

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I complete my first year as Headteacher at Kettlethorpe High School, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly rewarding and purposeful year. With many years of leadership experience behind me, I can confidently say that this past year has been one of the most fulfilling of my career—thanks in no small part to the warmth, support, and partnership of our school community.

From the outset, I have been inspired by the energy and ambition that defines Kettlethorpe. Our mission—*To be the best we can be*—is not just a statement; it is a shared commitment that I see lived out every day in our classrooms, corridors, and wider community. Whether it's in the quiet determination of a student striving to improve, or the dedication of staff going the extra mile, our collective drive to grow and excel is unmistakable.

Our vision—*Present, Achieving, Excelling*—has guided our work this year. We've focused on ensuring that every student is fully engaged in their learning, supported to achieve their potential, and encouraged to aim high. I'm proud of the progress we've made together, from strengthening our curriculum and pastoral care, to celebrating student successes both in and beyond the classroom.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you—our parents and carers—for the vital role you play in this journey. Your encouragement, your involvement, and your belief in what we are building together have been invaluable. It is through this strong partnership that we create the conditions for our young people to thrive.

Looking ahead to September, we are excited to build on this momentum with a number of key developments. We are investing in experience and expertise within our SEND team to ensure every learner receives the tailored support they need. A new, wide-ranging curriculum will launch for our Year 9 cohort—designed to inspire all students to achieve and excel across a broader and more engaging range of subjects. We are also opening a brand-new Learning Resource Centre to promote independent learning and research skills. Our revised rewards scheme will better acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our young people, while an enhanced pastoral team will provide even stronger support for student wellbeing. These developments reflect our ongoing commitment to excellence and to nurturing the whole child.

As we now look ahead to the summer break, I hope you and your families enjoy a well-deserved rest. I encourage everyone to take time to recharge, make special memories, and most importantly, stay safe and well. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September, refreshed and ready for another year of learning, growth, and achievement.

Outlined in this newsletter is some important information you and your child/children will need for the start of term.

Thank you once again for your continued support.



Roisin Paul
Headteacher

Uniform

We want to ensure a positive start to the new school year for all students, please remind yourself below with the new uniform guidance as originally shared with you in May.

As from 1st September 2025 the following changes have been made to the uniform policy:

Jewellery

- Jewellery is not permitted, except when related to religious observance when it should be worn under the uniform. Explicitly NO piercings.
- Smart watches of any description are not permitted.

Religious Head Coverings

If worn should be black or navy and should not cover the school uniform, the child's face or compromise health and safety.

School Skirts

For Year 7 students, only the navy, pleated school skirt with the school logo may be worn. The logo must be at the knee at all times, (regardless of the growth of the child). For all other students, the navy plain school skirt can continue to be worn as long as it complies with the school uniform policy, i.e the bottom of the skirt should be at or just above the knee. (If their current skirt does not comply this must be replaced immediately either with the new pleated skirt or the older style but only while stocks last.)

All skirts must be worn at knee length. Skirts must not be rolled over at the top or tied at the back or bottom. These skirts must be bought from our on-site Uniform Shop.

School trousers may be worn as an alternative, but these must also comply with the school uniform policy. Which is, trousers must be tailored, not skinny fit, they must be loose on the ankle.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM SEPTEMBER 2026 ONLY THE NAVY PLEATED SKIRT WITH LOGO WILL BE ALLOWED FOR ALL STUDENTS.

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 1 September	INSET Day
Tuesday 2 September	INSET Day
Wednesday 3 September	School opens for Year 7 and Year 11 ONLY <i>School starts at 8.40am. Gates will now open to students from 8.15am each day and not before</i>
Thursday 4 September	School opens for all year groups

Thursday 18 September	Year 11 Parent/Carer information evening
Thursday 25 September	Year 7 settling in evening
Thursday 2 October	Open evening (school closes early for students)
Friday 3 October	INSET Day
Wednesday 8 October	Year 7 and 9 photographs
Thursday 9 October	Year 9 settling in evening
Thursday 23 October	Year 11 consultation evening
Friday 24 October	School closes for half term

Essential School Information

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency that you need to make the school aware of, please contact the school number 01924 251605 Monday – Friday, 8-4pm (3:30pm on Friday).

