

12 June 2020



West Kirby Grammar School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

The end of week 12 of lockdown is in sight and there are more signs of lockdown easing in England from Monday. That said it is becoming increasingly apparent that virtual learning is going to be the norm for the remainder of this academic year. We are very aware that many students are missing school and daily contact with their friends and staff. I hope that you have seen the latest video on our social media feeds that Mr Douthwaite has created using contributions from our staff. We want our community to know just how much we are missing them.

From next week, we are beginning to extend our provision to Year 10 students and our first focus students have received further details by email. If you have received this information, could you please confirm whether your daughter/ ward will be attending for our records. All of our health and safety documents relating to our wider reopening are now available on our website.

Ahead of this, Year 10 students should now have had their individual catch up meeting with Miss Ellis and their Tutor to identify any concerns and just to touch base. With this letter this week, we are sending out a copy of a letter received by Headteachers this week giving transport advice, as more of our community begin to return to school and work. Please take time to read this, particularly if your child uses public transport.

Year 12 students who we feel would benefit from attending school for some additional face to face support in order for them to get on track or just to have some time in school away from distraction, will be invited into school from 22 June. Emails will be sent out early next week to these families asking for confirmation (or otherwise) of their son's/ daughter's/ward's attendance.

From next week however, all Year 12 students will be invited a virtual meeting with the teachers from each of their subject areas. This will be either an individual or a small group meeting with at least two teachers present. This will allow students to raise any concerns that they may have about individual topics or their online learning generally. As I mentioned last week, we are aware of the challenges of virtual learning, particularly over such an extended period.

Consequently, from 15 June, staff will be encouraged to offer a variety of different styles of instruction including:

- 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.

We hope that we may be able to extend this home learning provision to other year groups also, but initially priority will be given to students in Year 10 and Year 12.

In amongst the academic, student and staff wellbeing continues to remain a focus and next week, the Wellbeing Day takes place on Friday. We continue to receive positive feedback on these days; we think these days are incredibly valuable. As Ralph Marston said, *'Rest when you're weary. Refresh and renew yourself, your body, your mind, your spirit. Then get back to work.'*

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.

If students are struggling they can email wellbeing@wkgs.net for advice. This email can also be used by parents/carers to contact us.

I would like to remind parents/carers of the opportunity I mentioned last week for students currently in Year 9 or 10. We are offering these students the opportunity to take up Italian from September. The course is led by Signor Pepe and lessons take place on a Tuesday and a Thursday from 3.45pm - 4.45pm. The course leads to a GCSE examination taken in the summer of the second year of study. Interested students should email Signor Pepe: mpepe@wkgs.net before the end of next week so that the groups can be finalised.

I hope that everyone has a relaxing weekend. Keep in touch,

Kind regards,



Elaine Sargent
Headteacher