

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



30 September 2020

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

This morning I spent several hours walking in and out of lessons and it really is encouraging to see the pupils fully engaged in their learning and hearing from them about what they are doing. We really do have some focussed and capable young people who are a joy to work with.

As you will already be aware, we have had to send out a second letter informing you of a second positive CV-19 test result involving a Year 11 pupil. We fully appreciate the additional pressure this places both on families as well as on those pupils who are required to self-isolate. It compromises their learning offer.

On the school website, we have detailed scenarios for families to consult about CV-19 and isolation. Do please reinforce this.

For those pupils who are having to self-isolate, it is important that they know their logon protocols so that they can access Showbie and the school's virtual learning offer. Increasingly, teachers in school are both recording lessons to then post on Showbie, as well as inviting pupils at home to 'attend' lessons in real time, in school, using Microsoft Teams. Teachers will continue to develop the school's remote learning offer. Thank you to everyone who has offered advice and feedback on this area.

Pupils who may be further disadvantaged by having to self-isolate and therefore would not have access to their daily free meal provided in school are being asked to register for their free school meal. Once registered, a member of staff will contact the child's parent/carer to arrange delivery of a food hamper to cover the period of absence.

Could I also take this opportunity to remind you of our attendance expectations, and unless your child is self-isolating, attendance at school is mandatory. The government guidance states:

- Parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil.

- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.
- The ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

There is still uncertainty about next year's GCSE examinations.

The school will update all families as soon as we are given clear advice and guidance about what is going to happen with the summer 2021 examination series.

In order to help Year 11 to both prepare for the examinations and to support them with lost learning, our Year 11 intervention classes will begin on Fridays. Details have been sent out to families by text and email.

Following the recent success of our Year 7 consultation evening, we now intend to offer every year group a telephone consultation that will be led by form tutors. Our next evening involves Year 11 on Thursday 15 October. Do please look at the school calendar to establish when your child's year group has a consultation evening. The school will send out booking details ahead of every consultation evening.

Today, in school, we have involved every pupil in voting for our new senior prefects. The candidates will now be involved in interviews. The school will inform families of the final outcomes in the near future.

Please note that the school is closed to pupils on Friday 02 October for a staff training day. In addition, the school is open as normal on Thursday 01 October as the Year 6 Open Evening will not be taking place. This year, we have made arrangements to put the Year 6 Open Evening details on our school website.

To support our Year 6 transition information, a number of staff and pupils have been filmed talking about Kettlethorpe High School. We used a number of our new Year 7 pupils who really rose to the challenge and who by the end of filming were directing activities. This was super to see and reinforces how our newest pupils settle into school despite all the challenges they have faced. Very well done!

To conclude, thank you to all families for your continued patience and support at a time of national challenge. Things are not easy, and together we will lead our way through to better times. It is a time of anxiety and uncertainty and in the words of Erma Bombeck (1927-1996)

the American humourist who published fifteen bestsellers, 'worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere'.

Best wishes

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the diary:

- Thursday 01 October 2020: Open Evening cancelled. School open to all pupils
- Friday 02 October 2020: Inset Day
- Thursday 15 October 2020: Y11 Consultation Evening
- Friday 23 October 2020: School closes for half-term
- Monday 02 November 2020: School reopens at 8.40am

As a school, we all need to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean our hands more often using soap and water as well as the hand sanitizer found in all classrooms and social spaces.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have good respiratory hygiene habits: 'Catch it, bin it, kill it'. Use the tissues and bins provided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow the near year group 'bubble' systems and stay in your dedicated areas as required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not enter the 2-metre teaching areas as marked out in classrooms during lessons.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the year group specific entrance/exit to enter and leave school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow instructions from all adults quickly and sensibly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not attend school and follow public health advice if we have any symptoms of coronavirus.