

# Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL  
Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



08 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

We are now in our second full week following the October half-term break. The school would like to both recognise and thank families for their ongoing support. Whilst the school is 'up and running', things are not normal and we are dealing with a lot of teacher and pupil absence from school.

**Covid-19:** Around 50% of the school's pupil population have now been vaccinated. This has been done in school as well as by families making their own arrangements to get the vaccination for their children at local vaccination centres. Over the last week, we have had 4 staff and 22 pupils who have reported Covid-19 infections.

Pupils and staff do need to continue to take Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests on a regular basis and report/record the results on the NHS website.

In addition, we all need to maintain high levels of hygiene and continue to use the sanitation points that are in every classroom and elsewhere around school.

At this point, the school is following the DfE's statutory advice and guidance whilst having considered and reviewed the non-statutory advice and guidance received from Public Health Wakefield. This has been previously sent out to all families. As a school we want what is best for our pupils whilst at the same time ensuring that this is done in the safest way possible. We have also made the decision to both reduce the number of events we hold, for example, Christmas concerts and Presentation Evening, and the number of adults attending information events.

**Previous Year 11:** Unfortunately, there will be no Year 11 presentation awards evening this year because of the Covid-19 situation. The school will make arrangements to post out GCSE certificates. Mrs Sankey has also sent out an email advising pupils on how and when to collect their artwork.

**Current Year 11:** This Wednesday, 10 November, the school is hosting an event for families so that they can support their children with preparation for the summer examinations. This event

starts at 6pm and in order to support safe Covid-19 working practices, it is limited to one parent/carer per family with visitors asked to wear facemasks whilst in school. We look forward to seeing you in school.

Our current Year 11 are working hard and we have been impressed with their mature and sensible working approach. Well done Year 11 and all the very best with your PPEs, which start on Monday 06 December.

**Remembrance Service:** The school is holding a two minute silence on Thursday 11 November that will involve pupils who are involved in any of the uniformed clubs/groups parading in the school's quiet quad. James Moulson, in Year 11, will play a rendition of the Last Post.

**Children in Need Day:** This takes place on Friday 19 November. Pupils have been given updates on this fundraising day in assemblies. This year our fundraising will support both Children in Need and the Anthony Nolan Trust, who support stem cell work. This is linked to the absence of Mrs Emma Leeming who is currently absent and recovering from leukaemia. The day is a non-uniform day for pupils and staff.

**Lost Property:** The school currently has around six large bin bags of pupils' lost property. This is available for collection from the Pupil Reception area. From 01 December, the current lost property will be cleaned and handed to local charities. This is because the school is unable to store lost property long-term. Please label your child's clothing so that it can be returned directly.

**Kettlethorpe Hall Drive:** Thank you for your support with the access arrangements that have been recently put into place at the start and end of the school day. Our pupils all agree that their exit from school is much safer as a result. Can parents/carers who are parking on local side streets, and in particular Lynwood Drive, please avoid blocking off driveway entrances.

The school now has a new bike shed on the back playground and it is good to see a lot of pupils using it. Having myself been recently knocked off my own road bike, it is important that pupils wear helmets and have reflective clothing/lights for the darker nights. Be safe!

**Suspensions from school:** The school, does as required, make use of pupil suspensions from school. These were previously called fixed-term exclusions. The school will issue a suspension which then requires a parent/carer to attend a reintegration meeting to support the pupil's return to school.

Since the school has returned to full working, following the two periods of lockdown, most of the suspensions from school that have been issued are for repeated defiant and obstructive behaviour. All schools have rules to ensure safe working for the school community as a whole.

Where pupils repeatedly break the rules and/or disrupt the learning of others, then consequences will follow. The school is now looking to involve our governing body, and/or phone parents/carers at work, if they fail to attend reintegration appointments without good reason.

The vast majority of our pupils continue to be model pupils and a joy to work with.

**Richer Reading:** This project continues to go well and is being enjoyed by all our Year 7 pupils. Thank you for your encouragement and support from home. It is very important that all pupils experience and have access to wider reading and to also read for pleasure.

**Ofsted Parent View:** All parents/carers are encouraged to give their opinions of the school on Ofsted's parent view. The school regularly reviews what feedback has been logged on this website in order to further improve what we do as a school. As a current Ofsted inspector, I do have first-hand experience of using parent view whilst leading inspections. I would encourage you all to visit the site: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

**English Baccalaureate:** The DfE have recently published this year's school league tables. The comparative information is limited as it does not include the normal GCSE outcomes. Instead, the focus is on the number/percentage of pupils entered for the EBacc measure. This is for a GCSE in English, mathematics, a science, a humanity and a Modern Foreign Language (MFL). This reflects a broad and balanced academic curriculum offer and experience.

Whilst the school is not a fan of public league tables, this year we are pleased to report that Kettlethorpe High School topped the 34 schools/academies across the Wakefield District that are eligible for an EBacc measure.

At our school, 79% of pupils were entered for the EBacc. The national average, this year, for entry is 39% and the Local Authority average is 34%. In fact, more of our pupils get grades 4/5 in all their EBacc subjects (actual EBacc) than the local and national entry.

The government's ambition for pupil entry for EBacc entry for 2022 is 75%. We have already achieved this and have every confidence that we will maintain this position as well as having the highest actual EBacc results across the district. Well done everyone!

The figures can be found at: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/108271/kettlethorpe-high-school/2021/secondary>

**Rewards:** Plans are currently in place to support the summer term rewards trips to Alton Towers and Lightwater Valley. These are open to all pupils who attend school regularly and/or who behave as expected. The coaches have been booked. Go for it!

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the school.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday 10 November: Year 11 Targeted Parent/Carer Support Evening  
Monday 22 November Year 11 group and individual photographs  
Friday 26 November: Inset Day, school closed to all pupils except for Y11 revision

<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 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>