

Edition 3 | February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable week ahead. This half term has been a short but busy one, and the support you continue to show for our school community is truly appreciated. This point in the year offers a valuable moment to pause, reflect and recharge. As John Dewey so aptly reminds us, *“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”* Our young people have certainly lived this term with curiosity, energy and determination.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our recent parents'/ carers' evenings. Your engagement makes such a difference. I must also offer my apologies to our Year 8 families for not being able to attend your evening personally — my own daughter's Year 11 parents' evening fell on the same night, and for once, I needed to step away from Headteacher mode and be a mum.

As we look ahead, the next term will be the final one for our Year 11 cohort. As they enter this final stage, I am reminded of Nelson Mandela's words: *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”* It's a milestone period filled with opportunity, challenge and excitement, and we are fully committed to supporting each student every step of the way. If there is anything more we can do to help your child feel prepared, confident, or reassured, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Today we say goodbye to Janette Humphreys who has faithfully served Kettlethorpe High School as a Teaching Assistant for the last 30 years. During that time, Janette has supported hundreds if not thousands of students, some of whom are our most vulnerable. On behalf of everyone at KHS, we thank Janette and wish her a very happy retirement. We also say goodbye to Julia Thompson who is leaving us for a life abroad. Again, we thank Julia for her hard work and dedication as a teacher of Mathematics and as a dedicated tutor. We wish Julia all the best for her future adventures.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our staff, whose hard work and dedication continue to shine through. Their commitment ensures that our young people receive the very best each day.

I hope you enjoy reading all the wonderful articles in this newsletter as there is so much to celebrate.

Wishing everyone a refreshing half-term break; Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim community, and we look forward to welcoming all our students back recharged and ready for the term ahead. Hopefully the sun will shine too!

Warmest regards,



Roisin Paul

Headteacher

What is my child learning this term? How can I support my child catch up with any missed learning?

Please consult our KS3 and KS4 curriculum overview documents which summarise what your child is and will be learning this half term in their various subjects. If your child has been absent at any point, or just wants to review their learning at home, each department has uploaded a series of targeted 'Keep Up, Catch Up' curriculum resources to support with this. Simply click the relevant link by subject, term and topic. School email address and password required.

<https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/curriculum/keep-up-catch-up-curriculum/>

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 23 February	School reopens – 8.40am
w/c Monday 23 February	Year 11 PPEs
Thursday 5 March	Year 8 Guided Destinations Evening
Thursday 12 March	Year 10 Taster Day – Wakefield/ Castleford College
Thursday 12 March	Year 7 Consultation Evening
Wednesday 18 March	Year 11 Targeted Parent/Carer Support Evening (by invite only)
Monday 23 March	Spring Performing Arts Showcase
Thursday 26 March	School closes for Half Term – 3.05pm
Friday 27 March	INSET Day

Celebrating Pupil Success

We love sharing and celebrating the achievements of our pupils beyond the classroom. If your child has recently taken part in a sports fixture, performed in drama, dance, or music events, completed music exams, achieved a sporting milestone, or been involved in volunteering or charity work, we would be delighted to hear about it.

We showcase pupil successes on our social media channels, the daily newsflash, in assemblies, and on the school's TV screens. If you would like your child's achievement to be featured, please send a photograph and a brief description of what they have accomplished to socialmedia@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk.

We look forward to celebrating their fantastic achievements.

Essential School Information and the Spring Term so far

The use of our school's Emergency First Aid room during the school day.

Recently, we have observed an increase in the number of pupils visiting the Emergency First Aid room for minor or non-urgent reasons, many of which could be managed without the need for emergency first aid. Whilst we always strive to support our pupils' health and well-being, we wish to remind parents and pupils that the Emergency First Aid room is intended for genuine emergency first aid needs only.

It is important that you are aware that the staff in the Emergency First Aid room are trained to provide basic First Aid only and they are not medically trained professionals. For more serious or ongoing health concerns, we ask parents to seek advice from a healthcare professional. You should inform the school if there is an ongoing concern, or a change to your child's medical needs.

