services.

We are of course starting to think ahead to September, and planning for our normal school year. Of course, we cannot answer any questions at the moment about exactly what this will look like; nobody knows at the moment. However, we continue to optimistically plan for a near normal academic year as we await further information. I am therefore bringing an opportunity to the attention of students currently in Year 9 or 10. We are offering these students the opportunity to take up Italian from September. The course is led by Signor Pepe and lessons take place on a Tuesday and a Thursday from 3.45pm - 4.45pm. The course leads to a GCSE examination taken in the summer of the second year of study. Interested students should email Signor Pepe: [mpepe@wkgs.net](mailto:mpepe@wkgs.net)

I hope that families have a peaceful weekend; we know that the first week back can be more of a challenge, particularly getting back into the routine of home learning. Therefore, I am ending this week with a quote from the writer Mary Anne Radmacher,  
*"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow."*

We miss you and look forward to seeing everyone when the time comes. Once again, please keep in touch, our staff love hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Elaine Sargent  
Headteacher