

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



19 July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

As we draw to the end of another busy academic year, the school's final newsletter of the year has information that details both our finishing day as well as the start back in September.

It has certainly been a busy year that has been made harder dealing with interruptions caused by the teacher strike action. The government has now offered a pay settlement that the teacher unions are advising teachers to accept. Whilst there are still questions and concerns for schools around how the pay award is to be funded, hopefully, the autumn term should see no further strike action.

Rewards Trips: Last week saw 807 pupils out on rewards trips from a total of 1327 pupils. This represents 61% of our pupil body (Year 7-10) who have had less than 30 concerns over the academic year as well as good, and importantly, improved attendance. Very well done to all those pupils who enjoyed rewards trips for having a very positive year in school. Go for it again next year!

Year 11: Our hard working Year 11 pupils enjoyed their end of school prom at Rogerthorpe Manor at the end of June. This really was a splendid event that saw over 200 pupils attending along with staff from school. We wish our Year 11 every success going forward and very much look forward to seeing them in school on 24 August at 10.00am for their GCSE results.

Induction Day 2023: The school recently welcomed in our new Year 7 pupils who enjoyed a very rich and informative induction day in school. We saw 335 pupils in school from 46 primary schools across the Wakefield/Barnsley/Kirklees area. We are also looking forward to hosting 120 new Year 7 pupils at the summer school in August.

Quality in Careers Standard: Following a rigorous assessment day in school where the school's careers and information guidance was judged against the Gatsby Benchmarks, we are pleased to report that the school has been accredited with the Quality in Careers Standard. Very well done to everyone who worked towards this. The feedback was extremely positive with the provision being described as 'outstanding' for all pupils, but especially for our SEND pupils. Also, very well done to all our Year 10 for a successful return to work experience. We remain one of only a few schools that offer pupil external work experience.

Staffing Update: The school sees a number of staff leaving at the end of the current academic year. The school would like to thank them for the time they have been at the school and wish them every success with their new posts and retirement plans:

- Ms Jess Davies: going to Castleford Academy
- Miss E Richards: moving to a new school in York
- Miss H Wildman: new post at King's Academy
- Miss A Lockwood: career change
- Mr A Sammons: Bedrock educational software
- Mr J Betts: Trinity Academy, Barnsley
- Miss F Laffey: Post 16 at Trinity Academy, Halifax
- Mr C Lawson: History/PE at QEGS
- Mrs S Keddy: Assistant Headteacher at Heckmondwike Grammar School
- Mrs A Chambers: Trinity Academy, Barnsley
- Miss A Green: Trinity Academy, Barnsley
- Mrs N Conlan: maternity and not returning to teaching
- Mrs J Lindley: retirement after 15 years at the school.

Timetable Changes: For pupils moving into Year 8, a number of changes have been made to reduce the number of classes being used in some subjects. This means minor changes to pupils' timetables and classes. Most pupils in the year group will be unaffected by these changes.

Results Day 2023: A reminder to Year 11 pupils that school will be open for examination results collection from 10.00am on Thursday 24 August. Pupils, parents and carers are all welcome to celebrate the pupils' success with staff and governors. Ice cream will be available on the day for everyone!

Over the last few weeks it really has been good to see residential trips abroad happening again. The experience for pupils involved will be forever remembered and the positive feedback received really has been overwhelming. Very well done to all the pupils and staff with the music tour to Germany, the French trip to Normandy and also for all the pupils who got very wet on their Duke of Edinburgh overnight camp.

We have also celebrated assemblies for all year groups in school this week. This has focussed on subject award badges, 100% attendance and form prizes for effort and kindness. They really have been a positive way to end the year and it really is good to recognise that, for example, in Year 8 over 172000 positive ClassChart rewards have been given out. Pupils, be proud of your subject achievement badges, and be sure to continue into next year with strong attendance and positive attitudes to school and learning. Very well done!

Attendance: Some excellent attendance information, below, well done everyone:

- 10, Year 11 pupils achieved 100% attendance while at Kettlethorpe High School across all 5 years
- 112 pupils still in school are on 100% attendance
- 50 pupils have been recognised for their improved attendance from this time last year
- Over 400 letters have been sent home praising pupils for achieving over 97% attendance.

Pupil News: Good luck to Ben Browning, Year 8, who is representing England, in October, at the WKKC World Championships in Orlando, Florida. Well done Ben!

'And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.'

F Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940): The Great Gatsby (written 1925)

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was an American novelist and short story writer. He was best known for his novels depicting the flamboyance and excess of the 'jazz age'.

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

- **Friday 21 July 2023:** School closes at 1.15pm for the summer break
- **Monday 04 September 2023:** INSET day, school closed to pupils
- **Tuesday 05 September 2023:** School opens at 8.40am for Year 7 and Year 11 pupils
- **Wednesday 06 September 2023:** School opens at 8.40am for all pupils
- **Friday 08 September 2023:** Year 7 Full Year Group trip.