

# Kettlethorpe High School

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



## Headteacher Update: Friday 19 June 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers

The week in school has gone very quickly and we are now responding to a number of key announcements that have been made by the government.

Today, we have been informed, through the press, that funding is going to be made available to support a number of 'catch up' and 'one to one' programmes. This is exciting news and we are keen to hear what this means for the school and for our pupils. Early indications mention that this will start from September. As I write, the school has not yet had any advice or steer on summer schools.

On Monday, we are looking forward to welcoming our Year 10 pupils back into school. Details have been communicated. Do please contact school if you are uncertain of what is happening around our plans for Year 10 over the next few weeks.

Following a request for questions from our pupils about how the school is responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, all the questions received have been put to senior leaders. Next week, we will record a video question and answer session, which we will share with everybody.

School will continue to publish, at the start of each week, learning programmes for each year group. These are accessible through the VLE and school website. Do please use the Oak Academy, [www.thenational.academy](http://www.thenational.academy), if you are looking for some more interactive learning activities.

We are aware, from our discussions with you, that some families do find it difficult to monitor and oversee the work their children are doing. The 'Showbie' platform does allow parents to see their children's work and their teachers' marking. We have already sent out an email on how parents can logon to this platform, and, we will send this out again for anyone who may have missed it. Thank you for your feedback on this issue.

Over the last week, school has made 31 video calls to families and 16 home visits. In addition, over 500 phonecalls have been made to pupils and families.

The building work for our new classrooms and fitness area is now back on track for the planned Christmas finish. We have also started to refit the gym area, which will be made into a dance studio and pupil dining area. A lot of planned activity is taking place, which will benefit the whole school going forward. This is great to see.

On Wednesday of this week, we had the sad event of Mr Richard Clough's funeral. As a mark of respect, several hundred pupils, staff and friends lined up on the pavements in front of school to pay our respects. As the funeral car went past the school, everyone clapped. This made for a very emotional and well-deserved tribute. The school will be looking to establish a long-term memorial for Richard and will involve the pupil body in planning this.

In order to have increased numbers return to school, we have signposted and made clear, to visitors and pupils, expectations and systems to support a safe and protected environment. Do please read and follow the advice on entry to school.

Next week, we are very much looking forward to seeing the pupil numbers grow. Hopefully, this is the start of a return to more normal working. Do please continue to contact school if you have any questions or concerns.

To conclude this week's update to you, I have included the last verse of Van Morrison's song, 'Days like this'. This was played at Richard's funeral and feels very appropriate for the moment:

'When no-one steps on my dreams there'll be days like this  
When people understand what I mean there'll be days like this  
When you ring out the changes of how everything is  
Well my mama told me there'll be days like this.'

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

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

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

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