



Kirkby High School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As always, I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. Thank you for supporting our young people with their school work this week. We have monitored the students and identified who has logged on and engaged with the work set and it is very impressive to see that the overwhelming majority are tackling the tasks set and I know that many of you are supporting them to do this.

I want to reassure you that the work set by our teachers is linked directly with the schemes of work that students would be following if they were in school. Of course, we know that there is no substitute for face to face learning in the classroom and I look forward to the day when normality resumes. For the moment we have no further information about when schools will re-open. As I said in a previous letter, it is important that we do not listen to speculation and gossip. When the Department for Education announces strategies to re-open, I will communicate with you immediately. For now, there is no further information on this.

I know that you are aware that GCSE grades are being calculated without traditional exams this year and I understand all the concerns you have regarding this process. I want to stress to you that each individual teacher is working very hard to provide a predicted grade for your child. Subject leaders are quality assuring this process and senior leaders are looking at the grades and asking challenging questions to understand the rationale and justification for each grade.

It is important to note that the predicted grade provided by school may not be the grade that your child receives on results day. This is because the Department for Education will consider other factors, beyond our control, when awarding the grade. I want to stress that mock exam results gained earlier in the year are not being used as the predicted grade. We recognise that at that stage, courses were not yet complete and some students had not yet settled into a rigorous routine of revision. Teachers are using a range of information to support their decision when predicting each grade.

I do not want any student to be disadvantaged by this year's unavoidable situation and I will do everything in my power to ensure that each student achieves the grades they deserve.

Communication between home and school is always important but even more so at this time. May I ask you to regularly check the school website for updated information and we will send out text messages as the need arises. We also share information using the school Twitter account which many families find useful.

As I explained in previous letters, the most effective way to contact any staff member is to email school at admin@kirkbyhighschool.net. I have a team of staff monitoring this account and



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disseminating emails to the relevant staff. If you have queries concerning student work, free school meals, technology issues or anything else, please send an email to this address and we will action your concern without delay.

Staff are, on the whole, working from home and therefore using their personal mobile phones to make work calls. Because of that, a call from a member of staff will show on your phone as 'No Caller ID'. Please be mindful that we need you to answer the phone if we are to help resolve an issue that is concerning you.

Behind the scenes I am sticking to my commitment and determination to continue to improve Kirkby High School. We are currently reviewing our curriculum and schemes of work, conducting interviews to recruit new staff and making appointments online, modifying the website and investing in IT provision in classrooms.

Most importantly, the well-being of our whole community is of great concern. Please refer to the 'Safeguarding, Support and Wellbeing' section of our website which has a bank of resources that can help both adults and young people who may be struggling at this time. We must all support each other in looking after our mental health and school is here to help you, should you require it.

I will conclude my letter by sharing with you the final paragraph of an email I sent to my staff on Monday 20th April 2020 which I know echoes the thoughts and feelings of everyone who works at Kirkby High School.

'At the risk of sounding over emotional, I am sitting at my desk typing this and there is a great sense of loneliness in a building that normally buzzes with so much personality and energy. When the bell went at 10am, I noticed how eerily silent it is at a moment when the corridors normally burst into life. If I am honest I personally miss you all but I know that we will all be together eventually where we will continue to serve the students of Kirkby High School and the wider community.'

Kind regards,



Mrs R Conefrey
Headteacher

(Stay at home, save lives, protect the NHS)