Attendance

Attendance at school –why is it so important?

Attendance at school and in all lessons opens doors to learning, friendships, confidence and success later in life. When students are in front of their teachers, we know that they are safe and together, are able to be the best that they can be.

Recent research by the Department for Education shows just how closely attendance and attainment are linked.

Year 11 students with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar students attending 90-95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days a year reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around 50%.

Attendance and punctuality have a significant impact on the success students have in lessons and GCSEs as well as in later life.

We aim for every child to have 100% attendance but want to ensure that all children attend at least 95% of the time. The government classifies a child as a persistent absentee if their attendance is below 90%.

The long-term impact on earnings

Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education – it can impact future earnings too.

Persistently absent students in secondary school (those whose attendance is below 90% -one half day equivalent a week) could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to students with near-perfect attendance.

How does attendance recording work?

In school, students are required by law to be registered once in the morning (form time) and once in the afternoon (during period 4). Therefore, there are two reported sessions a day: am and pm. In the morning, the school must close the registration 30 minutes after it opens and report attendance. At Kettlethorpe, attendance opens at 8.40am and closes at 9.10am -therefore a student is considered to have unauthorised absence after 9.10am, regardless of the reason, or if they attend lessons thereafter.

For example, if a child arrives to school after 9.10am every day, but attends all day, they can only possibly achieve 50% attendance, as the morning session is not recognised by law.

How do we register at Kettlethorpe?

- Students must attend school and be within the school gates by **8.40am**.
- They should go immediately to registration to be registered on time for school. Failure to arrive promptly to form and missing the registration completed by the form teacher will result in a late mark and a 20 minute detention.
- Any student arriving to school **after 8.40am, when the gates close and until 9.10am** will receive a late code 'L' and a 40 minute detention.

Students who arrive late to period 4 lesson will receive a late registration mark 'L' on their formal attendance record that is monitored by the local authority.

What if my child is unwell?

Most parents recognise that attendance is a real priority. We want to thank you for helping us to help your child succeed by ensuring they attend, unless extremely ill.

We ask all parents to have this approach and to encourage your child to attend even on the toughest day as this helps build that resilience for future life.

However, if they are too ill to attend school, please ensure that you follow the expectations below.

How do I inform school of my child's absence?

Parents **must** contact the school on a **daily** basis if your child is unwell and unable to attend school. Contact must be made only via telephone or Edulink **BEFORE 8.30am**.

If we do not receive communication from parents before 8.30am, the absence will be automatically be recorded as **unauthorised**.

As it is parents' legal duty of care to report absence and ensure your child attends school; persistent unauthorised absence, even if a child does arrive at school late, can lead to fines or parental prosecution. The school will formally monitor any students with irregular attendance. Students who have 10 or more sessions (10 half days or 5 full days) absence in a 10 week period will be monitored through Wakefield Council's Fixed Penalty Notice protocols and parents may receive a fine if attendance doesn't improve.

(see below) School will contact you by phone and/or text if you do not contact us. You are required by law to provide a reason for your child's absence.

If we fail to make contact with you, we may have to conduct a home visit to ensure that your child is safe. If your child is absent for a number of consecutive days we will schedule additional contact and home visits.

What if my child has a medical appointment?

If possible, all medical appointments should be made outside of school hours. However, we realise this is not always possible.

The school must be notified no later than **8.30am** of any medical appointments made during school hours. Contact must be made only via telephone or Edulink BEFORE 8.30am.

Notes in planners will not be accepted as parental permission.

Parents and carers can call as normal using the schools phone number (01924 251605). Two options will be available to choose from:

Press 1 – To record a pupil absence.

The voicemail system will prompt you to provide specific information. This will ensure that the pupil can be correctly recorded as absent from school. If further information is required, a member of the general office will contact you directly.

