

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



Headteacher Update: Thursday 09 April 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers

This has been an interesting week in school, as it should have been the school holidays and we have been open for pupils whose parents/carers are key workers. In addition, much has been done to support our Free School Meal (FSM) pupils and we have now enabled over 150 families to get access to vouchers. In addition, school staff have delivered 45 food hampers to further support families within our school community.

Last week we informed you that we would be making contact with all families on a regular rolling cycle. This week over 600 phonecalls have been made alongside 57 home visits. Thank you for your support and feedback with these well-being conversations.

On Friday 03 April, school received information from Ofqual, the examination regulatory body, on the process that will be used to determine grades this summer.

School have been asked to submit the following for each **Year 11 pupil** and for all subjects:

- Centre assessment grades: This is the most likely grade that you would have achieved, if you had sat the exam this summer and completed any non-exam assessment.
- Rank order of pupils within each of these grades: For example, for all those pupils with a grade 5 in maths, a rank order where 1 is the most secure grade 5, and so on.

School cannot inform the exam boards of grade decisions until after 29 May. We have been given very clear instruction that school must not, under any circumstances, share the assessment grades or the rank order of pupils with pupils, families or other individuals before the final results are issued in August. Please do not contact your teachers about school assessed grades.

To all our Year 11 pupils, **you do not need** to finish non-examination assessment for the purpose of grading, as above. It is important that you do continue to access Year 11 learning on the school's VLE. This is very important, in particular, if you should decide to sit the exams at your post-16 college.

Teachers in school will use their professional judgement that will take account of different sources of evidence. It will be an objective and fair process and will consider:

- existing records of class work, homework, results in mock exams/tests
- your general progress over the course
- tier of entry
- previous results, for example, Key Stage 2 SATs
- performance of this year's pupils compared to previous years.

Statistical standardisation will be used by the exam boards to consider national grade distributions. This will also take account of the school's previous year's results as well as pupil prior attainment. This could well mean that school assessed grades are different to the final grades you receive.

Pupils, who feel their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability, will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If you decide to do this, both grades will stand. No dates have been set for the autumn exams.

Year 11 pupils will also each receive a phonecall from our careers staff about their destination plans for when they leave school. They will also be able to provide you with advice if you are still unclear as to what you intend to do on leaving the school.

Other information:

Home Learning: After the Easter break, we will be emailing to all families a weekly programme of work for each year group. This will also be published on the school website, along with a 5-week half-term schedule. The weekly breakdown will contain subject and topic links.

We are also introducing, first in English, a package called 'Showbie'. This will allow pupils to more readily send their work back into school for teacher feedback. We will then use 'Showbie' with other subjects on a roll out. Further details will follow.

Communication with Families: Thank you to everyone who has updated and responded to school requests for current email and contact details. School will continue to communicate using the website, social media platforms and our texting service. Please share what the school is doing with the parents/carers of other pupils at the school. This is to ensure that everyone is getting the key information.

The email addresses have been set up for families to contact school have worked well, once again, they are:

- Year7CV@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year8CV@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year9CV@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year10CV@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

- Year11CV@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Do please contact the school if you require additional advice or support as we work together to deal with coronavirus. For example, we are aware that the government's FSM provider is struggling with demand in getting out some FSM vouchers to families. School is aware and following this up.

To conclude, there is additional supporting information on the school website in relation to Ofqual's plans for examination grading. There is also information related to Covid-19 and how this is impacting on school and our pupils.

Thank you, again, for your continued support and feedback. It is listened to and valued. Do continue to enjoy the Easter break. I intend to spend some time in the garden planting out a choice of vegetables, for my dog, Murphy, to dig up! In the words of Audrey Hepburn, 'to plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow'.

Happy Easter and very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

<https://vle.kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk/>