

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



18 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

As we work through the final half-term of what has been both an uncertain and challenging year, things continue to be disrupted. However:

Our Year 11 pupils have now finished. There has been no end of year prom for them and their results will be sent home as we are unable to have the pupils in, as normal, for results day in August. This is a real shame. On their last day in school, we had pizza, ice-cream and inflatable assault courses as a way of ending their time at the school. The pupils were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. We wish them every success.

Induction day for our new Year 7 has had to be cancelled. This is because the school is following government advice. Instead, our new Year 7 will have their induction day in school on Tuesday 07 September. On this day, they will get to know their new school and there will be an opportunity for parents/carers to meet their child's form tutor in the evening. This may be in school or via a remote meeting. Details will follow.

The Year 7 will also have Wednesday 08 September in school going to timetabled lessons alongside our Year 11 pupils who will also return on the 8th.

On Thursday 09 September we will see all our other year groups and pupils return (Years 8, 9 and 10) following their summer break.

Thank you for your support with these arrangements. Do please note that our summer school plans for our new Year 7 are still taking place as already communicated to those involved.

Covid-19 Update

We are beginning to see a rise in the number of reported positive Covid-19 cases and this has resulted in over 140 pupils being sent home to isolate over the last week.

We have had 4 positive cases in Year 9, one in Year 10 and one involving a member of staff.

Can we please remind all families to continue taking the Lateral Flow Tests twice a week. We have plenty of the test kits in school if you require more. It is very important that all results are recorded with Public Health England (PHE) via the NHS website, even if the test is negative. This is because the results, both positive and negative, are being reviewed by the government to inform national plans etc.

Last week, PHE have told school that there were 381 recorded LFD tests with 1 positive. With the number of pupils in school this figure should have been for over 2500 tests.

As a result of the current situation in school, we have had several phonecalls with PHE. They are concerned that pupils, in different year groups, are infecting each other as a result of close association outside of school. By this they mean, meeting up in houses and social areas. They are also alarmed to hear that pupils from different families are travelling to and from school together by car.

It is evident that we are seeing an increase in Covid-19 infections and it is very important that we remain focussed, vigilant and sensible. This is to ensure the safety of our school and outside community. This will then allow us all to return to normal working sooner.

Year 10 taster days at Pontefract New College have had to be cancelled. This is on the advice, and guidance from the government. The college is looking at new ways of getting information to pupils who are looking at the curriculum and lifestyle offered at Post-16.

Very well done to all the Year 10 pupils who have been taking part in the 'World of Work' mock interviews with outside contacts. Pupils have prepared well and demonstrated high levels of engagement and commitment. Nicely done Year 10!

Again, with Year 10, very well done to the 60 pupils who have been involved in their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award at the school. They are on schedule to obtain the award this year.

It is also positive to note that we have a return to geography field trips for pupils in Year 9 and Year 10 going to the coast and Ingleton next month. We have also seen success on the football field with our Year 11 boys' team winning the Wakefield Schools' final having beaten King's School 4-2. Mr Towler reports that the Year 11 have been brilliant to coach and a credit around the school. Very well done boys!

GCSE Pod: A great effort here from pupils and staff which has placed the school at the top of the North Heavyweight School competition. Over 145 schools are involved and Kettlethorpe High School has recorded over 32000 video/pod visits. The next best school is just over 20000. There is some very good learning content on GCSE Pod. Well done to everyone for their efforts. No doubt more prizes to follow for Ms Mallinson.

Music: Kettlethorpe High School musician of the year competition is now up and running for this academic year. Details have gone out to pupils and the competitions will run on:

Year 7:	Thursday 01 July
Year 8:	Friday 02 July
Year 9:	Tuesday 06 July
Year 10:	Thursday 08 July.

All abilities and styles welcome. Please pick up entry forms from music and return for Friday 25 June.

MFL/Art Competition: Well done to the following pupils: Yasmin Coe, Millie Byram, Klaudia Swiatczak, Ingrid Smith, Grace Mwambingu and Louie Massarella-Burton who have won the MFL/Art competition. Their winning entries have been framed and will be displayed in the new MFL block. Thank you to everyone for your amazing entries, we have some extremely talented artists in school and choosing the winners was very difficult.

Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers competition: Inaaya Hussain, Year 8, has reached the finals of the national STEM Big Bang competition with her idea for an eco-friendly house. If her interview is successful there will be a celebration event on Zoom, where the winners will be announced.

Uniform Shop: This will be open in the summer holidays from Monday 09 August to Friday 03 September, Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.30pm (with the exception of Bank Holiday Monday on Monday 30 August). Order forms and size guides will be available on the school website to download ready for purchase. Please note the shop will not be open on INSET day, Monday 06 September.

Over the last week in school it really has been good visiting lessons and seeing how our pupils are progressing with their learning. We really do have some of the very best pupils and young people to work with. They have impressed with their resilience and positive attitudes as well as their co-operation and understanding with all the new ways of working that Covid-19 has caused.

Following the departure of our Year 11s, a parent of one of the pupils, who also works in a nearby secondary school sent through the following quote, which is well worth reflecting on:

‘The mediocre teacher tells,
The good teacher explains,
The superior teacher demonstrate,
The great teacher inspires.’

William Arthur Ward (1921-1994) an American motivational writer and author of foundations of faith.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the school and enjoy the European football games. I am hoping to see Wales winning more games!

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

Friday 23 July 2021:	School closes for summer break (1.15pm, after lunch)
Monday 06 September 2021:	INSET day
Tuesday 07 September 2021:	New Year 7 Induction day
Wednesday 08 September 2021:	Year 7 and 11 return to school
Thursday 09 September 2021:	All year groups return to school.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean our hands more often using soap and water as well as the hand sanitizer 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.