

Edition 2 | December 2025

We made it! The longest term of the year is drawing to a close and I would like to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together. This time of year often brings to mind the messages of hope, kindness, and togetherness found in festive songs, poems, and stories, whether it's the joy of giving in *A Christmas Carol*, the magic of *The Snowman*, or the cheerful melodies that fill the air. These traditions remind us of the importance of community and care, values that shine brightly across our school.

For many families, Christmas is a time of celebration, and for others, it is simply a welcome pause, a chance to rest, recharge, and spend time with loved ones. Whatever this season means for you, we want every member of our school community to feel valued and included. Our shared values of respect, responsibility, resilience, reflection and kindness unite us all.

And on the note of kindness, we are delighted to share the wonderful generosity of our school community. This year, we raised £3,578 for Children in Need, bringing our total contributions over the past 13 years to more than £120,000 for the charity. In addition, our students and staff have come together to prepare 46 hampers, filled entirely with produce donated by our school community. These will be delivered to local families who may benefit from some extra support during the festive season.

This term has been full of memorable moments. Our Winter Concert 'Magic of the Musicals' showcased the incredible talent and creativity of our students, filling the hall with music and festive spirit. Year 7 have settled in brilliantly, embracing new opportunities and friendships, and their Mission Out trip was a fantastic way to build confidence and teamwork. We were thrilled to see students broaden their horizons on the Paris trip, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Our PE department is delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of our Year 11 boys, who have once again emerged victorious as Wakefield Schools 5-a-side Champions, securing the title for the third consecutive year! Our Year 11 Celebration Evening was a proud occasion, recognising the hard work and achievements of the students who left us in the Summer. And throughout the term, countless rewards have been given out in assemblies, celebrating attendance, effort, progress, and excellence across the school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff for their incredible hard work and commitment. Their efforts, both in and out of the classroom, ensure that our students thrive academically, socially, and personally. It is their passion and professionalism that make Kettlethorpe High School such a special place.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited about the opportunities and experiences that await, new initiatives to support learning, enriching trips, and events that will continue to inspire and challenge our students. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in helping every child at Kettlethorpe High School to be present, to achieve and excel, it is very much appreciated.

Wishing you all peace, joy, and a well-deserved break.

Seasons Blessings

Roisin Paul

Roisin Paul
Headteacher

Uniform

Polite reminder:

- Please delay any plans for new ear piercings until the beginning of the Summer holidays so that they have time to heal before term starts.
- If pupils have their nails done over the festive season they must be removed for the start of the Spring Term.
- At the start of term we will be ensuring that all uniform meets the requirements of our Uniform Policy so if you need to buy new skirts please ensure they are the pleated versions with the school logo, (pupils who choose to wear a school skirt from September 2026 will be required to wear the new pleated school skirt only, even Year 11) and that trousers are not skinny in style.

Diary Dates

| Date | Activity |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday 5 January | School reopens – 8.40am |
| Friday 16 January | Year 11 PPE Results Event |
| Wednesday 21 January | Flu Vaccination Mop Up |
| Thursday 22 January | Year 8 Consultation Evening |
| Thursday 5 February | HPV Vaccinations (Year 8) |
| Thursday 12 February | Year 11 Consultation Evening |
| Friday 13 February | School closes for Half Term – 3.05pm |

'New Year, New Me' Extra-Curricular Challenge

We are encouraging all pupils upon their return in January to try out a new extra-curricular club or enrichment activity. It is also a good opportunity to restart any other clubs or activities which may have fallen by the wayside over the last term. Check our new guide out here and speak to the members of staff in charge should you have any questions: <https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/extra-curricular/> Get involved!