The following information must be provided:

- Parent / carers name
- Student's name
- Date of birth
- Form tutor
- Reason for absence

Press 0 – To talk to the school's general office.

You can also use Edulink to confirm absence. All absences must be reported BEFORE 8.30am on the day of the absence or the absence will be unauthorised and a text message sent. Many thanks in advance for this.

Please also provide evidence of medical appointments to enable us to authorise the absence as medical. This can be appointment letters, screen shots of appointments etc.

Please note that if your child is absent for a medical appointment during AM registration or period 4, they will be marked as absent for the AM or PM session. Therefore, if medical appointments are made during school hours but after form registration (8.40am) and they return to school, or period 4 (after registration at 13.10pm) this won't negatively affect their overall attendance. This is a government direction, not a school decision.

Important Safeguarding information—if you give permission for your child to leave the school site for a medical appointment, it is your responsibility as a parent, to keep them safe.

Can I request leave of absence for my child?

Holidays in term time are not authorised by school or Wakefield Local Authority and Fixed Penalty Notices will be issued by Wakefield council.

If there is a request for leave for a specific event, such as a sporting event, educational event, personal or family reason or an exceptional circumstance please complete the request form on the website, with at least two weeks notice, and provide official evidence.

Absence	Call or contact via Edulink email before 8.30am every day.
Medical	Call or contact via Edulink email before 8.30am every day and provide evidence.
Leave of absence	Complete the application form on the website.

Staff Leaving

As we reach the end of the academic year, we say goodbye to several valued colleagues, both temporary and permanent, who are either retiring or moving on to new positions. The school would like to sincerely thank them for their dedication, hard work, and unwavering support over the years, and we wish them every success in the future. Thank you:

Jane Babbage, Isobel Colley, Gary Lickiss, Jo Wray, Laura Thompson, Mel Mumby, Adam Murphy, Hannah Watson, Izzy Lowen, Rachel Clarke, Lewis Sharpe, Neil Abson, Georgina Johnson, Olivia Ibbotson, Katie Manock, Grace Brown, Josh Hough, Nat Freeland, Paul Stephenson, Roz Stephenson, Tom Lowe, Rebecca Williams, Jane Lindley.

Important Online Safety Warning for Parents and Carers

We are deeply saddened to hear of the news of a tragic incident in Castleford, where a 12-year-old boy lost his life after reportedly attempting a dangerous internet challenge on TikTok. This heartbreaking event serves as a stark reminder of the risks that can exist in the online world. We urge all parents and carers to have open, ongoing conversations with their children about what they watch, who they interact with, and the content they engage with online. Please don't assume "my child would never do that"—even one brief moment can have devastating consequences. Let this be a call to stay informed, stay connected, and help protect our young people from hidden dangers in the digital space.

Safeguarding

The summer period can be a lonely or troubling time for some of our students and their families. There are many organisations which can help, and we have included their contacts below:

Childline

Call for free on 0800111 | Email using the website:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline/>

Chat 1-2-1 using <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>

NHS

Call 111 for urgent help or support

Shout

Text 85258 for help and support 24/7. This is free and confidential.

Barnados

Download the Tellmi app where you can share your problems anonymously

<https://mymentalhealth.barnados.org.uk/get-help>

NSPCC

They have a helpline that you can call Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm 08088005000

Or you can access support on the website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> | You can email help@nspcc.org.uk

If your concern is of immediate danger, you can call 999.

Important Events at Kettlethorpe High School

Year 10 Work Experience - Monday 30 June to Friday 4 July 2025

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Sharkey and Mr Abson for their outstanding efforts in coordinating this year's Year 10 Work Experience programme. Their dedication ensured that every detail ran smoothly, providing our students with meaningful and memorable placements that will stay with them for years to come.

We've received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from employers, who were impressed by the enthusiasm, professionalism, and maturity of our students. It's a true reflection of the values we nurture within our school community, and we couldn't be prouder of how our young people embraced their roles and responsibilities.

