

24 April 2020



**West Kirby**  
Grammar School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the summer term, albeit in a very different way. I hope that students have managed to reengage with online learning after two weeks away from computers over the Easter period. I know that staff are still working hard to ensure that students continue to make progress, but also that they take part in some of the wider areas of school life too.

School continues to be open for children of key workers and for vulnerable students and we have been so impressed with the attitude of those who have been in school with us. We remained open over the Easter holidays although students attending had a different experience in these weeks so that they also took a break from the computer screen. At this point, I have to say particular thanks to Mr Akehurst, our Site Manager, who has been keeping our site open and safe since schools closed, and to our Sodexo staff who have continued to provide catering and cleaning, even over the Bank Holidays, so that the school can remain open. I know that I have thanked our teaching staff for what they are doing, but our whole team of support staff are also doing an incredible job in these challenging times. We are very, very proud of our community.

We are keen to keep all students learning and for those in Year 11, staff will be posting work that revisits concepts from GCSE until half term. We know that a number of Year 11 students may choose to sit exams in their subjects in the autumn term and so it is important that they keep learning. After half term, staff will set more occasional assignments for Year 11 that may give a head start for A-level courses in September. This is an opportunity to be ready to tackle those advanced courses and to excel next year.

For Year 13 and in fact any other students who are looking to extend their understanding in a particular area, the Open University is offering some free online courses and staff may make students aware of these if they fit with the topic that have been taught. They may also be of interest to some parents!

A number of parents have been in touch and asked about Parents' Evenings and Reports. During the current closure period, unfortunately we cannot provide these things. Parents and students should rest assured that when school does reopen, we will ensure that students are where they need to be, right now experiences are very different and all we ask is that students do what they can.

Could we please ask parents/carers to remind students to check their emails regularly. Mr Thomas tells me that for example Year 12 students are being contacted by Mrs Grealis about careers advice and guidance 'meetings' and so we don't want any important information to be missed. Mrs Harris-Smith has also asked me to ensure students are aware of the online information events that Lancaster University will be providing for us. Students should already have been informed, but do please contact us if there are any queries. An email was sent to all Year 12 parents/carers who receive our messages from School Comms, earlier this week and reminders will be sent the day prior to each event.

While students are spending so long at computers and devices, online safety is going to remain a focus. Attached with this letter are some quick tips for parents/carers for keeping children safe online. This is definitely a must read.


There is a great deal of information available during school closure and parents and carers may find the link to the document below useful as it pulls together a lot of this information and may answer any queries that you have. The main question, I know, is when we will reopen. For now, there is no answer to that, but we will continue to follow Government direction in the coming weeks and months.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

It has been lovely to see some of the amazing activities that our students have been involved in while home learning and we do enjoy receiving your images and hearing your news, so do please keep in touch.

Finally, I read a moving article this morning that said, 'We are all sailing in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat.' We are very aware that within our community people are being affected in very different ways. Our thoughts are with those who have experienced loss and we know that this time is incredibly tough for some. Wherever you are now, we will see you in the calm. We miss having our community together, but the calm will come and for now, we just need to keep doing what we are doing, in the best way that we can.

Kind regards.



Elaine Sargent  
Headteacher