

Kettlethorpe High School

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



13 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

We are now nearing the end of our second week back at school following the Christmas holiday. The year has started with increased Covid-19 protocols which are due to be reviewed by the government on Wednesday 26 January.

Currently, in school, both in community areas and in lessons, pupils and adults are expected to wear masks, unless exempt from doing so.

For pupils who are exempt from wearing masks, it is important that they wear the lanyard that shows this on a daily basis. This will prevent them from being asked to put on, or wear, a mask etc.

School continues to supply masks for pupils, which can be picked up from form tutors and also the pupil reception area. Could pupils please dispose of their masks in bins or at home to prevent littering.

Vaccinations: Phase 2 of the programme to vaccinate 12-15 year olds has now begun. At some point the school may be involved in hosting NHS staff on site to vaccinate pupils. School has already contacted families who may be involved in onsite vaccinations. In the meantime, families can arrange for their 12-15 year old to be vaccinated using the national booking system: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

LFD Testing: Pupils are still expected to test twice weekly using LFD tests. Again, these can be picked up from the pupil reception area. In addition, arrangements are in place to hand these out to pupils in form tutor time over the next two weeks. Do please continue to report results on the NHS website as this assists with monitoring infection across the district.

Partial Closure: Each day in school involves planning how best to cover the lessons for absent teachers. Already, this term, we have had days with as many as 22 members of staff absent from work.

Whilst we have secured supply teachers at a cost of around £9000 a week, we are finding it increasingly hard to get the number of supply teachers that we need. This is a situation being faced by all schools. Even the supply teachers are becoming ill with Covid-19.

A number of local schools have already had to send home year groups as part of a partial closure. We are very reluctant to do this but may well find ourselves having to do so. As such, please give due consideration to how, as a family, you could manage if your child was required to work remotely from home for a day or short period of time.

Attendance: Pupil attendance remains a high priority. Pupil absence has a significant impact on a pupil's ability to access learning and to apply that learning in external exams. It is now more important than ever that pupils attend every day. Please encourage your child to attend regularly. Wherever possible, minor ailments should be treated with over the counter medication, at home, so that pupils can continue to attend.

Year 11: Very well done to all Year 11 pupils for their hard work and efforts supporting their PPE examinations and MFL oral tests. It still is an expectation from the government that public examinations will take place this summer. As such, it is very important that pupils complete work as expected so that they can be prepared fully for their examination series. Hang in there!

On Monday 24 January, all Year 11 pupils will be given a session, delivered by an external specialist team, on study skills.

The planned Year 11 parent/carer evening on Tuesday 01 February, in school, has been postponed. The school has plans to present the information without the need to see families coming into school. Again, Mrs Thompson will be sending out details in the near future.

Vapes: Post Christmas we have seen an increase in the use of 'vapes' by pupils in school. Please note, this is not acceptable and not allowed. As previously detailed, any vapes/smoking paraphernalia will be both confiscated and disposed of regardless of how much it costs and who it belongs to. This type of behaviour will not be tolerated.

Overall, despite the issues faced in dealing with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, our pupil body remain positive and continue to engage well with their school experience. This is good to see. Moving forward, we have made bookings to support offsite end of year celebration days so that we can recognise the hard work and strong attendance of pupils.

Having spent time thinking about an appropriate quote or comment with which to end a newsletter, the following was heard on Radio 4 this morning. It feels appropriate:

'Integrity is doing the right thing
even when no-one is watching.'

C S Lewis (1898-1963). Author of the Chronicles of Narnia. British writer and academic.

Be sure to have an enjoyable weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

- Monday 31 January: Additional holiday day – in lieu of Queen's Platinum Jubilee

• Clean our hands more often using soap and water as well as the hand sanitiser found in all classrooms and social spaces.
• Have good respiratory hygiene habits: ' Catch it, bin it, kill it '. Use the tissues and bins provided.
• Follow instructions from all adults quickly and sensibly.
• Not attend school and follow public health advice if we have any symptoms of coronavirus.