

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



05 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

This is a somewhat broken half-term in school as the current six week teaching block involves two bank holiday Mondays. The first one was last weekend and the next, which is to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, is this weekend.

For our pupil body, the coronation of the King this weekend will be a day that will go down in history. Charles III was born in Buckingham Palace in November 1948 and was three years old when his mother, Elizabeth II, took the throne in 1952.

In modern society there are mixed opinions as to the value and need for a Royal family, and it will be of interest to see how King Charles III goes about establishing his role and legacy.

On the 1st July 1969, my grandfather was present at Caernafon Castle at the investiture of the then Prince of Wales. The event took place on a slate stage and was watched by over 500 million people on television. At the time, my grandfather was a druid and a member of the Gorsedd (Society of Welsh language people who have contributed to the Welsh language). Later, my grandfather sold books to Prince Charles at the family bookshop, 'Griffs Ltd', in London. For those of you who enjoy The Crown, the Prince's investiture is viewable in season 3.

Year 11: It is a very important time for our 321 pupils in Year 11. They really have been busy preparing for their GCSE examinations which have now begun. The year group have prepared well and we have had some excellent feedback regarding last week's PE moderation work and the art and design technology practical examinations really did produce work that was of an outstanding quality. We have also done 260 MFL speaking tests which have also gone well, as have the music GCSE composition pieces. Very well done on such a positive start to this year's examination series.

This Friday, in assembly, Year 11 pupils were given a letter that details how the remaining examinations will be managed alongside our expectations. This will help to ensure all pupils in the year group get the very best outcomes to help them move on to college and employment on their terms. Go for it!

Year 10: Pre Public Examinations (PPEs): These are now timetabled to start on Monday 19 June with most examinations being sat in the school's sports hall under examination conditions. Year 10 pupils have already been given a copy of the examination timetable. This can also be found on the school's website.

The school's Kindness Charter: Over the last week, all pupils across every year group have been involved in discussing the things that are important to them around relationships and being part of a school community. Form tutors recorded key phrases and words. These are being used to draft a working 'Kindness Charter' that we will be introducing across the whole school.

Friday 07 July: We will be having a second induction day for our September 2023 new Year 7 pupils. In school on that day, which will be a 'drop down day', all pupils across all year groups will be involved in lessons and learning that will be centred around our new Kindness Charter.

Ramadan Fasting Challenge: Very well done to all the pupils and staff in school who responded to Mrs Nadeem's 2023 Ramadan Challenge. A total of £208 was raised to support an orphanage for Palestinian refugees.

To conclude the newsletter I would like to mention that whilst travelling into Leeds for a meeting on a very busy train, I entered a carriage to be met with, 'Hello, Mr Griffiths'. I then had a really enjoyable conversation with an ex-pupil who left two years ago. He talked through what he was doing as a career and asked to pass on his best wishes to a number of teachers. What was really nice was when I asked him what he thought about his time at Kettlethorpe High School, he replied by saying, 'It was mint'. At the end of the day it does not get much better than that.

All the very best wishes for the coronation weekend. Thank you for your continued support for the work of the school.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

- Monday 08 May 2023: Bank Holiday (King's coronation).
- Friday 26 May 2023: School closes at 3.05pm for half-term break.
- Monday 05 June 2023: School reopens.
- w/c 19 June 2023: Pre Public Examinations.
- w/c 03 July 2023: Year 10 Work Experience.
- Thursday 06 July 2023: Year 6 Induction Day and Evening.
- Friday 07 July 2023: Kindness Charter Drop Down Day, Year 6 invited.