

# Kettlethorpe High School

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



21 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

This will be the school's last newsletter of the year, and what a year it has been too! A lot of hard work has gone in from pupils and staff and we are well positioned for a 'normal' routine return to school operation in September.

The phrase 'unprecedented times' has been used many times during the past two years and it is still relevant in the last week of the academic year as the country experiences an extreme heatwave. As always, families are very supportive and currently the measures we have taken are working well.

Thank you to everyone for their tolerance and support over the recent hot working days. It was far from straight forward and pupils/staff were working in rooms that touched 39°C. Very good use was made of our air-conditioned rooms and we now have an idea as to which rooms need to be upgraded.

Attendance, today, has returned to well over 85% which says a lot about our pupil body. We will maintain the relaxed uniform until we break up on Friday.

School will close on Friday at 1.10pm with a return to pupils, as follows, in September:

- Monday 05 September: No pupils: Staff Training Day.
- Tuesday 06 September: Year 7 and Year 11 only. Normal school times.
- Wednesday 07 September: All pupils in as normal.

The school has previously published on the school website and through our Twitter and Facebook pages a calendar of the full academic year. This details key dates including agreed holiday times. This may be of use to families arranging holidays etc.

Overall, we have had a fantastic year in the life of Kettlethorpe High School and despite the ongoing challenges of Covid-19 and absence, the pupils have achieved well and done great things throughout the year.

In particular, our Year 11 who left at the end of June, following the first GCSE public examinations for two years. They have worked hard and approached their examinations with resilience and a positive attitude. Well done to school-based staff, our Year 11 pupils and their families for the additional efforts put into preparing for the examinations. It really has been a team effort that included the support of office staff, caretakers, exam invigilators and pastoral staff. We are keen to see the results, which will be released on Thursday 25 August 2022. School will be open from 9.30am.

To support pupils with transition to college, school will be hosting college and careers advisors in school on results day.

It was also great to be able to host a Year 6 Induction Day, with well over 330 Year 6 pupils. It was a huge success and the pupils had a great day getting a feel for secondary lessons and school life at Kettlethorpe High School.

Over the school year a lot has taken place:

- Theatre trips have resumed.
- Outdoor pursuit days and overnight camping.
- Fixtures and success in local sports competitions.
- A Sports Award Evening with over 800 people in attendance.
- Rewards trips for over 1000 pupils.
- Fundraising for national charities to the tune of £17000.
- Year 7 pupils have read three books with their class teacher and Year 8, two through the school's Richer Reading scheme.
- Geography field trips to the coast and Hook Manor Wind Farm.
- College visits to Pontefract New College, Wakefield College and Leeds University.
- Careers week.
- Consent day for all pupils.
- Magna science/STEM trip.
- Young Musician of the Year competition.

And not forgetting a very successful routine Section 8 Ofsted inspection which will be published by Ofsted in September. A link to the final report letter will be sent out to all families.

**High Expectations of Pupils:** In September, pupils need to be in the school's full uniform as detailed in the advice and guidance on uniform on the school's website. The wearing of body-warmers and gilets is no longer allowed and all earrings must be worn in the earlobe only.

Consistency is key to our success and many incidents are avoided if pupils stick to our high standards. It is also important for our wider pupils to set a good example to our youngest learners and to avoid sanctions which require them to spend time in behaviour rooms or detention, rather than in lessons or after school clubs and activities.

Below are the key contacts for each year group to school:

- Year 7: Ms J Davies: [jdavies@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:jdavies@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk)
- Year 8: Ms N Skotny: [nskotny@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:nskotny@wakefield.gov.uk)
- Year 9: Mrs L Lancaster: [llancaster@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:llancaster@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk)
- Year 10: Mr J Lewton: [jlewton@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:jlewton@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk)
- Year 11: Ms E Lee: [elee@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:elee@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk)  
and Mr J Betts: [jbetts@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:jbetts@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk)

As we finish the year, I am approaching the end of my 24<sup>th</sup> year of association with the school. Having been at the school for 8 years since 1993 and then returning following a number of years as a headteacher of an inner-city Leeds school in 2006 to be headteacher, I have witnessed a lot of changes as headteacher over the last 16 years.

During this time, the school has both grown in size and reputation and we all need to be proud of, and celebrate, the quality of what we do as a school community. The school has recently been described by visitors as popular and inclusive and where older pupils leave with fond memories.

Thank you once again, as parents/carers and pupils, for your continued support for the work of the school.

Be sure to have a very safe and enjoyable summer break.

We very much look forward to seeing everyone back in school in September, rested and refreshed to enjoy another successful year.

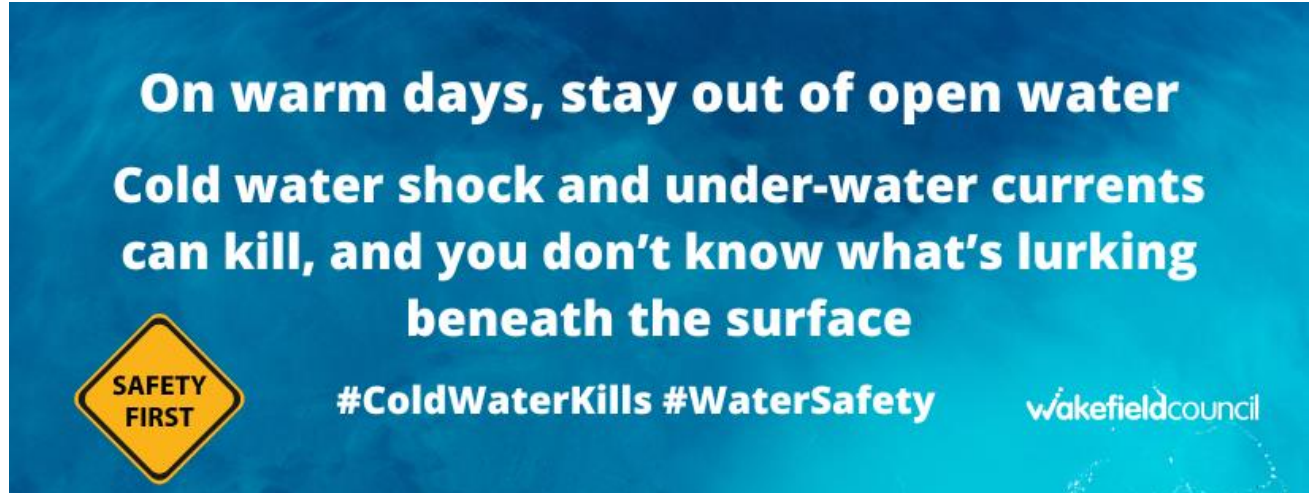
Have fun. Be safe.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

## Water Safety: Yorkshire Water



We urge you to share this message and the video from Yorkshire Water with parents and students to warn them of the dangers of open water.

During the current heatwave, we're urging everyone to be aware of the risks of cooling off or playing in ponds, lakes, and flooded quarries.

Swimming in open water is extremely dangerous as hidden dangers can lurk beneath the surface.

This can include discarded waste which can trap people, as well as slippery rocks and sudden changes in water depth. Jumping into cold water can also cause people to go into shock.

This video shows the tragic consequences - <https://youtu.be/lle-FwNEafk>

Previous warm and sunny weather has seen people risking their lives, and sadly losing their lives, by swimming in open water – despite signs warning them not to.

We're urging people to call 999 immediately if they see anyone in danger.