

22 May 2020



West Kirby
Grammar School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are now at the end of another half term and next week is an opportunity for all students and staff to switch off and do something different. Everyone has worked so hard over the last few weeks and a break is very well deserved. We are remaining open from Monday to Wednesday next week for children of key workers who have requested a place, but we will be closed on Thursday and Friday, as no places are required.

We are getting queries from parents/carers about a potential return to school for students. We are still waiting for further definitive guidance and clarity from the DfE on what that may look like for Year 10 and Year 12 students in particular. We do know that there will be no change to our current provision on the 1 June. We are of course thinking about what any extended provision could look like, but clearly any further reopening will only be considered when it is safe to do so. We, as many schools, await the SAGE guidance on the 28 May. As soon as we have further information about any changes to our provision, this will be shared with you. After half term, we will be asking Year 10 and 12 parents/carers to complete a very short questionnaire to indicate whether they would wish their child to attend school in some format before the end of the academic year.

We continue to get positive feedback about our wellbeing day. Obviously, next week is a week of freedom from studies, but after half term the wellbeing day will take place on Wednesday of the first week back. 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 for advice. This email can also be used by parents/carers to contact us.

Equally, if there are any safeguarding concerns particularly over half term when the school phones will not be manned, and you wish to contact the school safeguarding team, then please use the contact page of the school website, selecting safeguarding concern, or send an email direct to 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/>

In amongst the new way of academic learning, there have been many other exciting activities taking place. A number of House competitions have concluded including House Poetry (with some stunning examples of poetry from our students shared on social media) and House Photography. So many students have taken

part and we are incredibly impressed with their creativity and their talent. Alongside this letter this week, we are also sending out an Eco Newsletter created by some of our students under the guidance of Mrs Duffey, this is well worth a read!

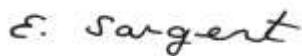
For those who have requested a childcare place next week, please note:

- Students **will not** be working in computer rooms and **will not** have access to a computer. They will be based in the Main School Hall.
- Students must bring **their own entertainment** each day. Use of mobile phones will be discouraged.
- Lunch will be available to purchase as Sodexo have kindly agreed to work with limited staff over the holiday.
- The school will be open from 8.30am and will be locked at 4pm.
- Students should arrive and register in the Main School Hall as usual.
- For the three day period when we are open, students are not required to wear school uniform, though they may do so if you wish.

Finally, I hope that everyone has a peaceful half term and that there is time to recharge and relax. I enjoyed reading some excerpts from a book by Sam Harrison this week, in which he says, *'Sometimes we just need to put down our phones, close our eyes and take a few deep breaths. Ideas are often in flight patterns around our brains, just waiting for clearance to land.'*

Please take some time out, and we look forward to seeing everyone when the time finally comes. Please keep in touch and let us know of the fabulous things you are doing. We love hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Elaine Sargent
Headteacher