

# Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



18 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

We are now at the end of the half-term and looking forward to the half-term break. It has been a challenging start to 2022, and the school would like to thank pupils and families for the support with our operational approach.

In school, we are now seeing reduced incidents of Covid-19 infection across adults and the pupil body. Our overall attendance is now above 93% and continues to improve. Across Wakefield, the average secondary school attendance is at 86%.

**Year 11:** The school has now published support materials for this summer's examinations on the school website. This includes the planned PPE examinations for March 2022 as well as the actual summer 2022 examination timetable. There are also details on planned support and interventions.

The Year 11 Consultation Evening will now take place on Thursday 10 March, between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. Bookings will be available via Edulink. We very much look forward to seeing families in school. This will be a face-to-face meeting, not remote.

The Year 11 prom is booked for Thursday 30 June at the King's Croft Hotel at Pontefract.

Keep working hard Year 11!

**Year 8:** The Year 8 Choices Evening, which was scheduled for 10 March, will not go ahead this year as we have had to re-arrange a Year 11 Consultation Evening.

This year, Mr Lickiss will present in assemblies the key information that pupils will need to help them make their subject choices for Year 9. This will be supported by a choices booklet. The key information will also be published on the school website. Subject choices can also be made online via the website. Families will be contacted after the holiday with more information. The deadline for this process will be Friday 25 March 2022. This approach was used last year and was very successful.

**Lesson start times:** As we return to more normal working routines we will be returning, after the half-term break, to the use of bells for the start and end of timetabled lessons. We are also introducing a second bell between Period 1 and 2 and between Period 4 and 5. This will mean a bell will ring for the end of the period with the pupils then having five minutes to move to the following period. When the bell rings at the end of the five minutes, the lesson is underway and pupils arriving after the bell will be marked late.

At the start of the new half-term, we will be talking through these arrangements in year group assemblies.

**Safer Schools:** The school continues to promote active transport to schools on bicycles. Training courses at Thornes Park are available for staff and parent/carer cycle leader training. If you are interested in this, please contact Mrs M Mumby, [mmumby@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:mmumby@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk)

On Friday 04 March, from 2pm in the school's bike sheds, pupils will be able to have their bikes marked and registered. This will assist if a pupil's bike was ever stolen. If pupils want to register their bike, please email Mrs M Mumby, [mmumby@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:mmumby@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk)

**World Book Day:** On Thursday 03 March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. Our theme is heroes and we will be linking to Daedalus and Icarus, from Greek mythology, across the day. This year, pupils and staff have the option of dressing up as their favourite hero if they would like to for the day.

**Richer Reading Year 7 and 8:** This continues to go well. Do please talk to your children about what they are reading in lessons with their teachers. After the half-term break, we will, once again, be putting up reading books on racks around the school. These books are free to any pupil to take and the approach is part of our school strategy to encourage the pupils in school to read for fun. This week, we had wrapped books available for collection, this was our 'blind date with a book'.

**Pupil News:** Well done to the following pupils:

- Abigail Duggan, Year 8, for winning bronze and silver medals in the European Taekwondo championships that were held in Chesterfield.
- Oscar Owen, Year 7, for winning the Barnsley under-12 table tennis finals.

An ex-pupil, Billy Wilson-French, featured in a BBC3 documentary called 'Freeze'. This detailed the training journeys of potential Olympic competitors. Billy is an international ice skater who

is currently training in the USA and is being coached by Christopher Dean; a previous Olympic gold medal success.

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable half-term break.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

- Friday 18 February: Finish for half-term break
- Monday 28 February: Back to school 8.40am
- Thursday 10 March: Year 11 Consultation Evening

<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>