

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



11 January 2021

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

We are all seeing a lot of significant disruption currently to our working and school lives, and at times, it can be frustrating and somewhat overwhelming. This is because we are not able to control or influence in the ways we normally can.

Over the last week, we have all seen a lot of change in relation to what school needs to do both over the short and longer term. Here in school, we look to tackle each challenge or change in a considered and incremental manner. It is very much step by step so that we control what we can. It is far from straightforward.

Remote Learning: Teachers are working very hard to plan and deliver a blended remote learning offer. We are confident that our offer fully meets the expectations as detailed by the DfE. Thank you for the many positive emails sent into school on the quality of learning on offer and the engagement seen by your children. It is appreciated. Do please contact school if you have any questions or concerns on remote learning:

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

Mass Flow Testing: Thank you to those people who have offered their professional services to support the school in the Mass Flow Testing (MFT) of staff and pupils. We have now set up a testing area and have started to test staff. We anticipate testing of pupils, in school currently, later this week. Since our return from the Christmas break, we have had no confirmed positive tests for pupils or staff. Today, we have seen a positive MFT and that colleague has now left the site to await the results of a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test.

Year 11: Last week schools were informed that this summer's GCSE examinations would not be going ahead as planned. Instead, Ofqual, the body responsible for examinations, would be consulting until the end of January ahead of publishing any plans or new arrangements.

Over the weekend, in the press, you may have picked up on articles that are reporting that exams will still be going ahead with teachers marking the papers and pupils sitting exams as and when they can. Please note, that the school has not received any formal notification that this is the case. As and when Ofqual publish their agreed plans we will forward details onto you.

The government had consistently told pupils, parents and teachers that exams would happen this year and school had planned on that basis. Going forward it is essential for all our Year 11 pupils to know:

- Your hard work will still be recognised. It has not been wasted and it is important that you continue to engage with your remote learning. The new system that Ofqual will introduce will make sure that your hard work is reflected in your final grade.
- Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exams. In the long run, it will not matter your grades came from an Ofqual introduced change or approach. You will still be able to progress onto Post-16 studies and/or employment. The value of your GCSEs is not being altered, only the way they are administered. None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.
- The new system will be fair and balanced. Grades will be moderated by your teacher and, like last year, there will be an appeals process.

Here in school, we fully appreciate that the current uncertainty is asking a lot of our Year 11 pupils, but it is very important that we take these points on board and keep going. For now, turn up to all your online and remote learning lessons, keep working hard, and know that every piece of work you complete will make a difference.

Safeguarding: If you do have any worries or concerns regarding pupil safety and wellbeing, do please contact school as required. Please telephone in or email Mr Mellor, our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) on gmellor@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk. He can be emailed at any time.

Can we please ask families to not contact teaching staff directly, with concerns regarding the online learning offer after 7pm in the evening. This will support staff, in school, in responding to any concerns during their normal working hours. A number of staff are having to juggle their own home and family concerns at this time and we appreciate the pressures they are under. Thank you for your support here.

Form Tutor Time: This week, it takes place P5 on Tuesday 12 January. In this lesson, form tutors will meet and speak with their form group members. It provides an excellent opportunity to check in with pupils and focus on health and wellbeing. Do please encourage your child to engage in these sessions and have their camera on. They will also get a chance to see other members of their form group as well. With this in mind, can you ensure that when pupils are engaging in remote learning and cameras are on that:

- They are working in an appropriate space. For example, in a kitchen or a study desk/table (not on beds etc.).
- They are appropriately dressed.
- The background is appropriate.
- There is suitable lighting.

Musical Mondays: Our Key Stage 4 pupils have created a playlist that can be viewed via YouTube. This week, Owen, one of our Year 11 music pupils has a clip of him preparing for his Grade 6 guitar. We hope you enjoy it. This is available to view on our website:

<http://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/news-203/>

To conclude, there is a lot going on and a lot to be proud of. We really do work with gifted and hardworking pupils.

Neil Postman (1931-2003) the educator and writer wrote:

‘Children are the living messages we send to a time
we will not see’.

They will be here beyond us. We are preparing them for a future that is theirs not ours. As a headteacher of a school, I have never seen it as my school. More, that I am the current custodian who is responsible for handing to my successor a school that is strong at what it does with pupils who are at the heart of all we do.

Thank you for your continued support.

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

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.