

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



02 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

The information in this newsletter follows on from the return to school from Monday 08 March details that were sent out on 24 February 2021. All newsletters are hosted on the school's website.

In order to help arrange and set up asymptomatic testing of pupils using Lateral Flow Test Devices (LFDs), all pupils having the test need to submit consent forms to school by noon on Wednesday 03 March. This will then allow the school to finalise testing arrangements.

Please note that, any pupils arriving in school on the set return day for their year group, who have not got consent for testing, will be sent home. They will be able to return to school the day after their year group have been tested. This is in line with the government's expectations for full pupil return to school.

Pupils returning to school who are already attending school (critical worker children/vulnerable pupils) will go to their normal timetabled lesson. They can all be in school from Monday 08 March.

All other pupils will go to the school's sports hall for registration purposes. As already detailed, pupils will receive an invite to one of three registration sessions:

Morning 1: 8.30am-10.00am
Morning 2: 10.30am-12.00noon
Afternoon: 1.00pm-2.30pm.

Year group invitations to pupils will go directly to families the day before the expected return to school. This will notify the session and will be for pupils who are being tested.

The planned return for pupil year groups is:

Monday 08 March: Year 11 pupils
Tuesday 09 March: Year 10 pupils
Wednesday 10 March: Year 7 pupils
Thursday 11 March: Year 9 pupils

Friday 12 March: Second LFD test for Year 11 and 10 pupils
Monday 15 March: Year 8 pupils.

Future testing of pupils and staff who have consented will involve LFD home test kits. This will allow for twice weekly home testing. Results need to be reported either online or by telephone to Public Health and also school. Details to follow.

The school will also retain a small onsite testing site to support pupils who are unable or unwilling to test themselves at home.

In the first instance, there will be no extra-curricular activities and pupils will be expected to leave school at the end of their school day. School will update families when after school activities will resume.

Pupils will have access to food at lunch and breaktimes and will be given information on this and other routines as they return to lessons and school. Pupils will need to have their own personal equipment for use in lessons and will return to their normal routine timetables on their first day in school.

If you do have any questions regarding the school's planned return for next week do please, in the first instance, contact your child's Year Manager:

- Year 7: Miss Godfrey: agodfrey@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year 8: Mrs Bennett: lisabennett@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year 9: Mrs Parton: sparton@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year 10: Miss Hudson: annie.hudson@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year 11: Miss Bell: pbell@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Last week 387 Lateral Flow Tests were done, 214 staff and 173 pupils. This week, so far, we have done 214 tests, 105 staff and 109 pupils. All results were negative. In total since January, we have done 2286 Lateral flow Tests in school.

Year 11 GCSE Assessments: The school is now planning teacher assessments to support this year's GCSE and Key Stage 4 pupils with their examination entries and grades. This is in line with the advice received last week from Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE).

In summary:

- Teachers will determine the grade awarded to pupils for individual subjects.
- A range of evidence sources will be used.

- The examination boards will be providing schools with support materials nearer to the Easter break.
- Teachers will submit grades to the examination boards the week commencing 14 June 2021.

The examination boards will maintain national standards and will undertake checks including sample centre moderation. They accept that the holistic assessment (by teachers) over time will allow more opportunities for pupils to perform at a higher level than just sitting examinations. As such, the grades this year will be higher than other years. Please note, this is not the same as 'grade inflation'.

The appeals process this year will be direct to each examination board. Please note that appeals to examination boards can reduce the initial grade awarded.

Pupils in Year 11 will get information and will discuss, with their teachers, what evidence is going to be used to assess their final grade position. Teachers will not be able to provide a 'final' grade for a subject to each candidate. These will be communicated to all pupils on results day. This day has changed to Thursday 12 August 2021.

Parents/carers should not request a final grade before this date nor look to influence a teacher's decision making/assessment protocol.

The school is fully aware of the contextual difficulties and challenges faced by our Year 11 pupils and will provide fair and professional assessments to support pupils with moving on to the next stage of their careers.

Our advice to all our Year 11 pupils is to continue to work hard and persevere with your studies both in school and at home.

We will continue to update pupils and families with plans to support our Year 11 through this year's GCSE assessments. If you do have any specific concerns or questions on this year's examination series please email Mr Lickiss, glickiss@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk, who will respond accordingly.

Free School Meals: The national voucher scheme ends on Friday this week. The school plans to support pupils who are eligible for free school meals through a request form that will involve Microsoft Teams. If your child is eligible, you will receive a separate email message and a direct link to the MS Teams form. This will need to be completed by 12pm on Thursday 04 March. The school will provide grab bags, food parcels and hampers for collection. Please contact Mrs J Wray if you have any questions on this matter, jwray@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

The Big Write: Shadowy figures, mysterious forests, and unexplained disappearances! These are the ingredients for a piece of imaginative writing that will be created in English lessons next week. Pupils in Years 7-10 will use the clues to produce their very own marvellous mystery with prizes for the most entertaining. There will be a prize for the most enjoyable work in each class. These pieces will then be put forward for a further prize in each year group.

Pupil News: Well done to Lydia Stead, in Year 8, who has been involved in a television documentary, Headstrong, a documentary series following the highs and lows of children across the world, each with a different story to tell. The programme goes out on Monday 08 March between 3 and 4pm. We look forward to seeing Lydia on the television.

The work and flow of the school has been significantly impacted upon this academic year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are very much looking forward to seeing all our pupils back in school. It has not been easy but as a school community a lot has been done and a lot learnt. Thank you for your continued support for the work of the school and your positive feedback. It has been valued.

Last weekend, the weather enabled me to get out and ride my bike. Hopefully, the warmer weather will continue as staff in school prepare to ride The Wakefield Wheel in memory of Richard Clough, our maths colleague who died in school last June. The school pupil body have also commissioned a bespoke memorial bench which will arrive in April.

In the words of Albert Einstein (1879-1955). A German born physicist. 'Life is like riding a bike, to keep your balance, you must keep moving...'

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">• 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. |

- Follow instructions from all adults quickly and sensibly.
- Not attend school and follow public health advice if we have any symptoms of coronavirus.