

27 March 2020



West Kirby Grammar School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I thought that it would be useful to write to you each Friday in order to share any key messages and in order that we all keep connected through this challenging period.

Week one is done and I have been utterly amazed at our fantastic community. Google Classroom is proving to be a very effective platform for online learning, and I know that students have been working hard; I am so grateful to our wonderful staff who I know are going above and beyond to ensure that students continue to make progress. This is, of course, not our usual way of working, so there may be times when students need to be a little creative, or just take some time out during the day, as many of the staff are juggling their own home lives while also keeping the community learning. A special thank you to the small group of students who have been in school each day and who have worked independently with commitment and enthusiasm, while being socially distanced and practising much hand washing! Attached with this letter are some remote learning tips that Mr Douthwaite has asked me to share with you, and that you may find useful as we start another week.

There is so much going on outside of the academic though. Mrs Cliffe has inspired staff to introduce some new House competitions and in case you have missed them, students have now been invited to take part in House Photography, Poetry, Song-Writing, Drama and more. I cannot wait to see and hear the entries when they come in. If you do not follow the school on Twitter already, I would encourage you to do so, as we will continue to celebrate our school community and our achievements on here [@WestKirbyGS](https://twitter.com/WestKirbyGS)

The pastoral staff are ensuring that their year groups keep busy in many different ways. I know that there have been wellbeing challenges in Year 7, inter form quizzes in Year 10 and earlier this week, Year 11 were being encouraged to join a Just Dance challenge. I know also that many students and families have been taking part in the Body Coach Daily Workout throughout the week. There is certainly something for everyone. These are things that make our school special, the extra things that build our community, so that when we do return, we are a force to be reckoned with.

Mr Thomas has asked me to mention careers and for those students who want to take some time to start thinking about future careers, they can all access Kudos Cascaid, which will take them through various career choices based on their strengths and interests. For students who cannot remember, or who are yet to login, they should use the code **linklink52** in order to set up an account.

With regards to examinations for Year 11 and Year 13 students, we are still waiting for news, probably in April, about how grades will be awarded, so for now, we are encouraging students in these year groups to keep learning. For those in Year 11, a secure knowledge will be needed when A-level courses begin, and many staff are looking for ways to stretch and challenge students a little so that they begin Year 12 with very firm foundations. For Year 13 students, undergraduate courses will expect that students starting have completed all of the A-level learning and have good knowledge and understanding. It is important

therefore, that students keep accessing work set online. As soon as we know more, we will share this information with you.

Please be aware that no work will be set over the Easter period, this is a time for everyone to take a break and relax, staff, students and families.

I know that some parents who are key workers have been in touch already to ask about the Easter holidays. I will be writing to you separately early next week to outline our plans and to collate the information that we require for the very small number of families that we expect will require our support.

Wishing everyone a peaceful weekend and many thanks for your support, we have been quite overwhelmed by your messages of appreciation.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Sargent".

Elaine Sargent
Headteacher