

Kettlethorpe High School

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



Headteacher Update: Friday 05 June 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers

Since we returned from the half-term break, things in school have certainly benefitted from increased staff attendance on site as teachers prepare to see our Year 10 return into school later this month. We are all looking forward to this.

Currently, school continues to be open every day for around 30-40 pupils who are the children of key workers, are vulnerable pupils or who have an EHCP. These pupils will still attend school when we see our Year 10 pupils coming back on site.

This week, we have timetabled every Year 10 pupil and placed them into groups so that they can attend school to 'meet' teachers and be given support material to help them prepare for their GCSE examinations next year.

The details of the pupil groups/subjects/names/rooms have been posted on the school's VLE today. They detail plans for two weeks starting from Monday 22 June. We have also included guidance on how pupils will enter school, use and access toilets and manage the new arrangements.

Please note that the school is only allowed to have up to 25% of our Year 10 pupil number in at any one time. A lot of work is going into preparing the support packages, which will be introduced by subject specialists to each group of pupils (no more than 9 in any class) before we break up for the summer.

Having surveyed Year 10 families, we are aware that not every pupil will be attending these sessions. Do please inform school directly using the school email contacts to advise us. This will help with monitoring attendance.

School will be delivering subject learning packages to all pupils at home who either miss a session or who choose not to come into school.

The following link details the school's responses to a number of the questions that have been asked: <http://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Y10-QAs.pdf>

We appreciate that getting our Year 10s back into school requires a lot of organising and support, both from school and home. Central to all our planning is the safety of our pupils,

staff and the wider community. It is an ever-changing landscape, so do please bear with us if intended plans and actions do change.

Following the recent sudden death of Mr Richard Clough, a teacher of mathematics at the school, we have been told by his family that his funeral is on Wednesday 17 June.

The service will take place at the Wakefield Crematorium, on Standbridge Lane, at 11.30am. As a mark of respect, the funeral cortege will pass the school and pause for one minute. Pupils and staff will be lining the road at this time.

Thank you for the support offered to the school and Richard's family and for the personal tributes and comments that were posted on the email set up by school, mrclough@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

We truly have lost a highly regarded and highly talented colleague and friend.

As school makes plans and starts to see increased numbers of pupils and adults on site, can we please ask families to contact school ahead of arriving in school. This will then allow us to plan for your visit. This is to reduce and control visitors coming on site. Do please respect the social distancing protocols we are all now following. Thank you.

The school uniform shop will be open, in the sports hall, from the 10th August. An electronic order form will be available on the website and will give you 6 weeks to place your order. On receipt of the order, staff in school will package up garments for collection. We have placed orders for school uniform providers to support these dates. Do please contact the school if you have any questions regarding uniform.

This week, staff in school have continued to be in touch and communicate with families. Over 40 home visits have been made along with nearly 600 phone call conversations. Again, thank you for your support here. It really is refreshing getting updates and news from our pupils and families.

The school would also like to thank the families who have supported the school with large donations of cleaning and sanitizing materials, and more recently, PPE visors. Much appreciated. Thank you.

To conclude, we are living in very uncertain times and there is a lot for everybody to understand and deal with. Marie Curie (1867-1937) the famous scientist and first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize wrote, 'Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less'. Let us to continue to learn together as we deal with the current Covid-19 issues and prepare for a return to normal times.

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/>