

# Kettlethorpe High School

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



## Headteacher Update: Friday 24 April 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers

At the end of the first week of the summer term, we would like to share with you some information and advice.

There still exists a lot of uncertainty around what the next few weeks, and months hold for us and it is clear that there is still a lot to do, together, to defeat and remove coronavirus.

What is very clear is that it is having a huge impact on all our lives and that, at times, it can be hard to focus on what needs to be done as our priorities are no longer as clear as they once were. In school we are working to be clear about what we need to do currently to support all our families with home learning alongside developing a number of contingency options to see a gradual return to normal school life.

Despite what is being reported in the press, we have had no official guidance on an expected date to return to open schooling.

**Free School Meals (FSM):** We are aware that a number of families have now been required to use universal credit. As a result, your children may be eligible for the free school meal vouchers (£15 a week). Please use this link to make the required application:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/free-school-meals>

**Home Working:** From the feedback we have received, the weekly planning sheets have really helped parents/carer with supporting children at home. These will continue to be updated weekly.

Showbie is working well as a communication method and has been used with English. From next week we intend to see it being used in science. Do please follow the instructions carefully when using Showbie. They do work.

We have also detailed the Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize content on the school's website. They both offer additional information and work that you may find both interesting and useful.

To be very clear, we do not expect pupils to be doing more than three hours of online work a day. We are aware that across the country only 1 pupil in 4 is doing online work. We are really pleased that our pupils are much more engaged. Very well done!

**Laptops for Pupils:** The government announced last weekend that additional ICT and web access would be made available nationally. The school has no say in who will benefit from this scheme. The DfE will give Wakefield an allocation. As, and when, we know we will update you. The information link is: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Over the last week, staff from school have continued to communicate with families. This has included 30 home visits, 24 Skype/WhatsApp conversations and over 727 phonecalls home. It has been helpful and encouraging to hear what is going on and to be able to offer advice and support as required. Do please use the various email contact addresses. These work well and school has responded to 240 email enquiries this week.

These will continue to be challenging times and our thoughts and best wishes go out to all those families who have suffered the loss of family members as a result of the coronavirus. Do please continue to reference the school's website and VLE for advice and information. As we prepare for the weekend, the following words from the American motivational speaker, Robert H Schuller, seem appropriate; 'Wait, be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come'.

Be sure to have an enjoyable family weekend. Very best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

<https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/safeguarding/>

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

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