

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



16 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

As I write, the rain is pouring down. This is a shame as the start of the week has been delightful with the sun out and the air crisp with the optimism of spring.

School is beginning to see pupil attendance figures back to almost pre-Covid-19 percentages. This means we are hitting the 94/95% overall attendance whole school. This too is good to see as we all know how important it is for all pupils to be in school every day. Thank you for your support in getting your children into school every day.

Staffing wise, we do continue to face some challenges as most weeks we have several staff off as a result of being infected with Covid-19. This is placing additional burdens on the teaching platform in school as we look to cover absence with as few a number of supply staff as possible.

Going forward as a school and wider community, it is still very important that we all work to follow protocols that ensure our safety and wellbeing.

September 2022 start: A number of families have been asking when pupils will be returning to school after the summer break. The school academic year 2022-23 will begin:

- Monday 05 September 2022: Staff Training Day (no pupils in school).
- Tuesday 06 September 2022: Year 7 and Year 11 pupils in. Start 8.40am.
- Wednesday 07 September 2022: All pupils in as normal for 8.40am start to the day.

School Drop Down Day Friday 11 March: This really was a huge success and our pupils really got fully involved. Very well done! The theme for the day was 'Safety and Consent' with all the pupils being off timetable and involved in workshops and presentations. These were delivered to help pupils with the knowledge, skills and confidence to keep themselves safe whilst developing happy and healthy relationships. Some of the themes covered, included:

Year 7: What is this feeling?
 Know that No!
 Keeping yourself safe.
 Should I send this?

Year 8: Love shouldn't hurt.
 Preventing toxicity.
 Keeping control.
 Know that No!
 Should I send this?

Year 9: Know that No!
 Protect your pace.
 Protect your space.
 Shout it out.
 R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

Year 10: Know that No!
 Go if you know.
 Revenge is not sweet.
 R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

Year 11: Creating condom confidence.
 Easy squeezey.
 Know that No!

Do please talk to your children to both learn about what they have been doing as well as to reinforce how important it is that relationships are mutually safe and unpressured. Again, I have to say the pupils' attitudes and behaviours on the day really were first class. Nicely done!

Year 11: Keep the focus going as you prepare for the next round of PPES, which are taking place at the end of March. By now, you should all have plans in place for when you leave school this summer. Keep the focus going and if you do need support with next steps, then call into the careers office next to the school library.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the Year 11 consultation evening, last Thursday. It really was great to see people back in school as it is nearly two years since we have been able to accommodate a full year group consultation face-to-face.

Citizenship: Our Year 11 GCSE citizenship group are running two projects this month, and are wanting to raise awareness for the following causes:

- **Local Food Banks:** The group are collecting for the Calder Grove Cricket Club food bank on Denby Dale Road. They are collecting food and toiletry items and bags for life. Form tutor groups have lists for pupils to take home and the group are collecting until Friday 25 March.
- **Ukrainian Crisis:** Pupils are aware of this world situation and senior staff have delivered information assemblies to pupils over the last two weeks. Pupils are holding a hot chocolate and bun sale on Friday 25 March. They are also selling bookmarks for £1.50. If any families wish to donate or support here, please contact us or get your children to see Mrs Hawes, who is based in the citizenship base, near art.

Richer Reading: We have now restocked the free reading books on the racks around school. We all know the value and worth of reading for fun and we would encourage our pupils to read at home and/or pick a free book, if they do not have one. Well done to the 42 pupils who took books last week. Do enjoy them! There is a book fair on Friday 18 March that will last until Thursday 24 March. Details in the library.

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils continue to have their weekly Richer Reading lessons and these will continue until the end of this academic year. It is great to see whole year groups reading together and discussing their books. Pupils have stickers in their planners to show when they need to bring their books into school. They can read their books at home too, so please feel free to ask them to share these with you.

Literacy Lasts Tuition: Well done to pupils who have completed 10 weeks of extra literacy tuition after school on Tuesdays. The data is positive with the group of pupils who attended regularly, making twice as much progress in their reading ages as their year groups overall.

Our literacy coordinator, Miss Green, will be sending home individual reports on all those involved. We thank pupils for their attendance and hard work. We will be starting the sessions again in the week commencing March 28th for new pupils, and those we would like to continue, and will be writing to families directly about this.

Year 8 Choices Reminder: Please can we remind pupils that the deadline for submitting their choices is Friday 25 March 2022. If pupils need support with this process, they can speak to their form tutor. Further information and a copy of the choices booklet is available on the school website <https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/options/>

Vaccinations: Last week saw the immunisation team in school to give the Covid-19 vaccinations to those pupils who had consented and were eligible. There will be no further Covid-19 vaccination sessions in school. If your child was unable to have the vaccine on the day, you can book an appointment at one of the vaccination centres <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>

Safer Schools: Further to our previous newsletters, the bike register scheme was cancelled by Wakefield Council, and has been rescheduled for Thursday 31 March.

All parent/carers who registered previously will already be on the list. Any parents/carers who would like to be added, please email Mrs Mumby, mmumby@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Sporting News:

Netball: Very well done to our netball team for their recent success in coming second at a competition based at Wakefield Girls' High School. Overall, twelve teams took part and our Year 8 team really did themselves proud.

Year 8 Hockey: The team took part in the Yorkshire Schools' Competition last week, with two loses and a 0-0 draw. Well done!

Year 9 GCSE Dance: Pupils were involved in a two hour workshop with a visiting artist from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Pupils really did engage well with this opportunity and developed their dance technique and choreography skills.

Swimming: Well done to Owen Carmody, in Year 7, who has had a lot of success recently in competitions across Yorkshire, winning bronze medals in the 40 metre individual medley and also the 100 and 200 metres backstroke. He picked up a silver medal in the 50, 100 and 200 metres butterfly and is the Yorkshire champion in the 100 and 200 metres butterfly. In the 50 metre freestyle relay team and medley event, his team were also Yorkshire champions. A very impressive medal haul. Well done Owen!

Having recently spent time with other headteachers to talk about the current educational landscape and, establishing that the issues we are facing as a learning community at Kettlethorpe High School are similar to that of other schools, it is important that we continue to set and maintain high standards.

A lot of thought and discussion was centred around the government's anticipated Education White Paper. This will look to set the national picture for education for the coming years.

In the words of Pericles, the Greek politician and general during the golden age of Athens in 495BC...

‘just because you do not take an interest in politics
does not mean politics will not take an interest in you.’

We shall see!

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

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

- Thursday 24 March: Year 9 Consultation Evening.
- Friday 08 April: Schools closes for Easter.
- Monday 25 April: School re-opens, 8.40am.