

# Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Roisin Paul



## Newsletter 1

17 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Kettlethorpe High School. It is an honour and a privilege to join such a vibrant and dedicated community, and I am eager to get to know all of you in the coming weeks and months.

As an educator, and a mother of two teenagers, I believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential for our children's success. Together, we can create an environment where they feel valued and inspired to be their very best. My primary mission is to foster an inclusive, nurturing and ambitious learning culture whilst maintaining high standards of education for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr Tudor Griffiths for his unstinting commitment to Kettlethorpe High School over the last 19 years. I am very fortunate to inherit a school which has been so well led and managed, and I know he will be missed by many in the community. We wish Tudor a much deserved, very happy and successful retirement.

I am genuinely excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, and I will be writing to you next month to outline what our priorities are for the future.

## New Year 7 Pupils

A very warm welcome to the new Year 7, all 342 of them. Being new myself, I understand how overwhelming the move to a new school can be, however, I have been incredibly impressed with how quickly they have settled in. (However, we do know that some find it easier than others, so if you are concerned about your child, please do not hesitate to contact the pastoral team, if we know we can help.)

- Year 7: Mrs Lancaster ([llancaster@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:llancaster@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk))  
Miss Wood ([awood@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:awood@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk))
- Year 8: Mr Hedges ([ohedges@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:ohedges@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk))  
Miss Shorrock ([gshorrock@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:gshorrock@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk))
- Year 9: Mr Henderson ([ihenderson@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:ihenderson@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk))  
Miss Cattle ([pcattle@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:pcattle@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk))
- Year 10: Miss Gorton ([kgorton@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:kgorton@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk))  
Ms Mallinson ([lmallinson@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:lmallinson@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk))
- Year 11: Miss Lee ([elee@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:elee@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk))

## **GCSE Results 2024**

Congratulations to the 2023/24 Year 11 cohort on a set of very good results. These outcomes are down to their hard work and the relentless support of staff and parents/families. There were some truly outstanding individual performances, both in terms of pupils' attainment and the progress they made, and I will be personally writing to those pupils to acknowledge their achievement. We wish our '23/24 cohort the very best of luck in all your future adventures and encourage you all to stay in touch with us. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the school's presentation evening on Thursday 14 November.

The School's English Baccalaureate (EBacc) were some of the best across the Wakefield district both for percentage of entries (68%) as well as 4+ (42%) and 5+ (30%). The EBacc represents GCSE passes across English, mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), science and a humanity entry per pupil.

In terms of combined English/mathematics passes, these were 70% for 4+ passes, 53% for 5+ passes and 15% for 7+.

What was interesting, when we analysed the results, was the unquestionable link between a pupil's attendance and attitude to learning, and their final grades. I have summarised our findings below.

- **The Link between Attendance and Achievement**

Pupils who had 100% attendance achieved on average 1 grade higher than expected in each subject.

Pupils who attended less than 90% **underachieved** on average by 1 grade lower than expected in each subject.

- **The Link between Attitudes to Learning and Achievement (ATL)**

Pupils who had an average ATL 1-1.4, achieved on average 1.5 grades higher than expected in each subject.

Pupils who had an average ATL 3-4, underachieved by 2 whole grades per subject.

**I cannot emphasise enough how it is vital to send your child to school every day.**

**Holidays in term time:** As previously publicised in our newsletter and on our website, the new national framework for penalty notices came into force in August and fines have now increased to £80 per parent, per child. If families choose to take further holidays within a 3-year period, the case may proceed to a parental prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.

**Parking:** Do please observe the parking restrictions around the school and also the bus bay area so that these areas remain free of traffic and pupils are able to cross the road safely. Thank you for your support.

**Pupil Behaviours:** Over the year, the school will record positive pupil behaviours and this will then lead to recognition through a number of rewards. We would encourage every pupil to attend regularly and give their very best in all that they do. This, to be fair, is the working approach for the vast majority of our pupils who are a pleasure to know and teach.

Like any school, we have rules and expectations to support behaviour. Do please note the following so that we are all clear about school expectations.

- Any vapes/cigarettes or related paraphernalia will always be disposed of regardless of who it belongs to.
- The possession of any illegal substance will always lead to permanent exclusion from our school community.
- Pupils who are unkind, rude or disrespectful to others, or cause disruption to learning, will run the risk of suspension/removal from school.
- Pupil behaviour on public buses, at Asda and across the local community matters, and pupils who fail to behave as expected or cause a nuisance or disruption run the risk of removal from the school community.

As a large school community, every child and adult should be allowed to go about their business without worry. As already mentioned, the vast majority of our pupil body gets it right all the time. The points above have been made explicit so that everyone is very clear about what consequences can come into play.

**Buses:** We are aware that the buses are causing problems for some of our pupils resulting in them arriving late and creating unnecessary stress for both parents and pupils.

Unfortunately, this is beyond our control, and we ask parents to contact the bus company directly or via social media expressing their concerns. We do try to be mindful of issuing late marks but will start to send the late text again on Fridays, so parents are aware.

**Year 7 Transition:** Congratulations to Year 7 on settling so wonderfully at Kettlethorpe High School and quickly becoming part of the community. Each day, you are brilliantly demonstrating our values of responsibility, resilience, reflectiveness and respect.

**Mission Out - Y7 Trip:** Mission Out was a great success for pupils. Year 7 showed their kindness to each other throughout the day, making friends, involving each other and encouraging each other to be brave and try out new experiences.

**Richer Reading - New Year, New Books:** We are delighted to be able to provide the opportunity for each pupil in each year group to experience a range of age-appropriate books throughout their time at Kettlethorpe High School which linked to different themes, topics and contexts. Please see below the book your child will be reading first this year alongside their tutor group; we invite you to read along with them and discuss the stories at home. Mrs Paul has started on them already and is desperate to get discussing with the pupils!



Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

**Remembrance Day:** Calling all crafters! Can you sew, knit or crochet? We are doing a Remembrance Day display in school and Mrs Gidney is collaborating with pupils over the next few months. If you would like to get involved, please email [lgidney@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:lgidney@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk)

## Pupil News

Year 8:

- Well done Mailey Brown on competing at the British Gymnastics Championships in Telford. Although Mailey was not selected for the World Championships she was selected to be part of team GB and will compete in Poland in November at the Acrobatic Grand Prix representing Great Britain.
- Grace Gillatt, in the summer holidays, achieved Grade 6 flute with merit. Congratulations Grace!

Year 9:

- A shout out to Alecia Lindley and teammates who last week played in the Wakefield and district ARLFC cup final held at Featherstone Rovers, Millennium stadium. They won against Normanton Knights, 18-8, with Alecia crossing over for a try.

As the term progresses, school will keep families informed of key events and dates. A lot of information about the work of the school can be found on the school website.

In conclusion, to all our pupils:

- Get to school every day because every lesson counts.
- Be sure to get involved in the life of the school, especially clubs and activities.
- Be kind to others.

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

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Roisin Paul  
Headteacher

## Dates for the Diary:

- Thursday 19 September: Year 11 Parent/Carer Information Evening
- Thursday 03 October 2024: Open Evening (4.00-7.00pm), school closes at 1.15pm
- Friday 04 October 2024: INSET day, school closed to pupils
- Wednesday 09 October 2024: Year 7 and 9 individual photos
- Thursday 24 October 2024: Year 11 Consultation Evening