

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



Headteacher Update: Friday 17 April 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers

We have now finished the two-week Easter break and in school, this week, staff have made over 400 phonecalls to families and done 47 home visits. Over the next half-term (5 weeks) we will continue to make contact with all families. This is an important activity and further supports our sense of community.

The following are brief update points with additional detail being available on the school's website.

Free School Meals (FSM): The school is using the national voucher system, and for some families this process is working well. The system is overwhelmed at times and we would advise families to contact the provider before 0900 or in the evening when redeeming vouchers. Do also check email accounts regularly, especially the 'spam' folder. An advice sheet is being prepared for the website.

Home Working: For Monday and up to the half-term break, weekly programmes will be available on the VLE/website for all year groups. These plans detail learning activities with subject links. A new plan will be made available for the start of each week. These will be year group specific plans.

It is very important that all pupils have a structured day. As such, they need to be out of bed and ready to work from 0900, in order to undertake learning and family activities. The plans we have produced will help you do this. We are not expecting pupils to follow their normal school timetable for 5 hours each day. Pupils do need to engage with learning activities and be prepared to share and show what they are doing.

We are fully aware that home learning is not the same as normal school work. However, we are comfortable that there is more than enough, in terms of learning activities for families to access. Details can be found at http://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/covid_homelearning/ from Monday.

Showbie: Pupils/parents have been contacted with logon details, as we will be introducing Showbie next week. To start with, it will involve English only. When the introduction has been reviewed we will then widen the choice of subjects involved. We anticipate this to be from Monday 27 April.

Year 6 Induction Video: In order to answer questions on the transfer into Year 7, a video has been produced. It will be available, together with a host of other relevant information, on the school website in the weeks to come. The school intends to provide a series of videos to support induction. In addition, do please direct any questions to: transition@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Year 11s: Mrs Sharkey and the careers team will be calling all pupils in Year 11, who have yet to make an application for 16+ learning/career pathways. Do also check the website of the post-16 providers you have chosen as they are publishing information on continuing to work on GCSE courses and also transition work to sixth-form.

As we all prepare ourselves for another three weeks of school closure and reduced mobility, it is important that we continue to communicate, work together and maintain routines. It is not easy and we are learning, together, as we do this.

At present, we have been given no formal advice on when school will next open, despite what some 'experts' are saying. School will not open unless it is safe to do so. Staff are working to develop a range of plans and approaches to take account of the unknown over the next few weeks.

This week I had a long conversation with Denis Barry, the school's chair of governors, who is a strong advocate of the school community in its widest sense. He made mention of the words of Johann Goethe, the German writer who Albert Einstein described as the 'last man in the world to know everything.' (He had an IQ of 210!) He once wrote; 'knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do!' As we work together to tackle the coronavirus issue and endeavour to learn, we all have plenty to do.

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/>

<http://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/wellbeing/>