

# Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



## Headteacher Update: Friday 15 May 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers

This has certainly been a very interesting week following the address made to the nation, last weekend, by Prime Minister, Boris Johnson.

As a result, a lot of thought and planning has gone into both reflecting on what the government's guidance means for Kettlethorpe High School, as well as considering how we can safely, support Year 10 pupils in 'meeting' teachers at the earliest opportunity.

What we definitely know is that, currently as things stand, we will not be seeing our pupils in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 ahead of September. This is both a real shame and a worry for all of us.

Currently, we are using a number of risk assessments to ensure that the school site is ready for meetings with Year 10 pupils. We anticipate that this will be in mid-June and will involve our Year 10 pupils attending small group tutorial meetings with all their subject teachers over the remaining weeks of the school term.

The school will be communicating details at a later stage to Year 10 families. We also intend to have a separate Year 10 pupil/parent survey to establish potential numbers.

Thank you for the feedback on our recent parent/carer survey. We had nearly 500 responses and will be using the feedback to further refine and develop what we are currently doing to support families with home learning.

In relation to families feelings about sending in their children into school, the feedback shared was very much 50/50 with the primary concern around safety.

When pupils arrive in school, we will be briefing them on expectations around social distancing and movement around the school. We will also have staggered start times to avoid congestion.

School will continue to provide home learning weekly planning sheets for the weeks when school is operational up to the original summer break. However, work is not expected of pupils over the May half-term break and, as such, school whilst being open for the children of key workers/vulnerable pupils, there will not be a planning sheet for the half-term holiday.

When we return in June, we will effectively have these working arrangements in place:

1. Home Learning for all year groups across the school (including Year 10).
2. Children of keyworkers/vulnerable pupils attending school.
3. Year 10 pupils attending, by invitation, subject review meetings with their teachers.

We would still like to remind our Year 11 pupils to continue engaging with the work being provided. In addition, they should regularly look at the website of their chosen Post-16 provider. We are aware that work has been posted to support transition into Post-16.

To give you a flavour of our pupils' engagement with home learning to date over 27000 pieces of work have been done on the Seneca science platform alone. Great stuff!

This week, we have posted new videos to support our Year 6 pupils with their induction. We are having regular conference call meetings with our feeder schools and teachers at Kettlethorpe High School are preparing work to aid the move to high school. This will be going out to our Year 6 children in early June.

This week, staff in school have made 87 safeguarding calls, undertaken 46 home visits as well as make wellbeing phonecalls to over 600 pupils. Thank you for your support here.

Earlier this week, school wrote to you with details of the DfE guidance as published at the start of the week. Do please reference this as required. Advice and guidance is coming into school daily from both the DfE and Wakefield Local Authority. Changes are frequent. Do please continue to contact the school directly to air your concerns, questions and ideas.

In conclusion, and as I move into my twentieth year of secondary headship, I cannot recall such challenging times. Having been the headteacher of two, very different, secondary schools and having had more 'magic moments' than not, I am confident that things will settle and that the school will echo with the sounds of young people once again. It is very quiet in school. It does not feel right and is not right. However, in the words of the poet W B Yeats, 'What they undertook to do, they brought to pass; all things hang like a dew, upon a blade of grass.'

Thank you for your continued support.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

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

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

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