

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



16 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

Over the last week we have begun to see more pupils back in school following periods of self-isolation. Our attendance, pupils actually in school, has been around 75%. This figure is above both the local and national attendance figures currently.

We also now know that nearly 900000 pupils have had to isolate from school over the last week and there is still a concern that this number could rise. It is pleasing that the number of positive cases in school has now started to reduce significantly.

Attached, is a letter that has been sent to all schools by the DfE. It provides the current position for self-isolating and testing. Do please read it for an update.

Thank you to those families who have already responded with details and permission for pupils to have Lateral Flow Device tests (LFD) for the start of the academic year. We are now seeing more pupils having permission for LFDs than when we first started LFD tests earlier in the year. The deadline for consent forms is Thursday 22 July.

Over the summer break, school will contact all families where consent forms have agreed to pupils having LFD tests. The school has been asked to provide two tests for every pupil before and during the first week of school in September. Pupils will receive an invitation to attend school for their first LFD test, which will take place between Wednesday 01 to Friday 03 September. The tests will be taken in the school's sports hall and will take around twenty minutes. Pupils will be given an appointment time. They do not need to attend in school uniform.

On the return to school and lessons from Tuesday 07 September, pupils will then take a second LFD test. Any pupils who are unable to attend the week before will be accommodated then.

In school, we have made arrangements to provide additional support lessons and interventions so that all our pupils are able to learn and make progress. We too, share the concerns that have been expressed about the impact that lost learning will have on GCSE examinations over the next couple of years.

Thank you for your continued support, feedback and understanding as we deal with the Covid-19 Step 4 arrangements and LFD tests.

This summer we have a number of staff leaving. The following colleagues are retiring:

Mr R Page to work with 'Incredible Edibles', Mrs S Elliott, Mrs A Brook and Mrs B Dalton, who has been the school's senior science technician for 25 years.

Miss P Bell is starting a university course in Leeds and Mr K Woodward's contract has come to an end. Mrs M Imrie has a new position at the Wakefield Key Stage 3 PRU; Mrs L Hulse is joining the staff at Ackworth School and Mr G Kilgannon has an ICT role with HSBC.

Finally, Ms S Hudson-Frost has a new post at Corpus Christi Catholic College in Leeds after 14 years at the school and Mrs M Tebay is exploring other educational opportunities after 18 years at Kettlethorpe High School.

We would like to both thank them for their support and efforts over the years and wish them every success into the future. Thank you.

Trips and Visits: It has been great to see our pupils out on trips and visits recently. We have had pupils doing coastal geography fieldwork and on outdoor pursuit walks in the Peak District. We have also seen our PE staff arranging match fixtures for next year with other local schools. Nicely done!

Writing Success: Congratulations to Lacey Williamson (Year 11), who has won the Matthew Hale Award at the Northern Writers Awards 2021. Please click the link below to see a sample of Lacey's work:

<https://newwritingnorth.com/nwn-young-writers/young-writers-awards/lacey-williamson/>

Water Safety: As we move to the summer holidays and warmer weather, Yorkshire Water has asked us to share some important messages with you, please share with your child:

'In this current hot weather, people are often tempted to cool down by taking a swim in reservoirs or rivers. However, cold water can be a killer and we'd like to raise awareness of these risks amongst your school community.

Cold water shock can lead to hyperventilation, increased blood pressure, breathing difficulties and heart attacks plus water temperatures remain just as cold in summer as in winter. Please do not swim in Yorkshire Water reservoirs or other areas of open water – please use a designated venue such as a swimming pool or an area covered by a qualified lifeguard.'

As we all know from first-hand experience this has been a challenging and uncertain academic year. Can I take this opportunity to thank families, the staff in school and our governing body for your considered support and advice that has enabled us, as a school learning community, to keep the school operational and working. It has been valued and appreciated. Next year will certainly be better!

As we have worked towards the last week in school, I have been impressed with our pupils. They are positive in their outlook and polite as they go about their business. We really do have an impressive pupil body who have shown resilience over a difficult 18 months.

School will finish on Friday 23 July at 1.15pm with pupils returning in September, as below:

- Tuesday 07 September: New Year 7 only
- Wednesday 08 September: Year 7 and Year 11 only
- Thursday 09 September: All pupils in school.

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable summer break. I am looking forward to some travels within the UK, including a visit to my parents in South Wales who I have not seen since the pandemic started. I will also spend time reading and may return to travel books written by Evelyn Waugh (1903-1966):

‘If it could only be like this always-
always summer, always alone, the
fruit always ripe and Aloysius in a
good temper...’

A line from Waugh’s most famous book ‘Brideshead Revisited’ written in 1945 with the film version being film at Castle Howard, North Yorkshire.

Enjoy your break. Be safe.

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 sites, please visit:

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

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.



Department
for Education

Dear Parent/carer

Re: Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
9. **From 16 August**, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take

an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families, education and childcare settings have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.