

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

It really has been great seeing the school return to full occupancy this week. A lot of work has gone into preparing for a safe opening and we continue to review the systems we have introduced. Thank you for the feedback and support you have offered.

Our new Year 7 pupils have made a very positive start. Well done! We have provided every pupil with a reading book, as a gift, to encourage a love of reading and to mark their start at the school. This year, our Year 7 is 323 pupils in number.

Our older pupils are also looking very smart and have grown in size since we last saw them in school as full year groups. We wish them every success going forward.

A big thank you to all our families for the co-operation, support and encouragement in getting our pupils back into school. This week our attendance figures have been amongst our best ever on record at 97.4%. A great start.

Hygiene: Do please continue to encourage pupils to wash their hands in school regularly with soap and water. We are all clear as to how important this is. Staff in school will also continue to explain and model safe working approaches.

Suspected Covid-19 symptoms: If you suspect your child possibly has Covid-19, do please check for the following symptoms:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of smell or taste.

You can check symptoms at the following NHS website: <http://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

Please do not send your child into school if you suspect they have symptoms of Covid-19. If you do book a test, do please inform the school. The following link will get you to the website page to book a free test: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

To and from school: Our school is large with over 1600 pupils, who come from across the Wakefield and Barnsley districts. As such, we are a school where a lot of pupils rely on lifts in

the morning and afternoon. This year, we have also seen far fewer pupils travelling on the buses and then getting lifts. This is understandable given the current CV-19 context.

This week, we have seen a significant increase in the number of cars parked around the school at the end of the day. Most years this situation does improve as pupils get to know the school and become more independent.

In order to assist in reducing congestion, we would encourage families to park further away from school and rendezvous with family members by having a set meeting point. Currently, we do have concerns with parking on pavements, blocking the bus bay and access by the 3G pitch.

The bus bay area needs to be kept clear as the bus companies have been putting on additional buses.

Bus routes: The school is aware that several times this week (route 109 and 110) the bus has not picked up pupils because of a lack of passenger space. School will take this into account if pupils then arrive late. Pupils are not to worry. We would again, encourage families to contact the bus operators directly to express concerns and to get up to date details. School will also do this and will always inform via the website, if we are informed of any changes.

Masks and social distancing: Pupils are encouraged to wear masks in school. It is not a legal requirement. They will need them if they are travelling on public transport. Each year group in school is working in a discrete year group 'bubble'. As such, they should have very limited contact and interaction with other pupils. Again, pupils need to be clearly aware that they should not be mixing socially with other year groups, in school.

Do please continue to talk to your children about the expectations around social distancing especially within the community. As a school, we have no influence or control in areas such as Asda or local shops. Whilst in school uniform, pupils are representatives of the school and following school expectations would be the best for everyone.

New teachers: The school would like to welcome, the following, new staff to the school and wish them every success into the future:

Mr Bromley:	English (Assistant Team Leader)
Miss Couzens:	English
Miss Dyson:	PE
Mrs Espin:	Science (Team Leader)
Mrs George:	Design Technology
Mrs Imrie:	English
Mr Lowe:	Art and Design

Mrs Magniez: MFL
Miss Jackson: Cover support/Drama

Date change: The school calendar for Thursday 01 October now has a change. The school will not be closing at 1.15pm for pupils, as the school open evening is now being done as a 'virtual activity'. School day as normal for all pupil year groups.

Attitudes to learning: As a school, we have a very high number of pupils who continually give their best, have positive attitudes, and are a joy to work with. They help to make Kettlethorpe High School what it is.

During the current CV19 situation, it is now more important than ever before that pupils understand the importance of following all instructions and behaving in a safe and sensible manner. As a school, we do understand that pupils will need to adjust to being back in full-time education, and they will be given support with this. The school also wants to make it very clear that any pupil who deliberately puts other (staff or pupils) at risk by behaving in an irresponsible way will be excluded from school. Any repeated poor behaviour or a serious one-off incident could result in a permanent exclusion from our school community.

Again, thank you for supporting the school and a very positive first week back. It has been both hard work and enjoyable.

Best wishes

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 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.