

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



Newsletter 3

25 October 2023

We are now into the final week of an eight week half-term and I would like to recognise the efforts that pupils' have been putting in as well as thanking families for their interest and support.

As we get towards 'Bonfire Night' and Halloween, our younger pupils have had assemblies that have been delivered by the West Yorkshire Fire Service to inform them about keeping themselves safe from harm.

Our Year 11 have been getting regular inputs from local post-16 college and sixth form providers to help them make choices and plan their next steps beyond Kettlethorpe High School. Our advice, for all our Year 11 pupils, is to have a plan, with a backup, as this will help them focus on getting the grades they need to obtain their first choice option.

To support their preparation for the next set of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) all pupils have been given a pack of revision resources to help them plan and prepare their revision schedules. The packs contain, amongst other things, flashcards, sticky post-it notes, pens and highlighters. This week, in form time, pupils will be supported with preparing a revision timetable.

Very well done to Year 11 on making such a positive start to Year 11. It will be worth it, so keep the focus going.

Presentation Evening: For our Year 11 pupils who left last year, we are very much looking forward to seeing you back in school on Thursday 16 November. This evening will be a celebration of your successes as well as an opportunity to collect certificates and catch up with friends and family. Our invited guest for the evening is Stuart Pearce, the football player/manager who played 78 internationals for England.

Attendance Matters: Please can we take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that attendance and punctuality are vitally important to pupils succeeding in school. Any pupil arriving after 9.00am must sign in at the attendance office before going to their lesson. If they have no valid reason for being late, they will receive a 30 minute detention after school the next day. Any pupil arriving after 9.20am will receive a U code on their registration record. Registers are closed by this point. This is an unauthorised absence. If your child continues to be persistently late, you will be contacted by the school via a letter, text message or email. Please be aware, if your child receives more than 10 U codes on their registration record, this could result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.

If a pupil arrives late and fails to sign in, a 60 minute detention will be given. Thank you for your support with your child's attendance.

School Gates/Fences: It is now several years ago that full perimeter fencing was installed to ensure the school site is safe for pupils, staff and visitors. Unfortunately, some pupils feel it is acceptable to climb the fence in order to truant from lessons. This is a chosen behaviour and one that is far from acceptable as staff have to locate pupils and contact parents/carers at home or work to tell them their child has gone missing. Pupils who choose to 'jump' the fence will be sanctioned accordingly. Fortunately, the vast majority of our pupils are sensible and would never consider behaving in such a way.

Sporting News: Pupils from Year 7 to Year 10 recently competed in the English School's Secondary Team Swimming Championships at the Grammar School in Leeds. Both teams did very well with the junior boys' winning the 4 x 50m medley and coming second in the 4 x 50m freestyle. The intermediate boys came 5th in both their races. An excellent effort as the teams were up against schools who have swimming pools and dedicated swimming coaches. Thank you, also, to Mr Sharpe for taking the teams to Leeds to compete on a Saturday. The teams were:

Junior boys: Henry Middleton (Year 7, Stan Sadler (Year 7), Joe Sadler (Year 8), Harry Austin (Year 8) and Josh Guy (Year 8).

Intermediate boys: Harry Tupman (Year 9), Owen Carmody (Year 9), Tom Kirby (Year 9) and Oliver Austin (Year 9).

Special mention also to Harry Tupman, in Year 9, who took part in seven events at the Yorkshire Swimming Championships. He came away with personal bests in all events along with, 2 gold, 2 silver and a bronze. A great set of results, Harry!

The Year 10 rugby team, with a few Year 9s playing up, finished joint first in group matches in the Wakefield Division 2 tournament at the start of the month. The boys played really well and supported each other well as a team. Nicely done!

Finally, in the recent Wakefield School's Cross Country competition, we have had two outright winners with Maya Schofield, in Year 10, and a new Year 7 pupil Sydney Swan, winning their events. Maya has won before and Sydney will be looking to do the same again. Very well done also to those pupils who took part, many for the first time in a cross country event. Keep at it and be sure to enjoy the taking part as much as the winning.

Finally, on a rather sadder note, I recently, along with Ms Sankey, attended the funeral of Mr Peter Ellis in Leeds. Peter worked at the school for 35 years and was responsible for the new build conversion that took place in 1993. The legacy of his attention to detail at that time means that we are currently teaching in a school that is fit for purpose. Many of our parents/carers and families will remember Peter as a very talented and successful teacher of art and design.

Again, thank you for your continued support for the work of the school and be sure to have a safe and enjoyable October half-term break.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

'No one goes on, but what we leave behind keeps us alive for someone else'

Dates for the Diary:

- Friday 27 October 2023: School closes for half-term break
- Monday 06 November 2023: School reopens at 8.40am
- Thursday 16 November 2023: Presentation Evening
- Friday 17 November 2023: INSET day, school closed to pupils
- Monday 20 November 2023: Year 11 Photo

