



Kirkby High School

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5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am aware that it was only yesterday that I sent a letter to you but due to the government announcement made last night (Monday 4th January) I feel I need to write to you again. The Prime Minister announced that all schools in England will close until further notice and all learning will be provided remotely. This excludes students whose parents are critical workers or students who are classed as vulnerable. Parents who have expressed an interest in sending their child to school due to falling into these categories have been contacted and the arrangements have been confirmed.

Remote Learning - Wednesday 6th January onwards

When we went into lockdown last March, the teaching profession had little or no experience of remote learning and at that time we worked hard to set online work for students via different platforms. Since then, Kirkby High School has focused on consolidating staff skills and knowledge via quality training, increasing resources and investing in equipment so that we are now ready to deliver live online lessons to all students.

Live lessons will take place on Microsoft Teams following your child's usual school timetable. Microsoft Teams access information is on the school website using the following link:
<https://kirkbyhighschool.net/student-area/>

Please ensure your child has a pen and paper ready for the live lessons as they will be expected to complete activities during the lessons to ensure learning is as close to a normal lesson as possible. The lessons will take place at the usual times:

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9		Year 10 and Year 11	
Lesson 1	9:20 - 10:20	Lesson 1	9:20 - 10:20
Lesson 2	10:20 - 11:20	Lesson 2	10:20 - 11:20
Break	11:20 - 12:00	Break	11:20 - 12:00
Lesson 3	12:00 - 13:00	Lesson 3	12:00 - 13:00
Lunch	13:00 - 14:00	Lesson 4	13:00 - 14:00
Lesson 4	14:00 - 15:00	Lunch	14:00

Please allow five minutes at the start of every lesson for everyone to join and for the teacher to get started.



SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR



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Our aim is to help students to continue their learning journey so they are not disadvantaged by the current situation when they return to school. It is therefore essential that your child attends all their live lessons. Registers will be taken for every lesson and parents/carers will be contacted if they do not attend. If your child is unwell and therefore unable to attend the live lessons, please contact school and report the sickness in the usual way.

YEAR 11 Update

For year 11 students the government announcement also stated that there will be 'alternative arrangements for GCSE exams'. We need to stress that they have not yet categorically said summer exams are completely cancelled just that they are working on something to replace them. Therefore, it is essential that students continue to remain focused so that they are prepared for every eventuality. The DfE has not yet released any further details and I understand that there will be some anxiety around this. Indeed my own son is a Y11 student and I feel the same. Please speak to your child and explain that their performance in their recent mock exams will not be their final grades and they have every opportunity to show improvements in the coming months. Parents/carers will receive a progress report for Y11 students next week and you will have the opportunity to speak to a member of staff about this.

Free school meals

If there are changes to arrangements for free school meals, they will be communicated in due course but for now, Knowsley Council are preparing hampers for the students who are entitled to free school meals. Our school staff will deliver these to your homes. Year 11 students will receive a 5 day hamper on Wednesday/Thursday and year 7-10 will receive a 10 day hamper on Thursday/Friday.

May I wish you and your families well during this period of national lockdown. I hope to see you all safe and well soon.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs R Conefrey
Headteacher