A massive thank you also goes out to the external employers who generously gave up their time and resources to support our students on this exciting journey. From offering guidance and mentoring to creating welcoming and inclusive environments, your impact has been immense. You have not only helped them develop key skills but also inspired them to think boldly about their futures. Opportunities like these are invaluable for shaping confidence, ambition, and a deeper understanding of the world beyond the classroom. It is partnerships like these—with staff, employers, and our incredible students—that make such initiatives thrive.

We had our annual KHS Young Dancer of the Year Competition. We were incredibly impressed with the standard of the performances and the variety of styles which pupils chose to showcase. This ranged from Irish dancing, afrodance, contemporary, musical theatre, modern, baton, pom, hip-hop and street dance. The winner of the solo category was Beth T, and the winner of the group category was Ivy G and Liv G. Well done everyone one who took part – you really inspired us with each of your performances!





Congratulations to everyone who entered the heats and the final of our annual 'Young Musician of the Year' competition. The final was a little different this year as we chose to feature finalists in different instrument groups rather than year groups. Mrs Paul came to judge the final and gave each pupil individual feedback and to decide who our winner was. We can confirm that in second place was Leanika C on vocals (Year 9), but our overall winner was Ethan W (Year 9) on piano. Congratulations to all our entrants and Ethan!

We hosted a Language Fair organised by our wonderful MFL department. We welcomed Year 5 pupils from several local primary schools, giving them a flavour of what learning a language at secondary school is all about. A huge thank you to the brilliant students who gave their time to showcase the languages they know—it was inspiring to see their enthusiasm in action!



Educational Visits



The Big Sing 2025

Well done to our school choir who sang at the annual Wakefield Big Sing at Wakefield Cathedral. One audience member even commented that "they saved the best until last". Well done all!

Music Tour

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Bebbington-Slater, Mr Griffiths, Ms Horn, and Miss Bowers for leading the Music Tour to Germany—an enriching experience that will surely echo in pupils' memories for years to come. The photographs and videos from the tour looked phenomenal and the views from the places visited looked fantastic.

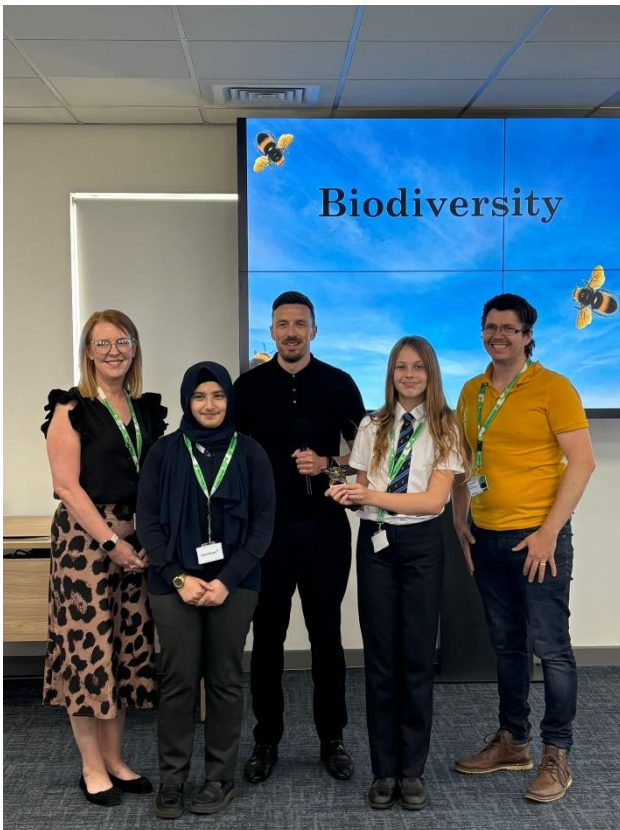


Outdoor Pursuits

Huge thanks goes out to our PE staff for taking Year 9 pupils on two separate days to Cutthroat Bridge. The weather was stunning and all pupils behaved exemplary.

