

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



16 December 2020

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

We are now in the last school week of 2020 and can look back on a year that has presented real challenges that have impacted significantly on our lives, both in and out of school. Let us hope that we see improvements as we enter 2021 and a return to our normal activities and routines.

Covid-19: Over the last two weeks in school, we have had no reported cases of Covid-19 infection. This has resulted in a return to attendance rates of well over 90% across the school. The attendance figures are above the national averages.

Going forward, any pupils/staff who are identified as a close contact of an infected person will now only be requested to self-isolate for 10 days. This is down from 14 days.

Today, in school, we have been given notification about mass testing in schools from January. The details are at present brief and we will be looking to find out as much as possible about this new testing protocol.

Year 11: Very well done to all our Year 11 pupils who have been working through their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). Overall, attendance has been good and on occasions we have seen most of the year group in. The PPEs will be revisited ahead of the actual GCSE examinations in the summer. Hang in there Year 11.

GCSE Pod: This has been really well received by the Year 11 year group. As a result of this we have now also launched it across Year 10 who will have letters sent out and an input in assemblies to promote the use of this first-class resource.

Year Manager changes: From the start of the new term in January, changes have been made to the Year Managers for Year 10 and Year 11:

- Year 10: Ms A Hudson: annie.hudson@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year 11: Miss P Bell: pbell@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

New Building: The building work at the front of school is near completion and will be in use by pupils/staff in early February. There are six state of the art MFL teaching rooms and a large

sports studio with changing rooms. The internal space is first class and the landscaping, externally, will allow for improved walkways and covered bus queueing.

As part of the handover, pupils this week who were competition winners, dug and laid a time capsule on the site that will be opened in 50 years. The Wakefield Express were in attendance for the event.

Christmas Hampers: Thank you for your support with food items for this year's hampers. This week, as a result, we have delivered 35 hampers to families within our own school community.

Free School Meals: Wakefield Local Authority have informed the school that families who are entitled to free school meal support have been contacted directly about the offer for support over the Christmas holiday. Do please contact Mrs Wray at school if you require support with the local authority offer, or if you and your family are facing difficulties with food etc. over the holiday period.

Contacting school: School will close for two weeks on Friday 18 December and will open again, to all pupils, on Monday 04 January 2021. During this time, no staff will be on site so the answerphone will not be monitored.

If you do need to contact school during the holiday period, please email headteacher@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk. This address will be regularly checked.

Finally, can I take the opportunity to wish our school community a very happy Christmas and every success going forward into 2021. As already mentioned, this year has not been an easy one and we also recognise that, for some families, there has been significant tragedy and loss of loved ones. Our thoughts are with them.

William Wordsworth: English poet (1770-1850) was educated in Hawkshead and later lived in Dove Cottage in Grasmere having attended Cambridge University. He was the poet Laureate from 1843 to 1850:

‘The best portion of a good man’s life – his little, nameless,
unremembered acts of kindness and love.’

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.