

Kettlethorpe High School

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



Newsletter 6

15 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

School certainly continues to be very busy as we look to enter the final week of a long 15 week autumn term. Very well done to all our Year 11's for their excellent approach to the Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). We have seen very good attendance and pupils have a lot to look forward to when they 'officially' get their results in early January. Our advice to them is to keep up with the hard work and be sure to have a plan for college and/or employment for next September.

Legally Blonde: Very well done to all the pupils who have been putting on this year's school production this week. It really has been an impressive set of performances and great to see pupils enjoying this experience. Thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard with the talented cast and also to families for their support with learning lines and costumes, as well as, importantly, coming to the shows. A great way to end the term!

Attendance Matters: It is very important that all pupils get to school every day as this, ultimately, has an impact both on GCSE outcomes/results and success as well as employment opportunities over the longer term. At the moment, the school's overall attendance figures are not as good as they were pre Covid-19 with Year 10 pupils having the lowest overall attendance.

As the days get colder and sniffles increase, please can we remind parents to use this link if unsure about sending their child into school: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>

If your child does need to be away from school because of illness or an appointment, please inform school.

Please may we remind parents that we can only accept absence calls from named adults and phone numbers on our system. If an absence call is left on the school answerphone, please ensure that the caller clearly identifies themselves so we can match the name and number with information on our systems. Without this, the absence text will be sent out to parents to ensure the message is genuine and pupils are safeguarded.

Children in Need update: Again, well done to everyone with the fundraising for Children in Need 2023. The overall total for this year has now gone over £6000. Nicely done!

TT Rockstars Competition: This is a competition between the primary schools with the next one starting on Monday 18 December and finishing on Friday 22 December. Well done to Sandal Magna who are leading the league table currently. Go for it!

Numeracy support/plans: The school is planning to hold a Numeracy Day on the 15 May 2024. This will involve pupils from across the school. Mr Penny has also included the link below which includes fun numeracy activities for families to engage with:

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk>

Sporting News: Well done to our school swimming team who made it through to the national school's finals in Birmingham in November. The 4 x 50m medley team finished 23rd overall, which is a great effort as the school does not have a pool or a dedicated swim coach as some others have. Well done to Josh Guy (Year 8), Harry Austin (Year 8), Joseph Sadler (Year 8) and Stan Sadler (Year 7). A great experience here.

Headteacher update: As you are already aware I will be retiring from the post of headteacher at the end of the academic year in August 2024 having started as the school's headteacher in January 2006. Next September will find me in China where my oldest son will be getting married.

Following national adverts and a two-day selection process, the school's governing body are pleased to inform the school community of the appointment of Mrs Roisin Paul. Mrs Paul will start at the school in September 2024.

Mrs Paul was previously headteacher at Silverdale School in Sheffield and most recently the principal at the SJI International School in Singapore.

I would like to congratulate Mrs Paul on her appointment and wish her every success in the post.

Christmas Jumper and Lunch Day: This will be taking place on Wednesday 20 December. Donations of £1.00 to charity for jumper wearers and Christmas dinners in the dining hall at lunchtime. Enjoy!

Finally, please note that the school will be finishing at 1.15pm on Friday 22 December for the Christmas break. It will be very busy on the roads around school and at Asda at this time as many businesses will have already closed for Christmas.

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable holiday period.

Most of my Christmas experiences were with family in South Wales and the following quote made me smile as I can remember making snowmen with my brothers...

'It snowed last year too. I made a snowman, and my brother knocked it down and I knocked my brother down and then we had tea.' (from A Child's Christmas in Wales: Dylan Thomas)

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

- Friday 22 December 2023: School finishes for Christmas break for 1.15pm
- Monday 08 January 2024: INSET day (school closed to pupils)
- Tuesday 09 January 2024: School re-opens to all pupils at 8.40am
- Thursday 11 January 2024: Year 9 Consultation Evening

Dylan Thomas: (1914-1953) Welsh poet and writer most famous for writing Under Milk Wood in 1952.