

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



28 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

As we head into the May half-term holiday, it really is good to see the school beginning to return to a normal routine again. It certainly has been a very difficult time, both in school and at homes for families.

In school, we are making plans for a return to normal year group and pupil mixing arrangements. This will resume if the government moves the country to the final stage of the Covid-19 recovery plan. This will be announced on 21 June 2021 and the school will then remove the year group bubbles and return to daily form tutor registration periods.

In school, over recent weeks, we have had no reported incidents of Covid-19 across both the staff and pupil body. It is however, still very important that we all continue to wash our hands regularly, use the sanitising stations and maintain social distancing. Very well done to everybody for the sensible manner in which people have used and supported the wearing of masks in and around school.

At the start of the first lockdown, as a school, we were very concerned about the negative financial impact Covid-19 would have on the school's budget planning. What we have learnt is that whilst we did have to cover considerable costs to make the site safe to operate, we have made significant savings in other areas. We appreciate that this is a one-off situation and have used these savings to benefit the school community as detailed below. Also, because the school continues to grow in size, we have employed eight additional subject teachers for September 2021, this is well ahead of when we require them to teach the 1750 pupils we will have in school in two year's time.

The additional staffing really will benefit our pupils as we can offer a range of lessons to both support and enhance their learning and ensure all our pupils learn to their full potential.

The school is planning to:

- Fit three hard covered pupil canopies to playground areas.
- Completely refurbish two temporary classrooms.
- Refurbish the tuck shop toilets.

- Turn the community learning building into a new school reception and put in a full fence perimeter/electronic gating.
- Upgrade the main building lift.
- Refurbish the changing rooms by the school hall.
- Upgrade the school's internal/external CCTV security system.
- Complete Phase 2 of the school's heating/air conditioning programme. This is a £1 million project over 4 years.

As previously mentioned, the school has been able to invest over £300000 to further develop our ICT platform.

Last week we interviewed for a teacher of modern languages. It really was great seeing the candidates teach in the new MFL classrooms. These facilities really are first-class, as was the attitude and behaviour demonstrated by our pupils. Very well done everyone.

Unfortunately, there are times when some of our pupils do not behave as expected. As a result they face the consequences of their actions. This term we have permanently excluded two pupils. The pupils were permanently removed from the school roll for:

- Repeated defiance and behaviour that compromises the learning of other pupils and the work of the school.
- An out of school incident where the pupil (not in school uniform) created a disturbance that required police involvement.

Road Traffic: Please take some time to remind your children of the need to be alert and safe when crossing roads in and around the local area. A number of parents and members of the public have expressed concerns regarding pupils running across roads without looking and/or not using the pelican crossings by school and next to Asda. Please be safe.

Today, we have had our full Year 11 pupils and form tutor photograph taken. It was a pleasure to see this exceptional year group together again. They are now entering their final few days at school and we would like to wish them every success into the future. They really have been a pleasure to work with. All the very best Year 11.

Our plans for a summer school for our new Year 7 (from September 2021) are well underway. To date, we have had 198 expressions of interest.

Dance World Cup: Congratulations to Erin Kidd, Y8, who has also been selected to compete in this event later this year. Good luck!

Yesterday, the school had a non-uniform day to remember Richard Clough, a maths teacher, who tragically died in school a year ago. The pupils reflected on Richard as a teacher and raised £1425 for the British Heart Foundation. An excellent effort.

At lunchtime, staff and pupils met to dedicate a memorial bench that the pupils had purchased. This was in our quiet quad. Below is the Joyce Grenfell poem that our headboy, Kuda, read out:

If I should go before the rest of you,
Break not a flower or inscribe a stone,
Nor when I'm gone speak in a Sunday voice,
But to be the usual selves that I have known.

Weep if you must
Parting is hell
But life goes on
So sing as well.

Joyce Grenfell (1910-1979) was an English comedian, singer and actress. Some of you will remember her from the St Trinian films from the 1950s. Richard would have found this funny.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the school.

Enjoy the half-term break.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

Friday 28 May 2021:	Finish for half-term break
Monday 7 June 2021:	Back to school
Thursday 10 June 2021:	Year 11 final day
Friday 11 June 2021:	Inset Day, school closed to all pupils
Thursday 17 June 2021:	Year 7 Consultation Evening
Thursday 1 July 2021:	Induction Day for new Year 7
Tuesday 6 July 2021:	Year 10 New College Taster Day
5, 7 and 8 July 2021:	Year 10 Geography trip