

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL
Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



Headteacher update: Thursday 19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In school today, much has been considered and done as we prepare to keep the school open for the children of key workers and our most 'vulnerable' learners.

Things still continue to be fluid and we will continue to be open to all our Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11 pupils. This will then end on Friday 20 March 2020.

I have written a separate letter to our Year 11 pupils as they prepare for their last day in school, tomorrow.

The following comments relate to the next steps we are going to work through as a school. I hope they provide you with an indication of our plans at this stage. Again, things may well change.

Phase 1: This covers getting the school to Easter by providing support and a semblance of education for the children of key workers and 'vulnerable' pupils. Currently, we are trying to establish the definitions of these groups of pupils.

The government is updating its definition of key workers. These are the people who, in these unprecedented times, are needed on the frontline. This means those working in the NHS, care homes, the police and fire service and teachers. It will also include people who are involved in retail delivery and those required to suddenly manufacture equipment, such as ventilators.

'Vulnerable' children includes those with education, health and care plans (EHCP), those on free school meals and those with special needs. Our pastoral support team, in school, identifies the pupils who school is open for. They are contacting the parents/carers of these pupils directly.

Phase 2: There is talk of maintaining provision for some young people over the scheduled Easter break. This is uncharted territory. Pupils and staff are going to need some respite. As such, planning to support an Easter provision will be dealt with next week.

Phase 3: Beyond Easter we anticipate that there could be a more joined-up form of provision with collaboration across schools and colleges. This could involve the strategic

deployment of teachers and support staff. Again, the school will communicate intent when actions have been agreed.

There will be criticism from some that all we are doing here is merely babysitting or childminding other people's children. We all need to consider the alarming details of the scale of the coronavirus' potential impact. We have to do what is necessary to allow key workers to work and to keep our most vulnerable children safe amid the social turbulence.

Please check the school website, as we are currently trying to establish how many of our parents/carers are required key workers. This may change when we are provided with the government's key worker list.

Again, thank you for your continued co-operation and support at this difficult time. We will continue to provide you with daily updates via the school website.

Very best wishes to you all

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher