

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



05 February 2021

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

This week was made all the more interesting with the snowfall on Tuesday morning. The decision was made to close the school as early as possible to avoid people getting stuck in traffic. It was probably the most difficult snow journey I have had into school, over fifteen years, and my journey involved avoiding the main roads, which were blocked with stuck vehicles. This weekend looks like more snow and very cold temperatures on Monday. This may impact on our start next week? Hopefully not!

In school, over the last week, I have been very impressed with the skills of our teaching staff as they deliver lessons through Microsoft Teams. As I go into lessons, the teachers appear to be talking to themselves as they speak to the pupils through MS Teams. The quality of their delivery is smooth as they then make use of visualisers and PowerPoints to deliver key learning to pupils.

As a school, we have made large progress in working towards a universal MS Teams delivery platform and a year ago we would not have been able to do what we can now. We appreciate that this move to MS Teams involved subject teams using a number of software platforms. School does intend to further refine the platforms we use. Also, very well done to our pupil body who both organise their remote learning calendar/timetables and access learning as experts. Well done everyone!

The school is looking closely at the issue of 'screen time' and how this impacts on pupils and staff. The following whole school literacy updates have been provided by Mrs Colley:

A big well done and thank you to pupils for their continued hard work in completing Bedrock and their reading for Accelerated Reader. We are committed to developing literacy skills in all of our pupils and reading is a key component to this. As said by Mason Cooley: "Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are." Reading is an acceptable form of home learning for pupils and we would strongly encourage this to be part of pupils' routine. Access to books can be difficult during lockdown so below are some free resources that can be accessed at home.

- **Authonomy** has 70 free ebooks under a search for Young Adult. All are available for free reading online without registration.
- **BookRix** has almost 1000 free ebooks in its Juvenile fiction category. These are available for free download in EPUB or for free reading online.

- **Classicy** has almost 1800 free novels in its Young Adults collection. These are available for free download in PDF or Kindle (AZW).
- **GoodReads** has a listing of 95 free young adult ebooks. All are available for download at their site.
- **Read.gov** has 6 classic novels for teens available for free reading online or free download in PDF

From next week, we will also be releasing a weekly audiobook recorded by staff from across the school. Keep an eye on our social media for “KHS Audible”!

Encouraging pupils to spend time reading can also allow them to get away from their screens for a while too, which is important as well. If families need access to books, we can support with this. Please contact us if this is needed. We appreciate online learning is leading to increased screen time, so please make sure pupils move away from their screens in lesson transitions and breaks and support them in taking exercise outdoors. It looks like the weekend may provide plenty of snow to play in!

Very well done to Miles Thompson, a pupil in Year 8 who submitted a book review to the Historical Association recently. This review of ‘Nothing but the truth’ by Dick Lehr was one of two chosen to be published by the association. The link is below. Impressive work Miles.

<https://www.history.org.uk/primary/categories/936/module/8761/young-quills-reviews-2020/10111/nothing-but-the-truth>

Form tutor time continues to go well and has been used to support Children’s Mental Health Week 2021. The next form tutor period will be period 3 on Friday 12 February.

Consultation Evenings: This week we held our first full virtual consultation evening and the feedback has been extremely positive. If Year 10 families still have any concerns or questions, do please contact Mr Douglas, Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator or Mrs Mumby, Assistant Headteacher Inclusion and Special Needs, their contact details are:

rdouglas@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
mmumby@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Can our Year 11 families please note that the Year 11 consultation evening that is in the calendar for Thursday 25 February, is being postponed. It will be moved to a later date, to be confirmed, in order to allow us to take account of any formal notification regarding Ofqual’s plans for GCSE assessment and grading this summer. This event will also be a virtual consultation evening and Mr Lickiss will be in touch with booking information etc.

Free school meal support : The Department for Education has announced that the national Free School Meals voucher scheme cannot be used to cover school holidays. This means, the school will not be able to order vouchers for the period between Monday 15 February and

Friday 19 February. During the half term holiday, support is available for families through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme. Low income families, that are in receipt of council tax support, will get a voucher payment of £15 per child to go towards the cost of food and essentials, this will be provided by the Local Authority direct. Letters including instructions on how to redeem voucher codes, will be received by families from next week (week commencing 8 February).

Immunisations: We know some parents are becoming concerned about their child receiving up-to-date immunisations during these difficult times. Having spoken to the immunisation team recently, they have advised that they have contacted Year 9 parents to attend a clinic on Monday 15 February (during the half-term break) for the second HPV jab. Other immunisations will be given as soon as possible.

They are understandably busy at the moment but do look on the Wakefield School Immunisation Team Facebook page as they post updates regularly. Alternatively, please contact the Immunisation team direct on 01924 310133.

Lateral Flow Tests: The school continues to involve pupils and staff in Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) and these are now part of our normal routine work in school. This week we have:

- Tested 106 pupils with 2 positives.
- Tested 230 staff with 2 positives.

To date, the school has undertaken a total of 1303 LFTs.

Whilst the LFTs provide some reassurance in dealing with Covid-19, we all need to remain on high alert and continue to follow safe working practice and maintain space and high standards of personal hygiene/handwashing.

The weekly online booking system for our critical worker families is in use and helps the school in planning the following week's school based lessons and learning for those pupils attending. In order to support the national response to reducing infection, it is essential that the pupils in school are here because they do not have any adult supervision at home because parents/carers are working as critical workers. Please do not make a booking if your child can be supervised and can therefore access remote learning from home. Thank you for your consideration here.

Having seen our MFL move into our impressive new building, I was entertained when I overheard a group of our Year 7 pupils whispering to each other about going over to the new classrooms to 'investigate and explore it'. I bumped into them later and asked them if it was good enough? They all agreed it was. We very much look forward to making full use of these new facilities, sooner rather than later.

Having reflected on the work of the school since the lockdown, it is very clear that, as a society, we have had to learn new things and adapt quickly. In 1970, Alvin Toffler (1928-2016)

published a book called 'Future Shock'. This book quickly became a bestseller and has sold over 6 million copies. In it, Toffler mentions a term we now often hear, 'information overload'. The book examines the effects of rapid industrial and technological changes upon the individual, the family and society. Well worth a read.

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

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.