

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

It is now just over a year since we had to start dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and the very first period of national lockdown. The impact of Covid-19 has been significant for both families and school and we are very much enjoying the full return to school with all our pupils.

At the moment, school is very busy and there is plenty going on. Our pupil body are coping well with their work in lessons and we would like to thank them for their mature approach to the school-based Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing and face mask protocols. Very well done!

LFD Testing: The school submitted 5558 LFD test results through to the National Health Service recorder, with 3983 being pupils and 1605 staff results.

We currently have 1152 pupils out of 1614 involved in undertaking LFD testing at home. This represents 71.4% of the school population. From the first week of home testing, we have been informed of two positive test results and have had nine other pupils self-isolating.

Can families please continue to take the home LFD twice a week (Sunday night and Wednesday night) over the Easter holiday. Do please report any positive test results to both school and the NHS.

School Site: The new build has gone down well with staff and pupils and, despite some issues with the rooms being too hot, we have now got our MFL team established in the six classrooms. The facilities really are superb.

Over the lockdown periods, the school has been able to make some savings and this has allowed us to invest £150000 worth of ICT and interactive whiteboards for the majority of our classrooms. We have also improved the school's Wi-Fi to allow for more pupil use of remote ICT equipment.

Going forward, we are improving the whole school telephone system which will allow for a cloud based offer and unlimited lines out of school. We are also pleased to report that planning permission has now been granted for new and higher fencing. This will be put in over the Easter break along Kettlethorpe Hall Drive. The second phase of this project completes over

the summer break with an electronic gate entry system next to the new reception area (old CLC building).

In response to the requests from pupil parliament, we have secured funding to the tune of £60000 for three hard-roofed external canopies to go on playground areas. These will be fitted over the summer break.

Parentview/feedback: The school has now held several 'virtual' parent/carer consultation evenings using Edulink. We are keen to gather feedback on this approach very much with the view to establishing if it is worthwhile holding more of these in future. If you do have any feedback, both positive or negative, then do please email Mr Lickiss: glickiss@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

We are also encouraging families to use the Ofsted Parent view tool as this is of use to the school and also informs Ofsted of parent views whenever they next inspect the school. Please log onto <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Year 11: The school has given a lot of consideration to the formal year end for our current Year 11 pupils who are currently working closely with their subject teachers to demonstrate assessments for grading. To this effect, the following key dates are important:

- Friday 28 May: Year 11 Group Photo: this will be done quickly with social distancing following Covid-19 protocols.
- Thursday 10 June will be the last school day for Year 11. There will be an end of year event (outside), signing of shirts and lunchtime departure.
- Friday 11 June: full school INSET day to allow teachers to assess and then moderate Year 11 work.
- Friday 18 June: final date for all teacher grade information to the examination boards.
- Thursday 12 August: Results Day. Details will follow on how this will be done.

Please note, school intends to work to the above dates unless advised otherwise by the Department for Education (DfE).

The school prom this year, unfortunately, has had to be cancelled. This is due to the uncertainty around the venue being able to open fully under the current Covid-19 rules. We also want to save families from the wasted cost for suits, dresses and carriages. We are sorry to have to report this position.

GCSE Pod: Very well done to all our pupils for their engagement with GCSE Pod. This really does support pupil learning across a range of subjects. The school is currently second in the North Heavyweight Regional competition against another 147 schools. We have 60889 points and the leaders, Tooting High School are on 62190. The competition does involve prize money for pupils and the school and ends on 21 July. Thank you, Ms Mallinson, for promoting this.

Also, well done to Meiyen Secco, in Year 11, for winning a writing competition promoted by Rotherham Council. Her entry was a short story titled, 'Life in Lockdown'. Very well done Meiyen!

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations: These will take place in the new sports studio on Thursday 15 April for all boys and girls who have consented. For pupils without consent forms, these can be collected on this date for a vaccination at a later date.

Extra-Curricular Activities: It has been great to see pupils getting involved in sports clubs and activities after school. This is a strength of our school and does much to support pupil health and well-being. Mrs Sankey has asked me to mention that Art Club for Year 10 starts again after Easter.

Teacher Staffing: The school, as a result of budget planning and growing pupil numbers, over the next three years, is looking to appoint additional teachers for next September. We are in a privileged position and are looking for up to six teachers to support English, maths and science as well as drama and PE. We have already made new appointments for an assistant headteacher and a new SENCO. This will give the school additional capacity to support all our pupils and, our new Year 7 especially, with covering any 'missed learning'. Importantly, it also allows us to enhance our performing arts and sports offer so we get back to seeing performances, showcase events and competitive/casual sporting events/clubs which are the lifeblood of a good school.

Finally, this weekend sees the clocks go forward one hour on Sunday and we move to British summer time. This gives us more daylight in the evenings and is a time to be active and busy.

In the words of Charles Dickens (1812-1870), the English writer and social critic...

'It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade.'

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable Easter and we very much look forward to the summer term, which will begin on Monday 12 April at the normal time.

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.