

Kettlethorpe High School

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



06 November 2020

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

In a week when much of the international news has focussed on the presidential elections in the United States of America, I took some time out to watch, 'On the basis of sex'. This is a biographical legal drama based on the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020) who was the Associate Justice for the Supreme Court of the USA. It was a powerful story.

The return to school following the half-term break has gone very well. The pupil body continue to impress in the way in which they deal with the constant changes and increased expectations placed upon them. They really are a pleasure to work with.

Masks: All pupils and staff have access to a reusable cotton mask provided by the school. Next week, we are issuing lanyards to pupils who, for a number of reasons, are unable to wear a mask. If your child cannot wear a mask, please use the pupil planner to inform their form tutor so we have accurate information here. Thank you.

Covid Lockdown 2: As a result of new guidance, the very popular extra-curricular PE activities now have to stop until the lockdown period is over. We will update families as to when these will start up again.

Since September:

Positive Cases	
Year 7 pupil	2
Year 8 pupil	2
Year 9 pupil	1
Year 10 pupils	3
Year 11 pupils	2
Teacher	5
Catering Staff	4
Total	19

This has led to over 254 pupils having to self-isolate.

On a daily basis the school are having to plan and make alternative arrangements to cover a growing number of colleagues who are required to self-isolate etc. This is becoming

increasingly difficult to manage, and whilst we have no desire to remove a full year group to create capacity to cover timetabled lessons, it is an action that is under consideration. Any such decision will involve an analysis of which year groups have seen high numbers of pupils self-isolating etc. The school will endeavour to provide as much warning as possible.

Year 11: Our planned after school exam preparation and intervention lessons will continue. It was super to see over 240 Year 11 pupils in after school yesterday attending their science inputs. This number is bigger than most school's Year 11 year group. Keep at it!

Parents/Carers entering school: Can families please call ahead to make an appointment to come into school to drop off PE kit or food ingredients, lunch etc. This will help the reception staff in being able to support these requests in a more timely and safe manner. It is also worth asking pupils to check their organisation and planning for each day in school. How many times, as parents/carers, have we said this to our children!

Blue Badge Parking: We appreciate that parking in and around school is difficult with the current building programme. Can everyone please avoid using the disabled parking areas, so that we can support our pupils who do have disabilities. This helps them with their entry to and from school. After Christmas, the school should have all our available car parking accessible again.

Careers: The primary focus for your Year 11 pupils, during the current half-term, with regards to planning and preparing for their next careers steps after Kettlethorpe High School is to make Further Education/6th form college applications online. If pupils require help, please visit the careers office.

For those pupils looking ahead and considering 18+ opportunities the UK University and Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair on Wednesday 11 November (12.00-6.00pm) featuring over 80 universities and apprenticeship providers with 10 webinars may help to make informed decisions. Do register online if interested: www.ukunisearch-north.vfairs.com

On Tuesday 17 November, we are hosting an Inspiring Automotive Women's Day in school. The day will be delivered virtually by Volkswagen Group UK National Learning Initiative to Year 10 girls. The day gives an opportunity to find out about the wide range of careers in the motor industry, for example, human resources, finance, marketing, IT/technical. There are a few remaining places, hence, please see Mrs Sharkey or Mr Trickett for a letter/reply slip giving full details and to secure a place.

Children in Need: This takes place in school on Friday 13 November. Pupils are allowed to wear a themed non-uniform for the day. Well done for the pupils who have already raised significant sums. Let's look forward to having a positive and beneficial day in school. Enjoy it!

Senior Prefects: Following pupil ballots and interviews in school, the school wishes to pass on every success to our new pupil senior leaders. They were chosen from a very talented year group. Well done to:

Head Boy: Kuda Mubaiwa
Head Girl: Isobel Walsh
Deputies: Michael Quinn
Louis Morton
Daniel Myers
Meiyan Secco
Ruby Handley
Tabitha Carlson

Going forward, I have every confidence that our senior prefects and pupils in Year 11 will continue to lead and create change. In the words of Ruth Bader Ginsburg:

‘Fight for the things you care about, but do
it in a way that will lead
others to join you.’

Thank you for your continued support.

Very best wishes

T Griffiths
Headteacher

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 sanitiser 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 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.