



Kirkby High School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As half-term 5 draws to a close I just want to check in with you and say that I hope you and your families are all well. We had 'Thank a Teacher Day' this week and I would like to extend that gratitude to parents and carers as I understand fully the added pressure on families during this time. The latest staff video clip will be on the website today and Mr McKendrick will send his weekly text to you to remind your children that it is available. I have received positive comments from a variety of sources so I know that the students are benefiting from seeing our faces. We will continue with this.

Update on Current Situation:

Earlier this week you were notified that the school website was updated with a letter from Phil Rimmer (RLT CEO) and a second letter from the Kirkby Collaborative of Schools. Each of these letters addressed the ever changing situation that affects schools and I would like to add to them. Firstly, I will take this opportunity to remind you that government guidance for full year groups returning to school on the 1st of June **at the earliest** referred to certain year groups in primary schools and not secondary schools.

Regarding secondary schools that educate students aged 11 to 16 years (like KHS), the government only referred to current Year 10 students. They did not state that all Year 10 students would return to school. They referred to the possibility of an approach that involved some face to face time with Year 10 students before summer. I must stress that there is no concrete direction or clarification from the government at the moment. The Prime Minister will make a further statement on Thursday, 28th May 2020. I will contact parents of Y10 students after half term to clarify any plans that we may put in place as a result of the announcement on the 28th. Any face to face between staff and Year 10 that may occur will not be before June the 15th at the earliest. We are currently exploring different approaches to that face to face time. Of course, any decision related to your child is yours and we will work with you if you require guidance and support. **I know that it must be difficult for students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 who are coming to terms with the fact that they will almost certainly not return to school until September 2020 at the earliest.** After half term we will continue to set work, make contact and generally support where we can in these challenging circumstances.

Current Year 11:

Not a day goes by where we, as a staff, do not think about the current Year 11s who should by now be in the middle of their exams. I would appreciate it if all parents/carers could pass on our good wishes and thoughts to all Y11s. When it is closer to the time and we have more information, I will let you know the exact plan for GCSE results day. As it stands, results will be available on Thursday 20th August. Please reassure your child that I will stand by my previous promise that we will have a formal farewell and Aintree Racecourse has been in touch about a rearranged date for the prom. At this moment it would be too difficult to agree a date as we do not know when social distancing measures will be lifted. When we can arrange it, we will let you know.

In previous communications I have stressed that all the staff at Kirkby High School would prefer to be at work in a healthy, safe and fully functioning school educating and supporting your children. I know that all the staff are eager for this to happen as soon as possible but we have to continue to follow guidance, complete our risk assessments, prepare the site and listen to you before we take any drastic steps forward.



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Please encourage your children to enjoy half-term as much as they can. Work will not be set by teachers over the course of the week so this should provide all our students with a mental break.

Finally, I worry about the fact that infection rates in the North West of England are amongst the highest in the country. This rate has to reduce before we have any chance of getting back to any sense of normality. I have chatted to my teenage sons about the fact they simply cannot socialise outside with their friends. It is up to us as parents to educate our teenagers so that they understand the huge role they have to play in reducing this infection. I know it is hard but we are all in this together. Please see the website for any support and if you want to contact school, email us at admin@kirkbyhighschool.net

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R Conefrey'.

Ms R Conefrey
Headteacher