Essential School Information

This term in numbers

- 300+ new Y7s welcomed into the Kettlethorpe High School Community
- 374, 534 positive entries on Class Charts
- 4,805 individual acts of kindness recognised on Class Charts
- A new Pupil Leadership Team established
- Pupil Parliament re-launched
- Best-ever turn out for Y11 Presentation Evening - hundreds of former pupils and their families returning to collect their certificates and special awards.
- A highly successful PPE (mock exam) series allowing current Y11s to demonstrate their 4Rs with abundance
- A brand-new Learning Resource Centre (Library) reopened
- 14 weekly attendance and behaviour prize draws giving away bikes and ear pods donated by local businesses
- £3578 raised for Children in Need
- 46 Christmas hampers donated by pupils and families in school to be delivered to families in our own community who will benefit from them
- 23 completed school trips and visits
- Countless fixtures and sporting events - (many of which we won!)
- 9 Year 7 Lead Transition Ambassadors appointed to support with events, as well as another 228 Year 7 pupils that supported with Open Evening
- 23 pupils have sung for the local community
- 30 pupils involved in the 'Magic at the Musicals' School Production
- 810 100% attendance badges.
- 375 Golden Tickets for attendance
- 166 Year 7 | 124 Year 8 | 148 Year 9 | 121 Year 10 | 166 Year 11 (725) have had 100% attendance for last 4 weeks.
- Lateness has significantly improved since last year, year to date.
- There has been an improvement in attendance to date for 47% of students, with 4% (65 students) improving by over 10% each (average of 21.6% each).



SPARX English data since the beginning of this year.

Year 7:

- Aurora M has earned 67249 SRP points since September (112 hours of reading)
- Bailey F has earned 15084 points (25 hours of reading)
- Kaiden B has earned 12812 points (21 hours of reading)

Year 8:

- Favour B has earned 35199 (since September) 133873 SRP in total (59 hours of reading)
- Lois JF earned 29020 (since September) 47615 SRP in total (48 hours of reading)
- Mia ZN earned 9399 (since September) 38382 SRP in total (16 hours of reading)

Year 9:

- Charlotte S earned 5171 SRP (Since September) 13017 SRP in total (9 hours of reading)
- Ruben D earned 4042 SRP (since September) 15411 SRP in total (7 hours of reading)
- Rose P earned 3962 SRP (since September) 13596 SRP in total (7 hours of reading)

Magic of the Musicals

We held another annual school production here at Kettlethorpe High School but this time it was more of a showcase style event. Pupils performed songs from Annie, 13 the Musical, Frozen and School of Rock as well as some Christmas performances at the end. A huge well done to every single pupil who performed in the show and big thanks to Ms Bebbington-Slater, Mr Griffiths, Miss Bowers and Miss Mills for their hard work behind the scenes!

The pupils who performed were:

Rania, Martha B, Raphael, Alisha, Emily, Aniela, Elianna, Iris, Ivy, Lexi, Olivia, Catherin, Susie, Zuzu, Niamh, Isla, Jasmine, Beth, Isabella, Eve, Emilia, Martha S, Isobel, Ethan, Tommy, Isaac, Austin, Luke & Madison



Educational Visits

In November, our MFL department took more than 40 pupils to Paris, where they enjoyed visiting the city's main attractions, practiced their French language skills, and even spent a memorable day at Disneyland.

We were delighted to receive glowing feedback from the coach company, who praised our pupils as the most well-behaved group they have ever taken on a trip — a true credit to the school.

A huge thank you goes to Mr Williams for organising the visit, and to Miss Norris, Miss Gorton, Mr Newton and Mr Slack for their invaluable support throughout the trip.



Our GCSE Textiles pupils enjoyed a truly creative and inspiring day out at the Knitting & Stitching Show in Harrogate. The event, recognised as the UK's biggest craft show, brought together over 150 textile craft brands and featured more than 200 hands-on workshops, giving students the chance to explore new skills and discover innovative products.

During the visit, pupils had the opportunity to browse exhibitions in the Textile Galleries, showcasing work from talented artists across the UK and were able to see first-hand the quality, colours and textures of fabrics and materials that simply can't be experienced online. They also enjoyed the lively atmosphere of the Live Stage, where sewing and knitting experts shared demonstrations and insights.

The day was not only educational but also hugely inspiring, offering our students a glimpse into the wider world of textile art and design. It was a wonderful opportunity to enrich their classroom learning with real-world experiences, and they returned full of ideas and enthusiasm for their own projects.



Literacy Assemblies

This half term, we held Literacy assemblies where pupils used their dedicated literacy form time to write and prepare speeches, which they then performed to their entire year group. Mrs Paul attended these assemblies and, after hearing them all, selected two speeches; one from 701 JHS tutor group—delivered brilliantly by Adam but put together with input from Evie, Matilda, Leo, Huzaifa, Wikto & Charlotte and the other from 903 PVA delivered wonderfully by Ethan

We are delighted to share with you the speeches:

701

“Good morning, everyone.

Today, my form and I are going to talk to you about something we all feel at some point... the fear of failure.

