

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



13 October 2020

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

In the words of Charles Dickens, 'it was the best of times, it was the worst of times...' That is certainly how it has felt at times over the last week in school. We are all fully aware of the impact that Covid-19 is having on all our lives and it is clear that as we overcome and solve one issue another soon appears before us.

It is fair to say that our pupils continue to work well through the new protocols and ways of working. They maintain a sense of fun and purpose and reinforce the core values of what we want to see and believe in as a school community.

International Service System (ISS): Our contracted catering supplier have had issues with two members of staff who have been diagnosed, following testing, with Covid-19. As a result of this, teachers in school supported by staff from ISS delivered two food services on Monday. It was a case of all hands on deck.

Having been told that ISS staff would be working on Tuesday, we were informed at 7.00pm on Monday evening that this was not the case. At this time, the school prepared emails to update all families and advise that the meals service would not be in place today. Thank you for your support and response to this issue.

Today, we have had a number of conversations with ISS as well as spoken to Public Health colleagues to establish what is going to happen for the remainder of the week.

At this stage, ISS will be unable to provide meals as normal on Wednesday. Whilst we have an update meeting on Wednesday, I would suggest families prepare for packed meals/snacks for the remainder of this week. The school will update families when we are sure that ISS can deliver a meal service.

Today, in school, the pupils responded well to the short notice arrangements. In school, we have food available for any pupil who forgets or does not get a lunch. Pupils can ask at reception or see Mrs Wray.

Masks: Currently it is not a requirement for pupils and staff to wear masks in school. Increasingly, we are seeing more pupils choosing to wear masks and we may soon find, depending on area classification, that it becomes a requirement.

Whilst we do have supplies of masks in school, we would encourage more pupils to consider wearing a mask, just as they do when entering local shops or travelling on public transport.

Year 11: There is a lot going on with our Year 11 and we have to say that they are a super cohort who have a very positive approach to school. In fact, they are one of our very best year 11 groups we have seen.

On Thursday we are holding a Year 11 consultation evening which will involve telephone appointments with Year 11 form tutors. Currently, around 70% of parents/carers have made appointments. Do please contact school if you have not already set up an appointment.

Yesterday, the government announced that there will be GCSE examinations next summer. These will start three weeks later than planned on Monday 07 June. Results day will be Friday 27 August.

This is important news for our Year 11 pupils and the school. It now allows us all to focus and concentrate on what we are all good at. We now know where the end game finishes.

Next week, pupils in Year 11 will be involved in English Language PPE examinations (mocks) in the sports hall. Good luck!

The school, however, will continue to monitor and inform families of any contextual changes to examinations that may result because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We very much look forward to speaking with families on Thursday's Year 11 consultation evening.

Children in Need (CiN): This takes place on Friday 13 November with a themed non-uniform day for all pupils for a £1.00 donation towards Children in Need.

Children in Need day is a very special day in the life of our school and the school, last year, raised over £16000, giving us an overall total raised of £81500 over the last 7 years.

Two of our pupils, Austin and Esther Atkinson, are a committed duo who have worked hard since joining the KHS community to fund raise, raising over £2000 in November 2018 completing a triathlon, all for Children in Need. They also won the Terry Wogan Award which was presented to them on the Children in Need show in November 2019.

This year we have introduced a £10.00 home challenge which all pupils will receive details about.

Whilst things are harder this year, it will be great to see the whole school community get behind this worthwhile event.

Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities. Written in 1859. 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.' Let us hope this is not the case!

Thank you for your continued support

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the diary:

Thursday **15 October 2020**: Y11 Consultation Evening

Friday **23 October 2020**: School closes for half-term

Monday **02 November 2020**: School reopens at 8.40am

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 sanitiser 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.