

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



15 November 2020

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

This has certainly been a case of, 'That Was The Week That Was', and we have only just got to the end of Wednesday in school.

The week started with four positive Covid-19 pupil infections, and so far this week we have dealt with:

- 5 Year 11 infections.
- 4 Year 10 infections.
- 1 member of staff infected.

This has resulted in 135 pupils having to self-isolate this week which means that we currently have 330 pupils out of 1611 pupils self-isolating. This term has seen 657 pupils having to self-isolate as a total, with 78 pupils doing so on more than one occasion.

School attendance today is 93.8% and without the 'x' coded (Covid-19 related) pupils it stands at 74.52%.

The school fully appreciates how difficult it is for families to make arrangements to support the self-isolation of pupils at home with only short notice. Thank you for your support in managing this situation.

Covid-19: Pupils in school are now routinely wearing their masks to good effect. To date, the school has spent nearly £3000 purchasing and distributing masks, both temporary and cotton washable. Do please check your children leave the house each day with their mask so we can maintain this protocol.

Parents/Carers entering school: Do please only come into the school reception having rung through to advise us of your visit or by appointment. This is to help reduce the numbers of adults coming onto the school site. If you are attending a meeting with other family adults, then do please tell us so we can book a meeting room that can accommodate those attending the meeting safely.

Family testing: Do please keep your child at home from school if anyone in your household has symptoms and are awaiting the result of a Covid-19 test. This will assist in keeping infection from spreading.

Year 11: Currently we have 165 of our 301 Year 11 cohort out of school. Plans are being communicated to Year 11 to assist them with their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) with direct access to the examination hall and opportunities to self-study. Mr Lickiss will be sending out a separate communication. These changes to routine are to secure a safer working environment so that we can de-escalate the infections seen in Key Stage 4.

The school has purchased access to GCSE Pod, an online study support offer. Within 48 hours of its launch in school over 640 learning pods had been viewed by 50 pupils. We would encourage all our Year 11 to access this rich learning resource. Go for it!

Inset Day, Friday 27 November: Please note, school will be closed to all pupils this Friday and the school will be subject to a thorough cleaning with no adults on site.

Karate Kid: Very well done to Abi Duggan, in Year 7, on her success at Taekwondo (under age). Abi is now a third time European champion and has been selected to represent Great Britain in a world championship event in Italy next year. Impressive, Abi!

To conclude, at a time when our thoughts are with how families are going to meet at Christmas and with all the speculation surrounding which Covid-19 tiers we are going to be living in, it can be difficult to look too far ahead. All we can do is deal with what we know and can influence. In the words of Mohammad Ali (1942-2016), three times heavyweight champion boxer, 'Don't count the days; make the days count'.

Thank you for your continued support.

Very 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 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.