



Headteacher Update: Friday 12 June 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers

This week school has continued to be busy and a lot of planning and preparation work has been taking place. This is to assist the school with seeing our Year 10 pupils return, as well as get us fully staffed for September.

I am sure, that you too, must be constantly asking questions and wondering what will happen next, as we respond to the new ways of working and living, that has resulted from the Covid-19 issue. It is not easy and, at this time, makes us feel that we are not in charge of what happens to us.

Having listened to some very experienced school leaders on a national webinar presentation, I was reassured to hear one say, 'You can only do what you can do'. Whilst I already knew this, it reinforces the requirement to lead and ensure that Kettlethorpe High School does what it can, and what is right for our school community.

In school, we are planning both for our Year 10 pupils and their return to school from Monday 22 June as well as model out a number of draft plans for a variety of options from September. Our primary plan is to see all pupils in school full-time from September. Unfortunately, the national picture and associated narrative suggests that this may not be the case. This is why we are planning a range of opening options. As and when we know more we will continue to update you all.

From Monday 22 June, we will effectively be offering:

- Daily provision for keyworkers and vulnerable pupils.
- Timetabled subject sessions for Year 10 pupils in school. Pupils will have the details communicated to them.
- A continued online learning programme for all pupils.

Next week, Year 10 pupils will receive more detailed information on what to do and what is expected as they return into school. This very much links into the school's risk assessment and safe working plans.

We very much look forward to seeing greater pupil numbers in school and have every confidence that they will behave in a mature and sensible manner.

As already communicated with you, Mr Richard Clough's funeral is on Wednesday 17 June. As a mark of respect, pupils and staff in school are going to line Standbridge Lane from 11.15am. As the funeral car passes, it will pause to allow us all to collectively clap Richard as a sign of respect. If other pupils and families also wish to join in, we would ask you to park and line the pavement from the school up towards the crematorium.

Thank you for the comments that have been sent into school regarding your feelings about Richard. These have been shared with Richard's family.

This week, I have enjoyed meeting new staff who will be joining the school as teachers in September. In addition, one of the best moments was viewing and judging the Kettlethorpe High School Young Musician Competition. It was refreshing to see and hear all the submissions. The talent and quality was excellent. Very well done to everyone who took part.

School has continued to communicate and talk to families. This week, we have made 32 home visits and made over 580 phonecalls home to speak with you. Please do not underestimate how important the school and the staff find these conversations. They certainly help to bring us together as a school community even though we are all distant from each other.

No doubt, this weekend will be full of advice and possible changes to our Covid-19 behaviours and expectations. We shall see. In the words of C S Lewis (1898-1963), the author of The Chronicles of Narnia... 'hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny'. I have every confidence that this will be the case.

Very best wishes and thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

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

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

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