A lot of us think failing is the worst thing that can happen. But actually, it's okay to fail. Failure isn't about losing. It's really about making a mistake and then learning from it.

You shouldn't be embarrassed when you fail, because everyone fails. And the people around you — your friends and your teachers — are here to help you. Failure is not the end. It's the beginning of a new adventure.

You might have a fear of tests and think you're going to do badly. That is totally normal. When you're nervous, all you can think about is the test. But being nervous doesn't mean you're going to fail. It just means you care. Teachers are here to help you prepare and support you. They want you to achieve higher scores and believe in you more than you might believe in yourself.

Making mistakes is actually the best way to learn. Each mistake shows you what is not right, which helps you find out what is right. So why give up when you lose?

Confidence is really important too. Your mind is powerful, and your imagination can help calm your fears. Even if it takes time, you can build your confidence up slowly. And you can overcome your fear. Sometimes people might doubt you. Sometimes you might even doubt yourself. But that doesn't mean they're right. If you keep pushing, you will get stronger. Failure can't always be prevented, but what matters is what you do after it happens.

*If you fail, you can get back up even stronger than before.
And finally... recovery matters.*

If something goes wrong, you don't have to keep replaying it in your head forever. Learn from it, then let it go. It's in the past. It doesn't decide your future unless you let it.

> Failing does not make you weak.

> Giving up does.

> So next time something feels hard, remember:

> You are stronger than you think.

> Mistakes help you grow.

> And failure is not the end... it's just the start of getting better.

Thank you for listening.”

"The Power of Reading

Good morning everyone. Today, I want to talk to you about something you've all heard about since primary school—but something that many of us still underestimate: reading. Not just reading because a teacher told you to, or because there's homework due tomorrow, but reading as a skill and a habit that can genuinely shape your future. You might be surprised at how much of your world is influenced by literacy, from the games you play to the careers you'll choose.

So, why is reading actually important?

First, reading builds your brain. It strengthens your vocabulary, your memory, and your ability to understand complex ideas. Every time you read—even if it's a comic, a blog, or subtitles on a show—you're training your mind to think more clearly and creatively.

Second, reading gives you power. Seriously. Want to win arguments? Read more. Want to understand the world better? Read more. Want to spot fake news? Definitely read more. Literacy helps you make sense of all the information thrown at you every day, and it helps you make smarter choices.

Next, reading opens doors to new opportunities. Whether you dream of becoming a doctor, a designer, a chef, or a coder, strong literacy skills are essential. Employers look for people who can communicate well, solve problems, and learn quickly—skills that reading builds naturally.

And lastly, reading is an escape. Books allow you to travel to other worlds, experience other perspectives, and explore ideas you might never come across in your everyday life. It's like having a superpower that lets you enter different lives whenever you choose.

So, why does reading matter? Because it empowers you, it grows your mind, and it helps shape who you can become. You don't need to read for hours a day—just choose something you enjoy and make it a habit. A few pages today can build the confidence, skills, and opportunities you'll rely on tomorrow.

Let's make reading not something we have to do—but something we choose to do, for ourselves and for our futures."

Building Resilience

Mrs Shute, Mr Leighton, and Miss Caves accompanied a group of Year 7 pupils, along with one Year 9 pupil, to the climbing wall at Aspire @ The Park in Pontefract. The trip was designed to strengthen essential skills such as resilience, communication, and active listening in a challenging environment.

Through teamwork, encouragement, and determination, every pupil demonstrated growth in these areas and showed how effectively they could apply them in practice. Mrs Shute expressed how proud she was of their commitment and progress — a clear reflection of the valuable skills they are developing both inside and outside the classroom.



Pupil Success

Our Year 8 boys won the Wakefield outdoor 5-a-side tournament against all the other schools in the area in November. The pupils were: Billy-Joe, Thomas, Frankie, Saikou, Darryl & Matthew

They played brilliantly throughout the tournament, winning the final against Freeston on penalties with Billy confidently saving from a Freeston player and then Saikou scoring our winning penalty.

Our Year 11 boys football team are the Wakefield Schools 5-a-side Champions (3rd year in a row, 4th in 5 years). Well done to: Will, Tom, Szymon, Harry, Connor & Kamil.

