

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



Headteacher Update: Thursday 07 May 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers

As I write there is a lot of media discussion surrounding when, and how, schools will be opening as the government looks at the transition away from the current lockdown and isolation measures.

Some of this discussion is both useful and relevant. However, much is not, and unfortunately, creates undue worry and concern and further increases levels of anxiety.

Here in school, we will continue to follow advice and required actions alongside our thorough understanding of our school site and community context. As I have repeatedly said, our actions will centre around the safety and wellbeing of our school and learning community.

This morning we sent all families a link to our feedback questionnaire that we are using to gauge your feelings on home-learning as well as get any worries or concerns you have, as families, about the school re-opening. The response has been rapid with 76 replies within 5 minutes of the questionnaire going live. This has been sent through Edulink and it will remain open until Thursday 14 May.

Thank you for your responses, which school will take into consideration. We place great importance on the thoughts you have around the current Covid-19 context. It remains a high priority that we can all communicate and share our advice and concerns. Do please continue to email your comments and questions into school using the email address on the school website. This week, staff have responded to 120 such emails.

Free School Meals (FSM) vouchers are still proving a challenge for some families. This is because EdenRed UK, who are issuing the vouchers, still continue to struggle with national demand. School is making voucher applications successfully each week. Do continue to inform school if you are having issues so that we can ask the Local Authority to update the DfE, as required.

Home Learning plans will be updated on Monday and we will also now have MFL, PE, Performing Arts and Design Technology using 'Showbie'. We have seen some super pupil work coming into school. Well done everyone.

Can I take a moment to reassure pupils and families that the work being undertaken will be revisited and added to on your return to school. It is important to remain engaged with a variety of learning. However, we cannot replicate school at home. As such, avoid worrying about what you are and are not doing. Keep positive and look to keep your minds active.

The school will be changing the details required for children of key workers and how to 'book' provision in school. Pupils currently in school will be getting an email from Mr Hunter. Do please [reference the school website](#) for detail as required.

Over the last week, staff in school have made 30 home visits, alongside 22 WhatsApp face-to-face calls. We have also made phonecalls to the 150 families where we had previously left messages. In all we have made wellbeing phonecalls to 1616 of our 1619 pupils. We will continue with family phonecalls. Thank you for talking to staff and telling us what you have been getting up to.

This Friday, as a nation, we celebrate VE Day 75 (Victory in Europe). This is to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice, from British, Commonwealth and Allied Forces to evacuees and those who served on the home front.

To support pupils in learning and understanding more about VE Day 75, this link to the Royal British Legion may be of interest to pupils: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance>

Be sure, as families, to enjoy VE Day 75 and reflect on the importance of the day. In the words of Winston Churchill, who was Prime Minister at the time, 'Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts'.

Very well done to everyone for continuing to focus and work in such a way that we look to remove the impact of Covid-19. It has been hard, will continue to be hard, but it will be removed.

Continued best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

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

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

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