

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



22 January 2021

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

Since our last newsletter to you, it feels like a lot has happened. We had the snow day last Friday, have seen President Biden's inauguration as the 46th President of the USA, received further advice on the consultation for this year's GCSE examinations and introduced Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) for pupils.

Covid-19 Update: We have now done over 300 pupil and staff LFTs and we are looking to test staff, and those pupils currently in school, twice a week starting next week.

In school, we currently have 9 staff who are off because of Covid-19, with 5 staff testing positive through the LFT. We have 8 pupils from the current vulnerable/critical worker cohort who are positive, with 6 of these being identified through the school's Lateral Flow Testing.

This has resulted in the decision to close the school to our current Year 9 'bubble', having taken into account the track and trace activity. As a result of the Year 9 'bubble' being out of school until Monday 01 February and close contacts across other year groups, the number of pupils in school has dropped from a rolling average of 160+ to around 100.

The school has had a review meeting with Public Health Wakefield who endorsed the school's current working and protocols, as well as acknowledging the 'pioneering' work of the school in introducing the LFTs.

Public Health have asked the school for a breakdown of where our critical workers are employed so that this, if required, can be cross-referenced against any infection rate increases locally. For example, National Health Service or the food preparation industry. To support this the school website booking form for critical workers will be asking for more details and information.

Can we continue to encourage pupils to maintain and regularly wash their hands when in school. It is very important, with the new Covid-19 strain of virus, that basic hygiene protocols are followed.

In addition, can parents/carers not car share with pupils from other families as well as give serious consideration as to whether or not your child needs to be attending school.

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Remote Learning: Thank you for the many emails recognising the hard work of staff in school in setting up, and maintaining, interesting and engaging remote education. There really is some innovative and impressive activity here, and it is great that families recognise this.

If, for whatever reason, your child is having difficulties accessing lessons, or you do not have enough ICT access at home, contact Mr Lickiss or Mrs Wray at school.

Please remind your child that links to live lessons in Microsoft Teams should not be shared with anyone. We have, unfortunately, seen a small number of security breaches as a result of pupils, who we have identified, sharing lesson links. School will continue to monitor this. Very well done to the majority of our pupils who conduct their learning engagement in a responsible and organised manner.

Safeguarding: Digital safety during Covid-19 is important as we use online learning at home. Please see link to our safeguarding page on the school website below:
<http://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Amazon Books: Currently, Amazon are offering a range of reading material free of charge to school pupils. These books can be accessed and downloaded to digital devices.

Oak Academy: Have introduced a virtual school library along with support with the National Library Trust. Details can be found on the Oak Academy website: www.thenational.academy

GCSE Pod: This is an excellent resource for our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils. We currently have 560 pupil accounts across the two year groups and have seen over 5000 podcasts viewed. Do make sure your child enrolls as it is well worth it.

Year 11: The school is taking on the current advice and is responding to the Ofqual consultation, which ends on January 29th. It is very important that all our Year 11 focus on their learning ahead of any formal announcements regarding this year's examinations series. School records show that 91% of our current Year 11 are actively engaged in remote learning. Hang in there Year 11!

Form Tutor Period: Next week, this will take place on Thursday 28 January, Period 4. This is an excellent session and form tutors will be involved in talking with pupils and providing activities to support pupil wellbeing.

Year 10 Consultation Evening: This takes place on Thursday 04 February between 4.30-7.30pm. It will be delivered via short face-to-face electronic meetings. A letter to all Year 10 families explaining the process is going out early next week. We look forward to updating and meeting with families.

New Build: This has now been handed over to the school and it really is an impressive facility. This will be the teaching base area for our MFL team. In addition, there is an excellent sports area and changing facilities. Pupils will start using this after half-term. A great addition to our school facilities. We will also be able to return to pupil bus queueing on the school site with a new covered waiting area.

Ex-Pupil News: Very well done to Erin Bridgewater, who has secured a place at Brasenose College, Oxford University to study next year.

As we look forward to spring and as we all continue to respond to the challenge of living, working and educating through an international pandemic, the following adage from Will Rogers is appropriate:

‘Don’t let yesterday take up too much of today.’

Will Rogers (1879-1935) was an American Cherokee Indian, who was a stage and film actor with his own star on Broadway. He was also a cowboy, newspaper columnist and social commentator. A strong democrat who wrote over 4000 news articles. He died in a plane crash in Alaska. Fittingly, his son was the Democrat House of Representative senator for California.

Do please contact school if you have any questions or concerns regarding the work of the school. Do have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

As a school, we all need to:

- Clean our hands more often using soap and water as well as the hand sanitiser found in all classrooms and social spaces.

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| <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. |