Amazing effort from our Year 7 boys in a close match as they pulled through for a 1-0 win over Outwood! Really coming together as a squad and lots of smiles! Well done to: Theo, Callum, Marsel, Reuben, Isaac, George, Theo, Ellis, Lincoln, Ebrima & Abdalmoein

Our Year 10 netball team delivered an outstanding performance with a 10–1 win against St Thomas à Becket School. The team showed excellent communication, determination and skill, working together seamlessly both in attack and defence. Beth W was named Player of the Match for her exceptional effort and consistency throughout the game. This result is a fantastic reflection of the hard work and commitment shown by the whole squad in training and competition. Congratulations to all the players — a brilliant achievement and a proud moment for our school!



Safeguarding

If you have an urgent safeguarding concern that requires school support, please email DSL@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Wakefield Safeguarding Children's Partnership number: 03458503503
| Website: <https://www.wakefieldscp.org.uk/worried-about-a-child/>

Any students who have any concerns or worries can access the following organisation: Childline: 0800 1111/www.childline.org.uk.

You may also want to look at the school website for support resources - [Safeguarding - Kettlethorpe High School](#). | [Support – Kettlethorpe High School](#).

Any students who feel that they may be in immediate danger should call 999.

Support Services:

- NHS Crisis Mental Health Support telephone: 111
- Samaritans telephone: 116 123
- Childline telephone: 0800 1111
- Papyrus (Hopeline UK) telephone: 0800 068 4141
- FRANK telephone: 0300 123 6600
- Text 'SHOUT' to 85258 24/7 support
- Online Safety Information - <https://dataprotection.ie/en/children>
- If you require support from the Early Help Team, please visit [Wakefield Families Together – Wakefield Families Together](#) for more information
- Spectrum Wakefield have sporadic opening times around Christmas, for more information please email them on Wakefield.SH@spectrum-cic.nhs.uk

Advice Booklet

We have curated this advice booklet which has an extensive list of available support for both students and parents, please view it by following this link:

[Advice Booklet](#)

Share Your Worries Form

There is a 'share your worries' form on our school website where pupils can share anything they are worried about and this will be picked up by one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads. Pupils must use their Kettlethorpe email address to log in. Link here: [Share Your Worries Form](#)

New devices for Christmas? How to keep children safe

Some of our students may be lucky enough to receive new devices, games consoles and phones for Christmas. Most others will have access to an internet-enabled device, in one way or another. We want to ensure that everyone in our school community has a safe Christmas holiday, online and beyond.

We encourage the positive use of technology at school and often talk about the fun of going online, but we also discuss the scary things that can happen too. So, if your child is getting a new device or will be accessing a shared/existing device over the holidays, have a think about the following, ideally before they access the device/s:

- Have you set up parental controls on your broadband connection to limit access to inappropriate content?
- Have you set up parental controls on the actual device (phone/tablet/laptop/watch etc.)? Please don't assume these will automatically be in place.
- Have you set up controls on the apps/games your child is going to access? Please don't assume these will automatically be in place.
- Have you spoken to your child about any agreed boundaries? E.g. time limits, what sites/apps/games to access (or not), where to leave devices at night, screen-free times of the day etc.
- Have you spoken to your child about what they do online, so you can better understand their online activity and any potential risks, and help them accordingly?
- Have you spoken regularly to your child about what they can do if they see anything online that worries or upsets them?
- If your child uses any social media:
 - o Have you spoken about how people usually only post the best bits of their life, and how a reel is not an accurate reflection of life?
 - o Sometimes people post things that are untrue or misleading to get more clicks and generate more income (e.g. through advertising). Encourage your child to think about who the poster is, what is known about them and what may be their intent for posting.
 - o A lot of social media now includes AI chat bots, and many children use these. Remind your child that these can sometimes provide misleading and unhelpful responses.
 - o Reassure your child that they can talk to you if they are unsure or worried about anything they see.
- Are the games, TV series and films (including on Netflix/Disney+/AppleTV etc.) that your child will access, appropriate for their age? All of these have age ratings linked to their content, not their difficulty. Common Sense Media ([commonsensemedia.org](https://www.commonsensemedia.org)) can help you to know which games/apps/TV programmes are appropriate for your child.

If you need support with any of the above, have a look at parentsafe.lgfl.net for lots of advice and support, including advice about parental controls.

Remember, many children experience harm online as a result of being naturally curious or sociable, or as a result of what other people do or say to them. Consequently, all children can be at risk, and so it is important that we are proactive about the above safety tips for all children.