



Newsletter

February 2019

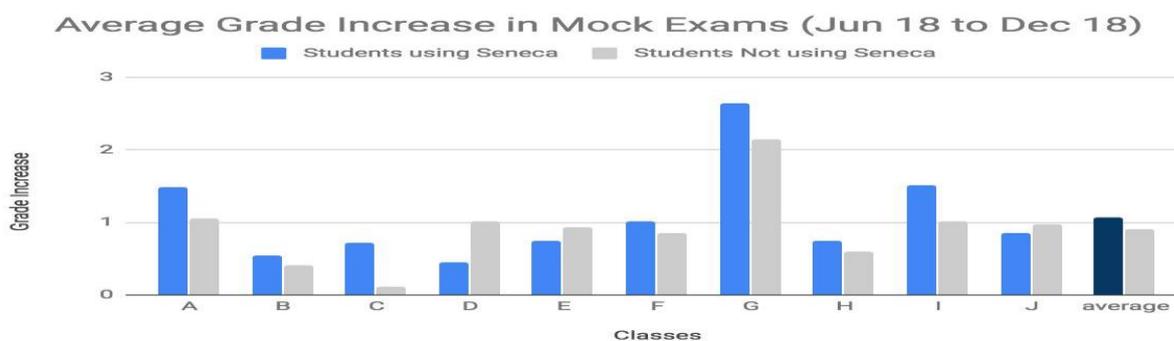
Dear Parents/Carers

The school is now nearing the final week before the half-term break and a lot has been going on since we returned in January. As we move towards the second half of the spring term, the following information is being shared across the school community:

Year 11: There is a lot going on to support our Year 11 with their preparation for their GCSE examinations this summer. Over half the year group have been invited in on the school Inset Day, next Friday (15 February) and the school is also hosting intervention/revision sessions over the half-term break. Pupils have been given invitations. If you do have any questions regarding intervention/revision, then do please contact the school, directly.

Hegarty Maths and Seneca: The school is encouraging Key Stage 4 pupils to access these online support programmes. Pupils have been given logon details. However, we still have pupils who have not chosen to register. This is a real shame as both packages are supporting gains in pupils' progress. If you require support with your child's logon, then please contact Mr Lickiss; email glickiss@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk.

The graph, below, shows the gains made using the Seneca science programme over two months. It shows, clearly, that pupils using Seneca are now making more progress than those who are not. There should now be no excuses for not having any work to do!



Teacher News: Mrs Woodward, our SENCo, has now moved to a new position, in Barnsley. Mrs A Brook will be working with Mrs G Knutsson in supporting the SEN team and pupils. The school has now advertised for a new SENCo/Inclusion lead at senior teacher level.

School Attendance: We are all fully aware that very good attendance to school supports strong progress and positive outcomes. Every lesson missed by a pupil puts them at a disadvantage as they will never catch up on the specialist teacher learning provided.

The school is introducing the following protocol, which is in line with other local schools and academies.

If your child is absent, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform and update the school. Unfortunately, some families fail to do this and the school, in some cases, has difficulties in contacting parents/carers to establish what is going on.

The school has introduced the 'U' code onto the registers after 9.30am. This is an unauthorised absence:

Persistent Absence: Penalty Notice

Kettlethorpe High School may take the decision to follow a route of prosecution where there is prolonged 'Persistent Absence'. This process can involve an initial Penalty Notice arising from any of the following circumstances:

- No improvement following a review meeting;
- Pupil attendance falls below 90%;
- Inappropriate condoned parental absence;
- Unauthorised or excessive term time holidays;
- Truancy or failure to attend lessons;
- Being out in a public place or being in sight of Kettlethorpe High School while excluded;
- Persistent late arrivals, 10 late marks (after register closes at 9.30am) meaning unauthorised absence.

The cost of the Penalty Notice is £60 per parent/carer, per child if paid within 21 days of receipt of the Notice, increasing to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the Local Authority do not receive payment, they may then progress the matter to the Magistrates' Court. Kettlethorpe High School does not receive any monies attributed to this Penalty Notice.

The school's current attendance figure for the academic year to date is 95.06%. The best attending year group is Year 7 with 96.21%, and the year group with work to do is Year 11 with 93.64%.

Thank you for your support in getting your child to school every day. Well done to the 474 pupils who have 100% attendance for the year.

Year 8 Parents' Evening: This was a very successful event. Thank you to all parents/carers that attended. The overall attendance on the evening was 83%.

Sporting News: Very well done to our Year 7 athletes who took part in the Wakefield Schools' indoor athletics event this week. The boys came third and the girls won. Very well done! The girls now move through to the West Yorkshire event, in March:

Boys: Jack Hirst, Matthew Woods, Szymon Gladun, Callum Ford, Oliver Gilmore and Raheen Naveed.
Girls: Roy Oakland, Renee Brown, Evie Callaghan, Eva Allen, Rosie Ransley and Molly Smith.

Ice Skating: Very well done to Holly Perkins in Year 10 who received a personal best with her team in a recent northern competition.

Cross Country: Last weekend, a number of pupils competed in the West Yorkshire Cross Country Championships, with some very strong finishers. Rosie and Tristan will now represent West Yorkshire in the national championships, later in the year:

Rosie Ransley (Year 7), Matthew Wardell (Year 8), Tristan Wright (Year 9), Abi Hitch (Year 10) and Callum Gaunt (Year 11).

Dates for the Diary:

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| Thursday 14 February 2019: | School closes for February half-term break |
| Friday 15 February 2019: | INSET Day (School closes to pupils, unless Year 11 and invited in) |
| Monday 25 February 2019: | School reopens at 8.40am |
| Thursday 07 March 2019: | Year 8 Choices Evening |
| Wednesday 20 March 2019: | Year 11 Consultation Evening |

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

T. Griffiths
Headteacher