

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



06 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

We are now in the final week before the two week Easter break. A lot has been going on and the pupils and staff have worked well through some very challenging staffing situations. The school is still dealing daily with significant staff absence, much of this is Covid-19 related.

It really has been great seeing parents/carers in school for our consultation evenings. We have seen some of our highest ever attendance figures at the most recent events. It is clear that everyone has the desire to meet face-to-face in order to support our pupil body in doing the best they can in school.

Last week, Wakefield senior teachers were able to meet in a group for the first time in three years. This enabled school leaders to both reflect on and develop working approaches to further support our learning communities into the future. It really was refreshing to see ideas for collaborative partnerships coming together. This will allow our school to support our youngest pupils as they join the school this September.

In order to move the school forward, we are looking to make a number of changes. To date, we have been able to overstaff the number of teachers we have on the school timetable, which allows us to offer more classes, and, in some cases, smaller class sizes. Next year, we are keen to offer 'richer reading' to all our pupils, as we firmly believe that strong literacy skills support better outcomes in examinations. In addition, we are keen to offer increased form tutor activities to support pupils, post-Covid-19, with the skills and knowledge to be successful and deal with the pressure of lost learning and any anxieties that this may cause.

In order to help the school address future planning on policy review, do please complete the parent/carers feedback contained in this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/EddALcNURS>.

The consultation will close on Sunday 24 April 2022.

Communication with school: Staff, in school are increasingly dealing with families who expect to get instant feedback and responses to their concerns and enquiries. As a large school, we have staff in place who are detailed to work and support year groups. These colleagues know your children well and are best placed to be the first points of contact:

- Year 7: Ms Bennett: lisabennett@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year 8: Mrs Lancaster: lancaster@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year 9: Mr Lewton: ilewton@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year 10: Mrs Parton: sparton@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
- Year 11: Ms Davies: jdavies@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

In most cases, the school endeavours, to respond to all enquiries, whether by letter, email or telephone in a timely manner. Please note, that the school will look to do this within '5' working days, or in most cases, earlier. If you do not get a reply, do please resend your communication or address it to headteacher@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk and it will be directed to the most appropriate colleague in school, who will respond.

Do please make it clear and explicit that you do require feedback or contact to be made with you. Some correspondence just states a point of view only. As such, no reply will be forthcoming.

Complaints/compliments to school: The school has a clearly communicated complaints policy that can be found on the school website. This academic year, we have dealt with 21 direct complaints into school. 6 of these have been dealt with by email, letter or a phonecall. 12 involved meetings with senior staff and the school is dealing with 3 ongoing complaints. Interestingly, two complaints went to Ofsted directly. Both of these were returned to the school to be dealt with through the school's complaints policy. No complaints have been heard by the Governing Body.

Since the return from lockdown, the school has received 67 emails/letters that have commented on the good work of the school through difficult times.

Year 11: Very well done to all our Year 11 pupils for their hard work and focus with the recent PPE examinations. Keep the focus going and take advantage of any interventions/revision sessions that will be taking place in school over the Easter break. You are well placed to do well this summer. Go for it!

Very well done to Oscar Gay, in Year 9, on obtaining a bronze medal in the recent World Karate Kickboxing Championships. Oscar is ranked at 3 nationally. Nicely done Oscar! Also, well done to Charles O'Neill, in Year 10, on finishing second in the recent Yorkshire School's Golf competition. A great effort!

We have also been getting back to offsite trips and visits both for outdoor pursuits activities as well as geography field trips. This is great to see. We have had some very positive feedback from parents/carers whose children were involved in the recent outdoor pursuits trip to the

Peak District. Do please remember that the school does offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the staff contact here is Mr Slack, nslack@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Very well done to our school soul band, and also Emily and Alice Mitchell for their very impressive performances at the Wakefield Music Services Hubalaboo 2022 music event that was held at the Wakefield Theatre Royal. It was great to see our pupils doing so well. Thank you to all the staff and families who attended.

Very well done to our citizenship pupils and Mrs Hawes, who recently delivered food parcels to support the Ukraine refugee crisis as well as the £196 they raised as a group. Very well done to you all.

The school has also received a very appreciative letter from the Anthony Nolan trust for our 'incredible gift' of a cheque for £7294.25 that was raised by our pupils last term. This amount will support 182 new potential donors on their stem cell register. Again, a great school and community effort for a very worthwhile charity that is currently supporting Mrs Leeming, one of our very best teachers in school.

End of day parking: Thank you for your support with the access in and out of Kettlethorpe Hall Drive. Things are now a lot safer for our pupils as a result. Do please be considerate if you are parking in the cul-de-sac near to 47-53 on Standbridge Lane. We have received a number of complaints from homeowners who are reporting cars that are parked on yellow lines etc. We are also aware of enforcement checks being made by Wakefield Council and the police.

Ramadan: This week in school, families and pupils are celebrating Ramadan, which began at sundown on Saturday 02 April and will end at sundown on Sunday 01 May. The final evening of Ramadan ends with a celebration called Eid al Fitr. In school we have a Ramadan display in the hall reception area. Ramadan Murbarak.

At the end of school yesterday, I called in to see the pupils who were involved in the Wakefield Learning Community debating competition. This saw our pupils in mixed teams with pupils from Westborough High School, Airedale Academy and Castleford Academy. There was a real 'buzz' and excitement and it was super seeing how they tackled and debated a number of topical issues. Very well done to all the pupils involved and thank you to Miss B Jenkins for organising this event.

We would also like to wish Miss Jenkins every success with her move to Dixons Academy after Easter.

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable Easter break with your friends and families. I will finish this newsletter off with a reference to both Wordsworth and daffodils. Over the winter, I

planted a lot of daffodil bulbs and am now currently picking them off the ground to place in a vase as a result of my young dog, Murphy, knocking them over as he bounces around the garden. Both the daffodils and Murphy make me smile!

‘I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o’er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

William Wordsworth (1770-1850) the English romantic poet who was Poet Laureate from 1843 until his death from pleurisy. He was born and also died in the Lake District.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

- Friday 08 April: School finishes for the Easter break.
- Thursday 28 April: Year 8 Consultation Evening.
- Monday 02 May: Bank Holiday.

<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 instructions from all adults quickly and sensibly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not attend school and follow public health advice if we have any symptoms of coronavirus.