

# Kettlethorpe High School

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



## Newsletter 12

23 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

It really is hard to think that we are now heading into the final half-term holiday of the academic year with only seven weeks remaining before the long summer break.

Plans are already well underway for the next academic year, and the school finds itself in the position of being fully staffed with subject specialist teachers. Interestingly, this is not the case for all schools, as some do not have specialist teachers for all their timetabled lessons.

**Year 11:** Very well done to all our Year 11 pupils who are now all fully immersed in their final GCSE examinations. Like most things, the pupils who have attended well and put in good endeavours look to be heading towards some super results and outcomes. Sadly, some pupils are finding the examinations difficult as they have gaps in knowledge for a variety of reasons. We wish all our Year 11 pupils continued success as they finish their examinations and head off to college and/or employment. Hang in there and do ask for advice and support if you need it.

**Lesson Avoidance Strategy Summer 2024:** In line with other schools nationally, school is experiencing an increase in pupil lesson avoidance and a decline in pupil resilience in learning behaviours. A small number of pupils choose to avoid lessons and then get caught up with internal truancy.

From the start of the next half-term, all pupils who do not get to their timetabled lessons will be asked to go into their lesson. If they choose not to, they will be internally isolated, and parents/carers will be contacted. Failure to go to isolation will lead to further sanctions such as suspension, detention or time in ARC. Pupils not in lessons are missing out on essential knowledge and learning.

School has also reviewed the use of pupil lesson exit cards. Pupils who have not been able to manage this privilege in line with school expectations have had their exit cards removed. If you have not received a letter from school confirming your child has had their pass reinstated or rolled over, then their pass has been removed.

Fortunately, the vast majority of our pupils are able to get to their lessons in a timely manner and fully engage in all their lessons.

**Year 10:** Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) are starting on Monday 17 June. Having spoken to a number of pupils, it is clear that they are more than ready for their PPEs and that they really have been working hard. Look to make a good impression and reflect and act on the teacher feedback and assessments.

**Year 10 Work Experience:** This starts on Monday 01 July and lasts for a week for the majority of our Year 10 pupils. All pupils have been involved in an application process along with interviews involving representatives from local organisations and businesses across the Wakefield district. This really is a rich learning opportunity for our older pupils to experience a range of employment areas. It is encouraging that the school now has work experience back on the calendar. We know of only one other high school in the Wakefield district that enables their pupils to go on work experience.

Thanks to parents and families for the support in finding suitable work experience opportunities and to Year 10, be sure to get fully involved and enjoy this rich learning opportunity.

**UK Junior Maths Challenge:** Recently, over 100 of the school's Key Stage 3 strongest mathematicians challenged themselves against the best young people across the country. The pupils answered multiple choice questions in 60 minutes, spending around two minutes on each question. The results have been fantastic:

- 6 gold award winners (top 8% nationally): Daniel Best, Martha Spiers, Claire Othuke Uyeri, Amber Penny, Daniel Gibson and Marta Moreno Alba.
- 23 silver award winners (top 25% nationally).
- 32 bronze award winners (top 50% nationally).

Daniel Best's score was also high enough to qualify for the next round. Well done Daniel and all our competitors here. Impressive!

**GCSE Pod Games 2024:** Currently, Kettlethorpe High School are running second with a score of 14924 to Hinchingsbrook School who are on 17162. This is out of 112 competing schools.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life.

School can also help your child's social skills such as making and developing friendships. A regular and punctual attendance pattern will help your child when they enter the world of work.

The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear. The more a pupil is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.

A reminder to parents and carers that holidays during term time will not be authorised and will lead to a fixed penalty notice. Parents and carers should refer to the school website if they are unclear about pupil absence from school.

<https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/attendance/>

The school attendance policy will be updated over the summer term to reflect the new statutory guidance on school attendance which will be introduced in the autumn term. Parents and carers wishing to find out more information about the new regulations can find more information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-regulations-for-schools-in-next-stage-of-attendance-drive>

A reminder that Year 11 pupils should stay on site after morning and afternoon exams. Planned interventions are taking place each day to support pupils through this important time.

**Teen Self-Esteem Week:** This took place in school recently with the school's Kindness Ambassadors helping Miss Nutton deliver assemblies around teenage self-esteem and adopting healthy habits. Pupils were asked to complete a catalogue of kind tasks. The following pupils won prizes of Costa vouchers and chocolates:

- Overall winner: Brandon Hunter (Year 8).
- Year 10 winner: William Lockwood.
- Year 8 winner: Lucy Telford.
- Year 7 winner: Charlotte Strutt.
- Form winner by a country mile: 8S2.

Well done to all involved.

**Year 11 Citizenship Groups:** Very well done to Milly Gaimster, Kimberly Rushforth, Lewis Fitton, Joe Dossett, Joel Chapman, Olivia Snape, Maya Kenny and Chelsey Brown in Year 11 who raised £107 and donated 30 tubes of toothpaste to homeless people through Foundation Wakefield. Well done to all the pupils involved here.

### **Sporting News:**

Very well done to Alfie Skitt in Year 7 for a number of successful K1 kickboxing fights at a recent event held in Scunthorpe. Alfie is up before 6am each day to fit in his training schedule as well as manage his studies at school. Keep it up!

Beth Buckley (Year 7) continues to do great things with her hockey team at the Slazenger Club. They are now the Yorkshire and North East England hockey champions. We wish Beth and her team every success in the future.

The school's Year 9 football team continues the school's legacy of sporting success with an unprecedented season, winning the Wakefield school's cup, beating Carleton 4-3 after extra time. This follows success at being league champions and also 5-a-side winners. Very well done and all the best for the season in Year 10.

**Making Memories:** We often talk about school being the best days of our lives as well as creating memories we never forget. Last week, a group of our performing arts pupils went to see a performance of Wicked the musical at the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford.

What made the occasion so special was that the main part of Elphaba was being played by Laura Pick, an ex-pupil of Kettlethorpe High School. Laura has had a very successful career to date playing a number of parts in London's West End as well as abroad. Laura took time after the performance to speak to pupils from school as well as autograph their programmes. The pupils I have spoken to about both the performance and meeting Laura really have been powerful and as a result we will no doubt see a number of our current talented pupils on the national stage in the future. A very special occasion here!

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable half-term break ahead of what will be a busy and exciting final half-term in school.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the school.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

**Key Dates:**

- **Friday 24 May 2024:** School closes for the half-term break.
- **Monday 03 June 2024:** School reopens to all pupils.
- **Thursday 13 June:** Year 7 Consultation Evening
- **Monday 17 June 2024:** Y10 PPEs start.
- **Tuesday 25 June 2024:** Y11 Leavers' Prom.
- **Thursday 27 June 2024:** Year 8 Consultation Evening