

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



04 December 2020

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

Very well done to everyone with their focus and support over another challenging week in the life of the school. A lot is happening and the school is having to respond to influences which impact on the work of the school daily. Your support is valued and appreciated.

Year 11: Next week, sees our oldest pupils start a two week period of Pre-Public Examinations (PPE). This year, unfortunately as a result of pupil isolation, we are running the PPEs with pupils doing the examinations in the sports hall as well as seeing isolated pupils doing their papers at home.

Whilst this is far from ideal, it will enable subject teachers to identify gaps in learning that can then be addressed going forward. We do have planned another series of PPE examinations ahead of our actual GCSE examinations next summer.

This week, we have received brief details around the government's plans to support Year 11 in preparing and taking their GCSEs. We will advise on the full details when they are formally released.

Do please rest assured that the PPEs before Christmas will not be used by the school to rank order pupils or support any centre assessed grading. We are aware of the imbalance with the PPEs before Christmas. However, school routines are key as is the identification of gaps in learning/knowledge.

Go for it Year 11.

Covid-19 Update: Whilst this week has not seen as many positive cases as before it has been influenced by:

- 7 pupil cases (4 in Year 11, 2 in Year 10, 1 in Year 9).
- The self-isolation of 168 pupils this week.
- Having a total of 350 pupils at home self-isolating.
- Having now a running total of 868 pupils having to have been self-isolated this term with 116 pupils doing so twice. These are high numbers.

School attendance today was 89.58% with the 'X' coded pupils and 71.73% without.

Staff continue to work very hard in preparing both lessons in school and also remote/live lessons. Do please contact school if your child has any difficulties in undertaking work whilst at home self-isolating.

Winter Weather: This week, we have had our first wet and very cold day. If for any reason you have difficulty in providing your child with a suitable winter coat, then do please contact headteacher@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk. This will allow school to ensure all our pupils are prepared to deal with the colder months.

Christmas Jumpers: It is Christmas Jumper day, in school, on Wednesday 16 December. The jumper can be worn over school uniform. A 50p donation will be asked for and all proceeds will be given to various charities. Thank you.

Food Hampers: Thank you to everyone for the support in helping the pupils and school prepare Christmas food hampers for sharing across our own school community. The generosity of spirit is overwhelming.

We now have only two weeks left of the autumn term before we break up for Christmas. School will end for pupils and staff at 3.05pm, Friday 18 December and then open in the new year on Monday 04 January 2021.

Having been a headteacher for nearly 20 years, I am only too well aware of how pressure and anxieties build up both at home and in school as we head towards our family Christmas time. This year, more so than ever before, this will be a more worrying and anxious time as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is therefore important, for all of us, to take the time to pause and reflect before we say or do something that could cause upset or offence to someone else.

Japanese Proverb:

‘One kind word can warm three winter months.’

The school is very much looking forward to the work required over the next fortnight and our staff and pupils will continue to be engaged in the work of learning.

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.