

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Roisin Paul



January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well and that you enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday period. As we begin the new term, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our students and families. We are excited for the opportunities this term will bring and look forward to working together to ensure every child continues to achieve and excel.

The New Year is a time for making resolutions about how we are going to make the year ahead better than that which has passed. For 2026, our New Year's resolution is to find more ways to acknowledge and reward our pupils and staff for 'being the best they can be.' We would love parents and carers to get involved. Teaching is an incredibly rewarding profession, but it also comes with significant challenges. Our staff work tirelessly to provide the very best education and support for every child, and as we begin this new year, we would love to hear your positive feedback when things go well. A simple message of appreciation can make a big difference and helps us start the year on a positive note. [Messages of Appreciation – Fill out form](#)

Welcoming New Staff

It is with great excitement that we welcome the following new staff to Kettlethorpe High School:

- Mrs Maryam Ilyas – Deputy Headteacher for Inclusion
- Mr Stuart Canning – Premises Manager
- Ms Georgia Whiteside – Teacher of Dance and Performing Arts
- Ms Naghmana Asif – Cover Supervisor
- Miss Tilly Hamlett – Learning Support Assistant
- Miss Jane Fitzpatrick – Careers and Work Experience Leader

Adverse Weather Conditions

As the winter weather sets in, please ensure that students come to school wearing a suitable outdoor coat. Coats should be practical, warm, and weatherproof. Fashion items such as fluffy or non-waterproof jackets are not appropriate for school, as they do not provide adequate protection during cold or wet conditions. Please be mindful of the school uniform policy.

Please also keep a daily check on your communication from school including social media in case of changes to the school day or school closures.

Become a School Governor

We are currently seeking enthusiastic individuals to join our Governing Body. School governors play a crucial role in shaping the strategic direction of the school and supporting its continued improvement. If you are interested in making a positive impact on our school community, please contact the school office for more information.

Year 11 – A Crucial Term Ahead

This final full teaching term is absolutely vital for our Year 11 pupils as they prepare for their GCSE examinations. Every lesson counts, and consistent effort now will make a significant difference to their outcomes in the summer. This can be a stressful time for both students and families, so if you

have any concerns about your child's progress or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We have a wealth of support available, from academic interventions to wellbeing resources, and we are committed to working together to support every pupil through this challenging phase.

New Year, New Me – Extracurricular Challenge

In the spirit of 'New Year's Resolutions,' we are encouraging all pupils to sign up to a new extracurricular club or activity. Have a look online and see what your child can do:

<https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/extra-curricular/> Please speak to the teacher/ department responsible if you have any queries.

School Uniform

We take pride in maintaining high standards, and wearing the correct school uniform is an important part of this. Please ensure your child adheres to our uniform policy, which promotes equality and a sense of belonging. Full details of the uniform requirements can be found on our website, and we appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home.

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is vital for academic success and personal development. Every day in school counts, and we ask for your continued support in ensuring your child attends punctually and consistently. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please notify the school promptly.

Handling Concerns and Complaints

We understand that concerns can arise, and we value constructive dialogue with our families. However, society is increasingly becoming a "complaints culture," and this can have a significant impact on staff time and resources, which are best spent supporting students and improving their learning experience. Before escalating a concern into a formal complaint, we kindly ask parents and carers to consider whether the issue can be resolved informally by speaking with the relevant member of staff. This often leads to quicker and more positive outcomes for everyone involved. If you do wish to make a formal complaint, please ensure you follow the School's Complaints Policy and use the official complaint proforma available on our school website. This process helps us manage concerns fairly, consistently, and efficiently.

School Toilets Update

Unfortunately, some of our school toilets have been affected by collapsing drains due to the age of the building. We are working closely with Yorkshire Water to resolve this issue as quickly as possible and are doing our very best to manage what is a frustrating situation. All toilets are currently in use. Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused to pupils. We appreciate your understanding and patience while we work towards a full and lasting resolution.

Wishing you a prosperous, safe and happy 2026.



Roisin Paul
Headteacher