

# Kettlethorpe High School

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



19 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

Having returned from the Easter break, we are all looking forward to the better weather that will allow school to open up the playing fields to pupils at lunchtime. This is a six week half-term with two broken weeks to allow for the May Day bank holiday followed a week later by the King's coronation. We are also aware of two teacher strike days, which are detailed in this letter.

**Teacher Strike Days:** Two dates have been published for teacher strike action involving the National Education Union (NEU). These are:

- Thursday 27 April 2023: School open to Year 11 and Year 9 pupils only. Please note that the Year 10 pupils involved in the geography field trip need to be in school as this trip will be running.
- Tuesday 02 May 2023: School open to Year 11 and Year 7 pupils only.

Links to pupil homeworking will be shared with all families. This details work and links to subject work for pupils not in school on the two strike days.

**School start September 2023:** Wakefield Council have now published school term times for the 2023/24 academic school year. Here is the direct link to the calendar:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/media/y1mijbnu/school-calendar-2023-24.pdf#PDF>

- Monday 04 September: This is the start of the next academic year and will start with a staff training day (no pupils in school). This will be the first of four school inset/training days. Details for these days will follow when the school has established its working year.
- Tuesday 05 September: School open for Year 7 and Year 11 pupils from 8.40am.
- Wednesday 06 September: School open, as normal, to all pupils.

Please note that the autumn term will be 15 weeks long and school will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday 22 December at 1.15pm because of the closeness to Christmas Eve.

**Pupil Safeguarding:** Do please be aware of the following points:

- Only parents/carers who are detailed on the school's administration system can phone in to authorise pupil absence. School cannot accept messages from people, such as, siblings, aunts or grandparents, who are not named contacts.

- School starts at 8.40am each morning. By this time all pupils are expected to be in their form tutor rooms. At 8.40am, the school entrance gates will be locked for security purposes. Any pupils who are late for school, after 8.40am, will need to enter school by the car park/reception area gate where the attendance team will record pupil names.

**Vapes/Smoking:** The school is a non-smoking/vape site and it is technically a legal offence to smoke or vape on site. Do please note that any cigarette/tobacco and/or vapes and associated material will always be confiscated and disposed of. Under no circumstances will they be returned.

**Year 8 Football:** Very well done to the Year 8 boys' team who have won the Wakefield School's league final with a 2-1 win over Carleton. Very well done to all the squad for their commitment over the season. Nicely done!

**The School's Kindness Charter:** This week, across the full school community, we have launched a Kindness Charter to help promote positive working and relationships across the school community. This has been supported by year group assemblies and every pupil, next week in form time, will have an opportunity to help establish a whole school Kindness Charter. This will then be introduced with artwork competitions and pupil equality ambassadors. This new charter will also build on the current '4Rs' which all our pupils are familiar with: Resilient, Reflective, Respectful and Responsible.

**Year 10 Work Experience:** Please note that pupils in Year 10 will be involved in work experience opportunities the week commencing Monday 03 July for the full week.

**Attendance Matters:** The school continually promotes the value and importance of regular school attendance because it has a huge impact on how pupils perform with public examinations in Year 11, as well as how pupils contribute and function within the school community. Over the last term the school's attendance team have:

- Posted out over 60 postcards to pupils who have improved their school attendance.
- Sent 25 letters congratulating pupils who have the most improved attendance for their year group.
- Sent out 430 letters praising pupils with attendance above 97%. This was up from the 256 letters sent in the autumn term.
- Posted out 250 letters, signed by the headteacher, for pupils who currently have 100% attendance for the current academic year. This represents over 15% of the pupil population. A great achievement.

Very well done to all these pupils/families with their attendance efforts here. It really makes a difference.

- Absences add up: Missing just two days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year.
- Attend today and achieve tomorrow.

**Year 11:** Pupils in Year 11 continue to work hard as they prepare and focus on the summer examinations. A number are already involved, this week, with textiles, graphics and art practical examinations. Next week will see Year 11 undertaking their MFL oral examinations/speaking tests. Having visited the Year 11 practical

examinations today, I have been blown away both by the high standard of work being produced as well as the industry and effort being put in by pupils. Very well done.

**Ramadan:** This ends this week and the month of kindness is being celebrated in school on Thursday 20 April with a 'fasting challenge'. This will involve pupils and staff both fasting and then enjoying a feast of Asian food at the end of school. Last year, over 300 people got involved here. All proceeds going to charity. Happy Eid al-Fitr to all our families.

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

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

**Dates for the Diary:**

- Monday 01 May 2023: Bank Holiday.
- Monday 08 May 2023: Bank Holiday (King's coronation).