Geography Trip

Year 10 geographers have been to Flamborough Head and Bridlington and even managed to see some seals. Huge thanks to the Geography department for taking our pupils.



Let it Bee Champions Crowned at Vico Homes!

This month, creative Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in a Dragons' Den-style event, pitching inspiring ideas to support the 2025 Let it Bee relaxed mowing campaign. Held at Vico Homes Head Office, the students impressed a panel of judges with innovative plans—from eco leaflet post boxes to colourful fundraising pin badges.

Huge congratulations to winners Zuzu L and Amelia K, whose presentation stood out for its originality and impact. Judges praised the effort and confidence shown by every team, making the final decision a tough one!

The best parts from all groups will be combined to help shape this year's campaign, with students continuing to play a key role.

Student Successes

Golf News

We had 30 pupils representing Kettlethorpe in the annual Wakefield Schools Golf Competition in June. All the pupils were fantastic and a real credit to the school. We had 2 teams finish tied for second place, and 4 teams finish in the top 10 out of 24 teams.

The pupils who finished tied for second place were:

Jamie K, Josh B, Archie G, Harrison D, Harry S, Ethan W, Lewis B, Seth S.

A trio of talented young golfers from Kettlethorpe High School have made their mark on the national stage, finishing tied 14th in the country at the prestigious English Schools Golf Association National Finals held at the renowned Woodhall Spa Golf Club, the home of England Golf.

The team, made up of Harry S, Jamie K, and Ethan W, scored a combined 65 points in a fiercely competitive field, capping off a remarkable journey through regional and county-level qualifiers.

Throughout the rounds, the pupils played as a team of three, with the top two scores counting towards the team's final score for the day.

At the National Finals, the team held their own against the country's finest school golfers. Harry was the top scorer with 34 points off a 19 handicap, producing a string of memorable moments including:

- A par on the par 5 4th hole, the toughest on the course.
- A par on the par 3 7th.
- A spectacular birdie on the par 4 8th, thanks to a pinpoint approach shot to within three feet.

Jamie followed closely with 31 points from an 18 handicap, showing consistency throughout his round. He picked up key points with a par on the par 4 1st and another on the par 5 17th.

Ethan, now playing off an 11 handicap, contributed 22 points. While the scorecard didn't reflect his full effort, he showed grit and creativity—most notably on the par 3 16th, where after finding the water, he removed his shoes and socks and attempted to play the ball from the hazard, much to the admiration of spectators.



Wakefield State Schools Athletics Championships 2025

On Thursday 26th June we had around 80 pupils competing in the Wakefield State Schools athletics championships. This involved 16 state schools across the district, with the strongest athletics performers from each school competing against each other at Thornes Park. The pupils were absolutely amazing on the day, with their independence, determination and self organisation worth a particular mention. The results were also very strong, and are listed below.

Year 7 boys – 1st and winners!

Year 8 boys – 1st and winners!

Year 9 boys – 5th

Year 10 boys – 5th

Year 7 girls – 2nd

Year 8 girls – 4th

Year 9 girls – 2nd

Year 10 girls – 3rd

We were 2nd overall in Wakefield and I'm sure the school will catch Kings one day, but alas this was not the year! Well done to the Year 7 boys team and the Year 8 boys team who won their individual team competitions. Strong mentions must go to Isobel P who broke the Y8 girls' Wakefield Schools 300m record which had stood for almost 20 years, gaining a new time of 43.27s and shaving over a second off the old time. Brilliant work Isobel!

Another big mention must go to Maya S who once again made the West Yorkshire squad to compete at the English Schools in the 800m and who is a leading light in the school's athletics teams. She won the recent West Yorkshire Schools 800m race with a new personal best time of 2.09s, and continues to represent both the school and herself in the most amazing of lights. Well done Maya!

Mariela A in Year 7 took part in the National Schools indoor ski champs on Monday representing Kettlethorpe High School. This was her first time on the gates and in the senior section and did really well coming 7th place. Well done Mariela!

