

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



11 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

It really has been good seeing our pupil population returning to school this week. Each day we have welcomed back increasing numbers, and we will be fully operational by Tuesday of next week.

Very well done to the pupil year groups who have patiently gone about the business of taking their Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests in the new sports studio, having had briefing sessions/videos in the sports hall. It really has been impressive to see the way our pupils have accepted what needed to be done to see a full and safe return to school.

This week, we have undertaken the following LFD tests:

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| Monday: | 217 |
| Tuesday: | 336 |
| Wednesday: | 224 |
| Thursday: | 219 |



(new sports studio used for LFD testing)

That is a total of 996. We have only had one positive test this week.

On Friday, all Year 10 and Year 11 pupils, who have consented, will have the second of their three school based LFD tests with other year groups getting theirs next week. When the pupils have had 3 LFD tests in school, they will be issued with home testing kits for future testing. Currently, staff in school are already using the home testing LFD kits and report each result to the National Health Service. It has proved to be a straightforward process.

Not only have our pupils returned to school with a positive approach, we have also seen strong attendance figures. Today, our attendance figures are:

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| Year 11: | 92.07% |
| Year 10: | 95.57% |
| Year 7: | 96.28% |

We have a total of 1187 pupils in school today with 145 of those being Year 9 who have had LFD tests and 58 Year 8 pupils who are the children of key workers.

On Monday, Year 8 pupils, who have consented for LFD tests will return, and on the Tuesday all pupils should be back in.

Thank you for your support in assisting with the school's phased return to full opening. It is very clear that everyone has worked together and that we are now well placed to get back to our business of schooling and educating our pupils. This really is great news!

Year 11: Staff are now focussed on planning arrangements to support this year's GCSE assessments. The school will use and follow the advice and guidance from both examination boards and Ofqual. It will be a fair and thorough process.

We now have a date for our Year 11 consultation evening. This will take place, remotely, on Thursday 25 March via the Edulink parent app. Details will be sent out to enable families to set up subject appointments and to speak with teachers. The focus will be on re-engagement with learning and pupil progress. Teachers will not be able to discuss the awarding of grades. They will be able to talk through subject plans now and grade entries in June.

The school fully intends to provide all our Year 11 pupils with every opportunity to demonstrate their subject knowledge and understanding. This will be assessed using professional judgement/moderation along with testing and assessment of the work produced by pupils over the course, and also in the time remaining. As such, it is very important for every pupil to continue to do and give their very best. Go for it!

Year 9: Please note that in accommodating our Year 11 consultation evening to support the GCSE deadline, our Year 9 consultation evening will now be held on Thursday **27 May 2021**. Thank you for your support with these changes.

Inset Day 5: Please note, the Inset Day that was not taken in February now takes place on Friday **11 June 2021**. Again, this day will focus on our Year 11 examination and grading entries. School will therefore be closed to all pupils.

Extra-curricular PE: School is pleased to report that PE activities will be up and running, literally, from Tuesday 16 March. It will run as we did before Christmas with a different year group on each evening. The first block of activities will be, girls' and boys' football, netball and hockey. Pupils need to bring their PE kit and meet in the sports hall:

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| Tuesday: | Year 8 |
| Wednesday: | Year 9 |
| Thursday: | Year 7 |
| Friday: | Years 10 and 11. |

Ofsted Parent View: As a school, we value reflective advice and feedback on what we do as a school. In the past we have promoted Ofsted's Parent View through our consultation evenings and this has assisted in getting a higher than average number of returns and entries. Do please log on to Ofsted's Parent View and give your feedback: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Over the summer term, the school will be looking to families for advice and feedback to take account of post Covid-19 ways of working. For example, do we keep the remote online consultation evenings or return to what we used to do etc. The school will send out details after Easter.

Pupil News: Well done to two of our ex-pupils on their successful application to study at Cambridge University. Beth Merrylees will be studying English literature at St Catharine's College and Emma Duffy, law at Queen's College.

It is nice to be writing to families towards the end of a busy and more normal week in school. It feels right that the school is buzzing and full of energy as our pupils return to normal lessons. The staff have really been working hard to maintain online learning as we have all responded to the challenges in dealing with Covid-19.

Over the next two weeks before Easter, it is still very important that we all work hard to maintain safe working protocols and keep each other safe.

Be sure to have an enjoyable weekend and in the words of Seamus Heaney (1939-2013):

'If we can winter this one out, we can summer anywhere.'

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

As a school, we all need to:

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| <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. |