

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



12 October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer and pupils

The term is well underway and staff and pupils have now settled back into the well-established routines that are part of working and attending a large secondary school.

To date, we really have been impressed by our new Year 7 pupils who are responding well to the new learning challenges they are faced with. Be sure to work hard and enjoy being at the school.

Last week in school we held a very successful and well attended Year 6 Open Evening. The school really was 'buzzing' with keen and enthusiastic pupils and staff. The event was a success as a result of nearly 400 pupils, across all year groups, who supported the school as tour and subject guides. Very well done!

Do please note that in all the years I have been a Headteacher (since 2006), the school has never been oversubscribed for pupil places. For the last two years, we have been asked by Wakefield Local Authority to increase our admissions number into Year 7 from 320 to 360 places. So, despite rumours to the contrary, the school does have places for Year 6 pupils.

Children in Need: This year sees the school going into its 10th year of fund raising for this charity. The total raised, to date, by the school, stands at £102,000 and on the way we have had some great days in school including the time when we hosted a live Blue Peter television broadcast and a 'running' visit from the Brownlee triathlon brothers.

This year, we are launching 'The £5 Challenge' (down from £10) in assemblies and have a number of planned events that will start on Monday 14 November. The school will hold a non-uniform day with events on Wednesday 16 November. Details to follow.

Environmental Pupil Council: A group of pupils have established a working group to look at school based environmental issues working alongside teachers and governors. They are very much setting the agenda which is great to see. This week they are focusing on school waste and litter. To promote the launch of the group, the school is holding a non-uniform day this Friday (14 October) for all pupils. The theme is wearing green clothes for the day. We'll collect 50p contributions on the day.

Sporting news: Well done to Belle Needham in Year 11 who came third in the British Teens National Cross-Fit Championship recently.

We also saw success in the swimming pool for two medley teams at the recent North East school swimming championships. The junior team - Harry Austin, Joshua Guy, Harry Tupman and Owen Carmody secured first place in the medley and freestyle relays and the intermediate team – Oliver Austin, Benjamin Ward, Luke Jenkinson and Brodie Charlesworth secured third, putting them on the podium for both their medley and freestyle races. Nicely done!

Well done to Danika Kapp, Year 9 who has been successful in being chosen for the West Yorkshire County Academy Netball Squad from over 100 pupils across the region who were invited for trials. Impressive!

On the international stage, the school is pleased to report the success of two brothers who have both been selected to play in the Rugby League World Cup. Alex Young, who currently plays for Workington Town, having completed his Master's Degree in law, has been selected for Jamaica. His younger brother, Dom, who is currently in Australia playing for the Newcastle Knights has been selected for the England team. Great news for them and their family. We wish them well.

Wakefield College Cookery Competition: Two of our Year 10 pupils Isla Fitzpatrick and Melissa Fox, both won prizes following their entry in last term's college competition. Nicely done and thank you to Mrs Ryder for her support with the event.

Holiday Requests: A reminder to all families that any request for a leave of absence (holiday request) should be made well in advance. Holiday request forms can be obtained from the school attendance office. We will consider all requests individually, although family holidays will only be authorised in the most exceptional circumstances. Please read the school attendance policy on the school website for more information.

Very best wishes
Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher