



# Kirkby High School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again I find that I am trying to strike a balance between communicating well with you and not overloading you with Parentapp messages and letters. I oversee every communication that goes home to our families and I want to assure you that I think every message is crucial and therefore I ask that you read all letters and messages closely and that you share relevant content with your child or children.

I hope that you are all managing as well as you can during this period of national lockdown and all the restrictions that go with it. Our school priority is to support students, their families and our staff during this time. That support is wide and varied and I know that you are aware that we have delivered a very high number of laptops to local families to support home learning and also have delivered 500 food boxes. Free school meal provision will be in the form of vouchers from next week and a separate communication is being sent to those who are affected.

## **Remote Learning**

I need to ask you for your help now. The majority of students in each year group are joining the lessons we are providing remotely and each day we have an increase in the percentage of students who are accessing their live lessons on Microsoft Teams, but we need to increase this further. I have an excellent team of staff who collate the lesson attendance data and analyse who is joining lessons and who is not. Follow up telephone calls are then made.

I need to make the following very clear:

- The content of online lessons is consistent with the schemes of work the students would be following if they were in school
- The teachers are following the planned curriculum
- Skills and content will not be fully repeated when students return to school as they will need to move on
- Staff are following the normal marking and feedback policy and this will be used to help teachers to assess students

## **Technical Issues**

Thank you for your patience with some technical teething problems in the initial days of remote learning. Most of the issues were simply to do with incorrect usernames or passwords and were thankfully easy to resolve. We have refined a process in school whereby a parent/carer phone call or email to school is sent immediately to a member of the senior leadership team and the technicians, if necessary. This allows us to contact the teacher or the parent/carer, as required, and to resolve the issue. Please continue to provide us with feedback on how you think this is working. You can send any feedback to [admin@kirkbyhighschool.net](mailto:admin@kirkbyhighschool.net)

## **Year 11**

May I reassure you that Mrs Turner and the whole team are closely following government (DfE) updates related to GCSE qualifications and how they will be awarded in 2021. We know at this point that GCSE results will be based on teacher assessment and are awaiting further guidance from the DfE.

When your children took their mock exams prior to Christmas, attendance rates ranged between 97% and 99%. Your children clearly valued the exams and engaged fully with them. They need to take the same view of their online lessons.

Whereas a large majority are attending their online lessons, there is still a significant number who are not up, dressed and ready for learning each morning. This will affect their future. It is important that students do not miss out on what is being covered in daily lessons.

Teachers will be asking for work to be submitted, in line with our marking and feedback policy, and it is essential that your child contributes to this so that a fair profile of their knowledge and skills can be built.

We assured you that we would not report on mock exams as students had not fully completed their courses but we need additional evidence of attainment and students need to continue to learn. I implore you to speak to your child and to ensure that they understand the importance of the lessons that are their current provision.

## **All Year Groups**

Regardless of what year your child is in, please take the key messages from the section above related to Year 11 and discuss this with them as the learning of all students in all year groups is of equally importance.

## **Well-being**

Please keep an eye out for information about online assemblies that are starting next week. They are designed to help students cope with the current situation and I think all of our young people will benefit from this. If you need further support, please see our website which will signpost you to support agencies. Of course if you need to speak to school staff, call school or email [admin@kirkbyhighschool.net](mailto:admin@kirkbyhighschool.net) and we will get back in touch. Each family will receive a phone call in the coming weeks also.

Other than that, I wish you good health and ask that you all keep yourselves safe.

Yours faithfully



Mrs R Conefrey  
Headteacher

