

1 May 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,

So we are drawing close to the end of the sixth week of national 'lockdown' and the fourth week of virtual learning. We are well aware of the challenges that many are facing and that most are missing being in school and interacting with friends and staff. Certainly, we are missing the students; it is so quiet here without them. I hope that you have seen and shared the message that staff created for our community, if you haven't you will find it posted on the school social media accounts. We have to thank Mr Douthwaite for putting this together and Mrs Cliffe for encouraging us all to take part.

I thought that I should end this week by focusing on wellbeing. A number of parents are concerned that students are working long hours to complete work, and it is really important that students do not work beyond the hours of a normal school day, and that they prioritise their wellbeing and mental health. As I have said before, when schools do return, we will do all we can to get students up to date with their learning, if work is not completed sometimes, we understand. Over the next week, we will be evaluating our virtual learning and see what adjustments we need to make.

I would encourage you to remind students about engaging with the pastoral classrooms as here they will find lots of information beyond the academic, and will keep them connected with the school in a different way. Our wellbeing social media accounts on Twitter and Instagram are also useful as they share valuable information, but for parents who have more significant concerns, please do contact us via our wellbeing email [wellbeing@wkgs.net](mailto:wellbeing@wkgs.net) and one of our pastoral staff will respond.

I need to mention online safety once again; I doubt this will go off the radar, as working online is now our new normal. Mr Douthwaite has asked for some information to be shared this week and this is already on our website and is also being sent to you along with this letter today.

We have received a number of queries about end of year exams for all students. These will not take place this year, and hopefully that will help some students to relax a little. For current Year 12 students, we will need some form of assessment to inform UCAS predictions etc. but these will take place early in the autumn term and not this academic year. That said, Year 12 students may wish to start preparing well in advance for these assessments and further information about these will be shared once we know what school reopening will look like in the future.

I started this letter talking about the challenges that many are facing right now. We know that these are varied, but along with this communication, we are sending out a letter about Free Schools Meals and the application process from our Business Manager Mrs McDonald. Please do take a look at this if you feel that this information could be useful or if circumstances have recently changed.

Next week, it is a Bank Holiday on Friday, so staff will not set work on this day and we hope that students will enjoy some time away from the computer. No parents have requested a childcare place for their daughter/son/ward on that day and consequently **the school will be closed.**

Finally, before our temporary closure the students enjoyed sharing my thoughts on some of my favourite Star Wars films in assemblies. One of my favourite quotes is, '*Your focus determines your reality.*' Therefore, I am ending this week with the suggestion that everyone tries to find some time to be still and to take time for calm reflection. The focus does not always need to be the academic, but can and should be, about taking time out and looking after yourself.

Kind regards,

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

Elaine Sargent  
Headteacher