

# Kettlethorpe High School

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



## Newsletter 11

22 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

It has been really nice getting to and from school with the longer days and also the occasional sunny day too!

A lot has been happening in school and the staff and pupil body have been working hard. A lot has been done over the 5-week half-term in school.

Over the last few weeks, I have personally, received positive feedback from parents and ex-parents on the work of the school. I was visiting a school in Leeds that has a strong reputation for being fully inclusive and a parent who teaches there spoke positively about how well her children are doing at Kettlethorpe High School. More recently, I met an ex-parent at a local gym, and he told me, with huge pride, about how well his daughter was doing working as a doctor at the Royal Hallamshire hospital in Sheffield. He told me that there was no need to waste money on a private education and finished the comment off, with, 'You will know that more than most.' I wholeheartedly agree that pupils who work hard, attend well and who have parents/carers who work in partnership with the school have the potential to do, and be, anything they want.

**Rewards Events:** Letters have recently been sent out that detail the expectations and conditions for acceptance/invitation on the end of year rewards trips.

This year we have built in opportunities for pupils to attend who have seen improvements in attendance mid-year. This is part of the 8-week challenge that all pupils have been told about.

- Year 7: Wednesday 10 July 2024: Rewards afternoon.
- Year 8: Thursday 11 July 2024: Rewards afternoon.
- Year 9: Thursday 11 July 2024: Alton Towers.
- Year 10: Wednesday 10 July 2024: Alton Towers.

Pupils have the chance to improve what they do and how they attend school. This will result in an invitation to the rewards events. As with most things, pupils who do not meet the required expectations/criteria, unfortunately, will miss out on the rewards day celebrations.

## **Information from our Attendance Team:**

**Punctuality:** As per school policy, each week parents will receive a notification (by text) informing them if their child has been late on two or more occasions. This message can be replied to via text. Please be aware, this shares both **morning and afternoon** register marks so may be up to 10 occasions. Whilst we are aware buses and traffic may sometimes be a problem, detentions will be issued for persistent lateness. We thank you in anticipation of your support.

**Leave of absence:** Please can we remind parents to complete the form found on the school website or using this link <https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Holiday-form-new.pdf>

Please avoid communicating with tutors or individual members of staff as we cannot guarantee the information will be passed onto the attendance team.

The Government strongly urges parents/carers to avoid taking their children out of school for family holidays as this will disrupt their education. Whilst we understand the difficulties parents/carers may have in organising holidays during the school holidays and the benefits to be had from cheaper term-time holidays, this type of absence is detrimental to a child's education. A penalty notice may be issued.

**Spring Concert:** Very well done to all the pupils and staff who performed this week to showcase their efforts across the performing arts. It really was super to see. Thank you to all families and pupils who attended the event as part of the audience.

**Ramadan:** Our Muslim pupils and families have been involved in their Ramadan preparation and prayers over the last two weeks. In school we have seen as many as 70 pupils attending the daily prayer room at lunchtimes.

We wish all our Muslim families a happy Eid ul-fitr which will be celebrated during the first week back in school after the Easter holiday break.

**Sporting News:** It has been a busy time for pupils who have been involved in a wide range of sporting events recently.

**Year 10 Boys' Football:** The team won the Wakefield Cup beating Outwood Freeston 3-1 in the final. An excellent team effort captained by Harvey Roberts. Harry Bolland was named as 'Man of the Match'. They are also currently the Wakefield League winners as well.

**Swimming:** Beth Warner (Year 8) took gold in her 3 individual races along with 3 golds at the ESSA Inter-Division Championships. She also achieved an ESSA Junior girls' record in the 200m free event.

**Cross Country:** Maya Schofield (Year 9) finished in the top 10 runners in the English School's Cross-Country championships and has been selected to represent the England Cross-Country team at an international event in Dublin, Ireland.

Sydney Swan finished 30<sup>th</sup> out of 125 runners in the Year 7 School's National Cross-Country event held in Leicestershire recently. Sydney was representing West Yorkshire who came second overall in the team event.

**Year 9 Football:** The team recently beat Carleton High on penalties to complete the double after success in the district 5-a-side competition. The team are also looking forward to playing Carleton again, after Easter, to attempt the treble. Very impressive!

**Netball:** The Year 10 team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Wakefield for the fourth year in a row. Hopefully, in Year 11, they can achieve the top spot!

**Golf:** Recently, Matthew Birch (Year 11) finished 18<sup>th</sup> in the West Yorkshire Golf tournament held at Howley Hill golf club.

**Tumbling:** Well done to Anneli Hart, in Year 10, who obtained a bronze medal at the Yorkshire NDP competition despite an injury to her knee she sustained during her warm up.

Very well done to all those pupils involved in both team and individual competitions. It really is encouraging to see so many of you taking part and committing yourselves throughout the school year. Thank you also to staff who support pupils with coaching and transportation along with families at home. Some great memories as a result.

**Year 11 Examinations:** Very well done to our Year 11 pupils who have recently finished their final set of PPEs (mocks). They are now in the final weeks before their GCSE examinations start. Over the Easter break, invited pupils will be attending a number of revision and intervention sessions. Keep the focus going Year 11 and be sure to do your very best.

**'Get up to Speed STEM event:** Very well done to the 43 pupils who this week travelled to the Magna Museum in Rotherham to find out about careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Some great feedback from the pupils who attended and Mrs Freeland was very impressed with the questions the pupils asked. Nicely done!

**Second 3G All-Weather Pitch:** The plans for the school's 3G floodlit pitch are now very near to completion. The contract is now going out to tender and hopefully we shall see work commencing before the summer holiday.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the school. Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable Easter break as families.

'It is acceptable to fail but not make it a daily affair!  
Learn from your past mistakes and use the knowledge to do better.  
Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.'

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

**Key Dates:**

- **Friday 22 March 2024:** School closes for the Easter break.
- **Monday 08 April 2024:** School reopens to all pupils.

John Wooden 1910-2010: Simply known as 'Coach'. He lived to 99 years old and was a very successful basketball coach. In 2024 the US Post Service honoured him with a first-class forever postage stamp.