

19 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

www.wkgs.org

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This is a bumper edition of our weekly letter as we share some of the plans and key dates as we head rapidly towards the end of term.

It has been lovely to welcome our first focus Year 10 students back to school this week and they have worked hard and made real progress with their online learning. All Year 10 parents and carers should this week have received a questionnaire to complete that confirms whether they wish their child to attend for a day before the end of term. Please can this be completed by Monday at the latest so that we can plan the groups for these days. We would like all Year 10 students to have the opportunity to have attended school, albeit for a short period of time, before the year ends.

Year 12 first focus students have received their invitations for next week, and next week we will be in touch with all parents and carers to share additional information about the remainder of the year. Year 12 students should by now, have started to have their individual or small group virtual meetings with each of their subject teachers. This is an opportunity to discuss any concepts that are proving more challenging, or to ask for any general advice.

Many staff are now offering a variety of methods of lesson delivery, priority is being given to Year 10 and Year 12 lessons, though where staff are able, this is being extended to other year groups. Lessons vary and 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.

At this time of the year, had we been in school, this period would have been one of review and consolidation following end of year exams and the pace would therefore have eased a little. We are therefore aware that some students in Year 7-9 are starting to feel a little overwhelmed by the volume of work and tasks set and below I am setting out our plan to give students some space. Each of these year groups will have a Wellbeing Week before the end of term, when no additional work will be set. For those who are completely on top of their work and wish to access additional online learning resources the two websites below are recommended:

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Oak National Academy, an online classroom and resource hub: <https://www.thenational.academy/>

At this time of year, we would also have had an Impact Day to cover some key PSHE themes, and we think it is important that these things are not lost.

Below is a list of some key dates for the remainder of the academic year:

Week beginning 22 June.

Year 7 Wellbeing Week. No additional work will be set for **Year 7**.

Monday 22 June is Wellbeing Day for the whole school as this is where it falls on the rotation. 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.

Friday 26 June is a staff CPD Day as per the school calendar. This will continue as scheduled and so **no work will be set on this day for any students.**

Week beginning 29 June.

Year 8 Wellbeing Week. No additional work will be set for **Year 8**.

Tuesday 30 June is Wellbeing Day for the whole school as this is where it falls on the rotation.

Week beginning 6 July.

Year 9 Wellbeing Week. No additional work will be set for **Year 9** except on the Impact Day.

Wednesday 8 July is Wellbeing Day for the whole school as this is where it falls on the rotation.

Thursday 9 July will be an **Impact Day** for all Year 7-10 students. Further information will be shared as we approach this date, but the day will focus on PSHE topics that students must complete as part of their wider education.

Week beginning 13 July

Thursday 16 July is Wellbeing Day for the whole school as this is where it falls on the rotation.

For students in Years 7- 9 who have not had the opportunity to have a virtual meeting with staff yet, we are hosting a series of 'form meets' for their form groups in the next few weeks. These will be hosted by the Head of Year and Form Tutor if possible and will allow us to check in on students, and to ensure that they have the chance to talk about any worries or ask any questions before the summer holidays. We want students to be ready for the return to school in the new academic year, though of course we are still unsure what exactly that may look like.

For those in Year 10 and 12 who have had some virtual contact already, virtual pastoral contact is also being planned to ensure that all students are supported in the final few weeks.

A reminder once again that if students are struggling they can email wellbeing@wkgs.net for advice. This email can also be used by parents/carers to contact us.

A number of Year 10 parents/carers and students have been in touch to ask about work experience. Sadly, this will not take place this academic year. Online work experience opportunities may present themselves and if so we will make you aware of them. This week we have been contacted about Project Rousseau, an American organisation that empowers youth in America. They have a range of tasks available for high-school aged remote volunteers. Volunteer activities include creating worksheets across a range of classes preparing Broadening Horizons packets for students to learn more about current affairs while developing their reading comprehension skills, and developing accessible career guides for students. If this is something that Year 10 students in particular would be interested in, they should contact Mr Thomas for further information. The link to Project Rousseau is <http://www.projectrousseau.org/>

Finally this week, we know that for those in Year 11 (and in Year 6), this is a period of transition and had schools been operating as usual there would have been a host of opportunities available to support this. Our Year 6 Transition Team, led by Mrs Cliffe have created a host of virtual resources and are in contact with our new students to ensure that this information is shared. For those in Year 11 who are moving into the Sixth Form, summer work is posted on our website and there is a Sixth Form Instagram account up and running if any students have questions that they wish to ask our current sixth formers. If you require any further information about this, please contact Mr Clarke.

Therefore, as we end week 13 of school closure, with perhaps a hint of optimism in the media that things are continuing to improve, I will let Tolkien finish this week's letter with a quote from the Lord of the Rings.

"The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater."

I very much hope that we see everyone soon.

Kind regards,



Elaine Sargent
Headteacher