

# Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



03 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

School continues to be busy and we have all been impressed with the pupils' approach to work and study since the return from the half-term break.

**Attendance:** As you know, coming to school every day is important and we have a lot of pupils who attend every day as well as other pupils who make every effort to be in school despite having to deal with illness or other circumstances. Nationally, schools have seen a reduction in school attendance figures as schools return from the Covid-19 pandemic. We are pleased to see that our current attendance figures, whilst not being at pre-Covid-19 levels (95%), are well above local and national attendance figures. This week, attendance figures for the school have been:

- Year 7: 94.2%
- Year 8: 91.9%
- Year 9: 91.2%
- Year 10: 89.2%
- Year 11: 90.2%
- Overall attendance: 91.4%

**World Book Day:** Pupils across all year groups have been involved in promoting and talking about the books they read. This has then led to form tutor groups doing door displays of their favourite books as part of a school based competition. This also caught the interest of staff who have then put displays up on their office and working room doors. In all, 95 doors currently have displays on them. The quality and thought that has gone into these displays is impressive. We are putting up some photographs of the doors on the school's website.

The value and impact of reading on young learners really is powerful and school will continue to promote the love of reading to all pupils. It plays an instrumental part in developing language, both written and spoken and helps young people with their examinations and into their working life.

School will be holding an oracy day to further promote reading and speaking on Tuesday 04 July 2023. This will be a themed day with pupils involved in literacy activities and being able to dress up as their favourite book characters.

**Strike Action:** Thank you for your recent support as the school managed the two previous days of industrial action. As I write, there appears to be no agreed settlement on further strike action and we are aware that two further days of strike action have been planned, for March.

At this stage, school is planning for further strike action and we are giving families an early indication on school plans for operation with partial school closure. If the strike action is cancelled, we will notify you directly. Our current working arrangements are:

- Wednesday 15 March: Year 8 and Year 11 in school only.
- Thursday 16 March: Year 10 and Year 11 in school only.

School will, as before, contact families with a remote learning offer for pupils who will not be in school on the two strike days.

**Kettlethorpe High School Young Musician of the Year 2023:** It really was a pleasure to both hear and be involved in judging this year's school music competition. The quality of performances really was outstanding and it was clear, despite the nerves, that all the finalists enjoyed performing. Very well done to everyone involved. You have now motivated me to get my violin out again ahead of this year's school music tour to Germany. Photographs of the finalists are on the school social media pages.

**Consultation Evenings:** A big thank you to all families for your support and attendance at our recent Year 10 and Year 11 consultation evenings. It was super seeing teachers, pupils and parents/carers discussing progress and preparation for GCSE examinations. The feedback from you is very useful and Mr Lickiss is preparing a termly update newsletter that will detail topics of work pupils are working on as the year moves on. Please note that teaching schemes and Knowledge Organiser content is also published on the school's website.

- Year 10 attendance: 02 March was 72%.
- Year 11 attendance: 09 February was 73%.

Thank you for your continued work at the school.

*'It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.'* From Great Expectations by Charles Dickens.

(Published in 1861, Great Expectations received universal acclaim and even today retains good ratings. In 2003 it was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> on the BBC's Big Read)

Be sure to enjoy the weekend and the spring weather.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher