



KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HEADMASTER: DANIEL BERRY BA (HONS) MA NPQH

April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I do hope you have all had a restful break and have had the opportunity to enjoy some of the new freedoms allowed during the second week of the Easter holiday.

It is wonderful to be back and to see all the pupils returning. The weather has helped and the pupils are clearly enjoying the sunshine and the opportunity to be with friends once more. This is a relatively short term but a very busy one. However, it will be the longest term that any Upper Sixth and Fifth Year groups will have experienced as they will not go off on study leave in May as in previous years, but will remain in school until 18 June.

We will be publishing an updated programme of events for the Summer Term and hope to see as many co-curricular opportunities as possible undertaken. It still remains challenging and we must continue to abide by legal restrictions imposed on school until full lockdown ends in June.

The main focus during the next few weeks will be exam preparation for GCSE and A-level pupils. We will then have whole school examinations after the half-term break and will use this period of time to ensure GCSE and A-level pupils have the opportunities to maximise grade potential and ensure we meet the deadlines for examination submissions. The week beginning 14 June will be a House Competition week and an opportunity to enjoy a range of co-curricular activities. We have also planned a Sixth Form Ball and Fifth Year Party during the week beginning 21 June. The Upper Sixth Leaver's Assembly will be on the 24 June. I have also signed the first Duke of Edinburgh authorisation form in over a year for an expedition and have approved a CCF annual camp letter. It seems we are slowly returning to some normality at last.

Our excellent reputation has resulted in great demand for places and the school will be expanding the Sixth Form Common Room and Boarding House facilities over the summer. We will also be adding additional classrooms, additional parking, an additional meeting room and improvements to site security and access. This is the early stage of a significant period of investment in the school over the next five years and further details will follow.

There will also be some small but needed staffing changes and some new appointments as and when needed. Continuous investment in staff and facilities is what 'excellent' schools do.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the latest news from the former Head of Sixth Form, Mr Long, who has been undertaking archivist work regarding Kirkham. He has uncovered a document that refers to the foundations of the school and the 'Chantry in the parish church of Kirkham'. This official document goes on to claim that Kirkham Grammar School was founded in 1444 and not 1549 - so we may be older than we think! Age is not something that you would usually be proud of, however, this could be an exception. We will see as the story unfolds.

Will we be celebrating 475 years in 2025 or will this be 580 years? Only time will tell.

Yours sincerely

D H Berry BA (Hons) MA NPQH
Headmaster