

# Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



12 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

Today, is the last day of a six week half-term that was short lived in terms of the school seeing all pupils in the building. It has not been an easy time and the school community, as a whole, really has pulled together. This will benefit all of us when things do return to normal.

This week, I prepared a short video input that the pupils got to see in their form tutor time lesson. It was nice to be able to connect again with the pupil body and I look forward to seeing the pupils back in school, in lessons and in their year group assemblies. They do provide the buzz and energy that helps to make the school what it is. We eagerly await the government's updates on schools reopening fully to all pupils and will keep you informed of any developments.

Very well done to all the pupils for their persistence and contributions with remote learning. We really have seen strong pupil engagement, as the pupils responded to live learning opportunities and challenges as planned for and delivered by their teachers. Thank you for the many emails from families commenting on the positive work of the school during these uncertain times. It has been valued and endorsed the dedicated and focussed work of staff in school.

When we return to school on Monday 22 February, with remote learning for the majority of pupils and with the children of keyworkers in school, we will be expecting the final details from Ofqual regarding Year 11 GCSE assessments this year. The school will update families on these details as well as provide a confirmed date for the Year 11 consultation evening.

Last week, we held our first ever Year 10 consultation online and, overall, it went very well. Parent/carers feedback was positive and many families would like to see this approach being used when we return to normal school working.

Over the last six weeks, staff in school have made 419 safe and wellbeing checks with families as well as 98 home visits. Teachers in school have also been phoning families to keep in touch. We have been able to speak to most families and are just re-ringing the few families where contact has not yet been made. Thank you for your patience and support here.

This week in school, 382 Lateral Flow Tests were done, 213 staff and 169 pupil tests. This resulted in 3 positive pupil tests. Pupils were isolated and returned home along with other identified contacts. This term, we have done 1685 Lateral Flow Tests in school.

It continues to be very important that we all maintain high standards in regard to handwashing, wearing masks and maintaining space. It is clear that if we all follow the government's guidelines about maintaining 'bubbles' and not meeting up, the rate of Covid-19 infections will reduce. In school, we have now seen peaks of increased infection rates that occur two weeks after any holiday period. Please be sensitive to this. This has seen the school have as many as 34 staff away. This week it has averaged 11 staff away each day.

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable half-term break and get out into the fresh air. We all need to recharge our batteries and whilst holidays away are not yet possible, the following quote from J R R Tolkien seems apt:

'I know I don't look old, but I'm beginning to feel it in my heart.... I need a long holiday.  
And I don't expect I shall return.' Bilbo Baggins

J R R Tolkien 1892-1973 writer and academic. Author of The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

As a school, we all need to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clean our hands more often using soap and water as well as the hand sanitiser found in all classrooms and social spaces.</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have good respiratory hygiene habits: <b>'Catch it, bin it, kill it'</b>. Use the tissues and bins provided.</li></ul>             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow the year group 'bubble' systems and stay in your dedicated areas as required.</li></ul>                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not enter the 2-metre teaching areas as marked out in classrooms during lessons.</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the year group specific entrance/exit to enter and leave school.</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow instructions from all adults quickly and sensibly.</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not attend school and follow public health advice if we have any symptoms of coronavirus.</li></ul>                                |