

# Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



## Headteacher Update: Friday 03 July 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers

Another busy and successful week in school has been made all the more exciting by the release, yesterday, of the government's guidance for the full opening of schools from September.

To be fair, this 35-page document really has generated a number of very useful and purposeful conversations as school leaders now consider key actions to help prepare the school for a full opening next term.

In school over the next two weeks, plans will be prepared, in draft form, and shared with you. We are very confident that our planned return will enable us to fully teach our timetabled curriculum without the need to reduce the subjects that pupils are taught.

We have started to give due consideration to how our pupil 'bubbles', with our largest 'bubble' being our new Year 10 with 336 pupils, will work with managing lesson changeovers as well as opportunities for break and lunch.

As families, you may wish to start thinking about how your children travel to and from school, especially if they need to use public transport/buses.

Our primary focus will continue to be the safety and well-being of pupils, staff and visitors. We are currently fitting permanent hand sanitizer units into all classroom areas. The cost for this will hit £17,000 for the first year.

Last Thursday would have been our Year 6 into Year 7 induction evening. A number of videos have been put onto the school website including one that shares the experience of a day in the life of a pupil at the school. We plan to only have our new Year 7 in on their own on Tuesday 08 September with an 08:45 start to the day. This will give the new pupils, and staff in school, a full day to prepare for the new year at their new school. We are very much looking forward to it.

Our Year 11 pupils will be receiving their examination results on Thursday 20 August. This will be done through our Edulink system. The school does intend to hold a celebration event for all our Year 11 pupils as and when the Covid-19 context allows this to be done safely.

Online learning has continued to go well with the school getting a Hegarty Maths Super School Silver Award this week. This equates to an average of 14 hours of contact with each pupil and 848,966 questions being answered.

This week over 250 pupils from Year 9 and Year 10 engaged with an online 'Walking Talking Mock' examination led by our English team. This was focussed on the English Language Paper 1. We will be running a second 'Walking Talking Mock' to look at Paper 2. Check our website and Showbie classes for details. This really is a 'must do' for all pupils in Year 9 and Year 10. Very well done to those pupils involved.

Over the last week, we have seen around 75% of our Year 10 pupils in school for taught lessons. They really have responded well to the teacher inputs and they are certainly now more relaxed about being back at school. Mr Douglas and his team have personally hand-delivered 48 workpacks to pupils who have missed their planned sessions. In addition, staff have made over 600 phone calls home to families and also made 27 home visits. Thank you for your continued support with our telephone communications.

It really is hard to believe we only have two weeks remaining of what has been a most unusual and unprecedented academic year. The pace and momentum really has increased and there is now a lot more to look forward to.

Last week I made mention of maths and numeracy so this week I will talk about reading and books. My grandfather and his brothers, all ex-coal miners, established a bookshop just off Charing Cross Road in London in 1946. It was called 'Griffs' and was open for 40 years. I remember it fondly and spent many hours there as a young boy. As a result of that, our family has a strong interest and love of books. I do an assembly with Year 7 and make mention of the danger of books by showing them how my parents store nearly 15,000 books in their house. By far too many!

In the words of Alberto Manguel (1948), the Argentine-Canadian novelist...'Maybe this is why we read, and why in moments of darkness we return to books: to find words for what we already know'.

We all know that books matter and this week we have placed an order so that everyone of our new Year 7 pupils will get their own novel to keep on their first day in school.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

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

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

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