

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



02 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

This week has been one of the hardest we have had to manage over the Covid-19 pandemic. We have dealt with significant disruption and this has had a direct impact both on lessons and also pupils having to self-isolate at home.

The current national issue with pupils having to be sent home, to self-isolate, has received a lot of discussion in the press. Over the last week, the number of pupils being required to isolate at home has rapidly risen from 9000 to nearly 400000. It has hit Kettlethorpe High School hard.

In school, we have seen pupil attendance drop to:

- Year 7: 36% (61% X coded)
- Year 8: 92%
- Year 9: 89%
- Year 10: 56% (86% X coded)

This week, school has dealt with 17 positive Covid-19 cases.

- 13 in Year 7
- 1 in Year 9
- 3 in Year 10

This has had a significant impact on the pupil roll with the following number of pupils now having to self-isolate:

- 190 in Year 7
- 26 in Year 9
- 33 in Year 10

These 249 pupils represent around 25% of the school's current pupil roll without including Year 11 who have now finished at school.

The school has been in regular contact, by email with Public Health England (PHE). School does speak to PHE over the weekend in order to monitor and review the local Covid-19 picture.

Currently, they want all parents/carers of pupils who have been asked to self-isolate as close contacts, to get a PCR test at their nearest testing site.

Details of local test sites for PCR tests are at the end of this letter.

If your child's PCR test is negative then they still need to complete 10 days of self-isolation, as they could develop the infection later. This follows a positive Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test.

It still remains very important that pupils undertake, supervised, LFD tests twice weekly.

If you are at all unsure if your child has Covid-19 symptoms, check on the NHS website for current symptoms and keep your child at home if you believe they have an infection. Arrange for a PCR test.

In school we are concerned, as you will also be, with the detrimental impact any absence from school will have on lost learning. This is something that the school is working on and we have a detailed 'recovery' plan to ensure we give all our pupils the best learning experience going forward.

Currently, the school is following the advice and guidance on pupil isolation from Public Health England. We are obliged to do this despite press speculation that politicians wish to see year group bubbles removed. As a school community, we very much want to return to normal working as and when safe to do so.

The school will continue to monitor the current situation carefully and will update families next week.

Thank you for your continued support and patience at this challenging time.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

PCR tests for Wakefield residents: Test sites are at the former Westgate Station car park (WF1 1XP) and Castleford Swimming Pool (WF10 5DX). These sites are open from 8am – 8pm and no appointment is required (although you can book online if you prefer).

Mobile testing units are located at various places in the district. For this week's sits, please visit:

[Getting a COVID-19 test – Wakefield Council](#)

A reminder of guidance for meeting other people:

- Up to 6 people or two households can mix indoors.
- Up to 6 people or two households can stay overnight in somebody's home.
- Up to 30 people can mix outdoors.
- Hugging and friends and family is allowed, but please consider the vulnerability of people you hug and the people they are in contact with.

Please do remember the importance of hands, face, space, and where possible meet people outside your household outside, or in well-ventilated places. All adults over 18 are now able to book their Covid-19 vaccination, so please do book your appointment without delay, or look out for drop-in sessions being advertised.