

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



23 October 2020

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

The school is now nearing the October half-term break and it has certainly been a time of challenge for the whole school community. In the words of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924), the Russian revolutionary, politician and political theorist, 'there are decades when nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen'. It has certainly felt like this and will no doubt continue to do so as we complete 2020.

Masks: Thank you for your support in getting our pupils prepared to wear masks within school. The response has been excellent and at the start of next half-term our, ordered, cotton masks will have arrived. These will be handed out on the first day back.

We are aware that some pupils will be unable to wear a mask because of medical issues. Can families please make a note of this in their child's planner. This will then enable the school to make arrangements to support these pupils.

Lesson breaks: The school has reviewed the use of time between lessons following discussions with pupils and staff about our current Covid-19 working arrangements. From the return to school, the final break of the day will reduce from 15 to 10 minutes with the time then being added onto the lunch break which will then be 25 minutes long.

On our return in September, we never thought that our return to school planning would remain in place and this has resulted in us 'firming up' our site operations, protocols and signage. We will continue to review how we operate to both remove and respond to the Covid-19 context.

Remote Learning: In the press there has been a lot of discussion about remote education for pupils who have to self-isolate due to being in close contact of someone with Covid-19 or someone who has symptoms for Covid-19. In school, teachers have worked hard to produce resources that are linked to the curriculum pupils would have studied had they not been told to remain at home. This work is detailed on the school's VLE/website.

Increasingly, some pupils have the opportunity to join lessons as teachers deliver key learning using Microsoft Teams. School is currently investing in this area with improved ICT support and staff training in the use of Microsoft Teams.

Please note that not every lesson will be delivered as a 'live' of 'real time' lesson. We are also aware that further support will be required to assist families in setting up Microsoft Teams and staff will provide further updates.

Do please contact your child's Year Manager if you are unable to access Microsoft Teams or the school's VLE platform:

Year	Email address
Year 7	agodfrey@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 8	lisabennett@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 9	sparton@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 10	pbell@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 11	annie.hudson@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Uniform: Wearing a smart uniform is really important at Kettlethorpe High School as it shows we all have high expectations as a learning community.

To support our Covid-19 working part of our health and safety measures involves having classroom and office windows open. As we approach winter, this may well mean classrooms may be colder than usual. As such, pupils may wish to wear a vest or a thermal top under their shirt and jumper. This is somewhat ironic as over the summer over £250,000 was spent upgrading the school's heating system!

Over the last week, the school has been busy returning to the routine working as a school. This has been great to see.

Year 11: Have sat a number of PPE examinations to help prepare them for their exams next summer. They really are a great group and have acted as mature role models for our younger pupils. A number of offer school intervention classes will begin after half-term. Details below:

Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Maths	English	Science	Modern Foreign Languages w/c 2 nd November 2020
			History/Geography w/c 9 th November 2020

Careers: The school's career team have been busy contacting families, local colleges and apprenticeship providers. Year 11 pupils can call in and see what is on offer. Just go along to the careers library.

Meet the Headteacher: It was super to meet a number of pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 to discuss their thoughts on their school experiences this year. They were very positive and were confident in what they had to say. Nicely done!

Children in Need: This is now well underway and whilst it will not be a busy time in school as in previous years, our pupils will support this worthwhile cause fully. The non-uniform day takes place on Friday 13 November.

In school, this week, we received an email from the BBC that included the following passage:

'We had a quick chat because this year we decided to take a look at which schools have fundraised for us year on year, and ensure that we are thanking them appropriately. I was flagged your school by our data team and we were overwhelmed by the amount you have fundraised for us over the years – it's truly incredible!!! It makes me embarrassed to think that in all this time all we've presented you with is a 'thank you certificate'...

We would really love to show you our thanks, so we'll be sending over a little box of goodies, for you, and the students. In particular I feel that as the charity coordinator you must have done a lot for us. We'd also like to stay in touch, and offer you any support for this year, and forthcoming years to help fundraise. I must also add that in January we will be back in touch to offer you more exciting news as one of our top fundraising schools.'

Let's do it again everyone! £81500 and counting...!

For our pupils: Instrumental and vocal lessons are now up and running and are proving popular with pupils. Any pupils who are interested can speak to Ms Bebbington-Slater and Mr Griffiths for details.

It has also been lovely to see so many of the pupils getting involved in PE activities after school. Pupils from all year groups are encouraged to come along and get involved. Activities are rotated with the offer next term including, for boys and girls, football, basketball, hockey and netball. The days for the year groups are:

Year Group	Day
Year 7	Thursday
Year 8	Tuesday
Year 9	Wednesday
Year 10 and 11	Friday

All sessions will end at 4.15pm.

Throughout the pandemic, Kettlethorpe High School has continued to be a great place to both work and study. Having spent time visiting lessons this half-term, the quality of our teaching and learning is extremely good, and, importantly, lessons are delivered by skilled teachers.

Again, thank you for your continued support for the work of the school and very well done to our pupil body. They continue to impress.

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable half-term holiday.

Very best wishes

T Griffiths
Headteacher

As a school, we all need to:

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| • Clean our hands more often using soap and water as well as the hand sanitiser found in all classrooms and social spaces. |
| • Have good respiratory hygiene habits: 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' . Use the tissues and bins provided. |
| • Follow the year group 'bubble' systems and stay in your dedicated areas as required. |
| • Not enter the 2-metre teaching areas as marked out in classrooms during lessons. |
| • Use the year group specific entrance/exit to enter and leave school. |
| • Follow instructions from all adults quickly and sensibly. |
| • Not attend school and follow public health advice if we have any symptoms of coronavirus. |