Some pupils visit the Emergency First Aid room with a mild headache or ailments linked to not eating properly (leaving the house without having breakfast) or not drinking enough water. Proper hydration and nutrition are key to helping pupils stay focused and feel well during school hours. Please remind your child to bring their own water bottle to school, drink water regularly, and refill it at break and lunch times to remain hydrated throughout the day.

We will continue to monitor the use of the Emergency First Aid room and you will be informed if we notice that your child is a regular visitor.

Thank you for your support in promoting your child's health and helping us ensure that the Emergency First Aid room is available for pupils who genuinely require emergency first aid.

Performing Arts Exams

Dance and Drama pupils in Year 11 have now completed their final practical examinations and were a pleasure to watch. Well done. The performing arts team now look forward to the Showcase evening on the 23rd March at 6pm. There will be performances from some of the school extra-curricular groups plus some Key stage 4 solos. Letters will be issued to parents of performers in due course.



Number Day

Our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have been busy celebrating Number Day on Friday 6 February. They all participated in a mathematical treasure hunt throughout the day. They've enjoyed assemblies where they've learnt all about different careers where mathematics could take them.

Tutor groups 805 and 701 won their Kahoot tutor time "Mathematics across the curriculum" quiz.

A TT Rockstars battle is still in progress, watch this space!

Battlefields Trip February 2026

Our Battlefields group has returned from an unforgettable and deeply moving visit to Belgium and France, where pupils explored key sites from the First World War and learned about the experiences of those who served.

The trip began at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, once a major casualty clearing station in the Ypres Salient. Pupils visited the grave of Nellie Spindler, a nurse from Wakefield who was killed in 1917, making the experience especially meaningful.

In Ypres, the group visited St George's Memorial Church before enjoying a stop at the famous Leonidas chocolate shop. They also spent time at the memorial to the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, learning about the massive underground mines used during the war and seeing fragments from one of the detonated charges. Pupils explored the early development of chemical warfare and examined some of the first gas masks used on the Western Front.

Day two included a powerful visit to the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, where students handled original artefacts and walked through reconstructed trenches and dugouts to understand the brutal conditions of the battle that cost nearly half a million lives.

The group continued to Langemarck German Cemetery, Tyne Cot Cemetery—the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world—and Essex Farm, where John McCrae wrote In Flanders Fields. At Hooge Crater Cemetery, pupil Lucy was able to pay her respects to her great-great-great uncle.

A highlight of the trip came at the Menin Gate, where Poppy, Lucy, and Matthias took part in the Last Post ceremony, a tradition carried out every night since 1928.

The final stop was Talbot House in Poperinge before the group headed home on the ferry.

This journey offered pupils a profound insight into the human stories behind the history they study, and they represented the school with maturity, curiosity, and respect throughout.



Year 10 Mock Interview Day and Post-16 Opportunities

Over 200 Year 10 pupils took part in our annual mock interview day, gaining valuable insight into the world of work as part of their PSHE Work Experience programme. The event gave students the chance to practise real interview scenarios and develop the confidence and communication skills they'll need for future employment.

We were delighted to welcome representatives from Vico Homes, Heart of Yorkshire Education Trust, National Highways England, Robertsons, Barnsley College, Barnsley Football Club, and Shaw Trust. Their support made the day both inspiring and rewarding. Feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the preparation, enthusiasm, and maturity shown by our pupils.

Year 10 students have now finalised their work experience placements for the summer. Anyone who has not yet secured a placement should speak to Miss Fitzpatrick in the careers office to as we are hosting some work-based learning in school for that week.

Meanwhile, a group of Year 11 pupils visited NEW College Pontefract for an Oxbridge information event. Two of our former students even joined the session as presenters via Zoom. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to explore future pathways and gather valuable guidance as they prepare for their next steps.

Year 11 PPE Results Day:

Year 11 pupils marked an important moment in January as they received their Pre-Public Examination (PPE) results. The day was designed to mirror the experience of collecting real GCSE grades, giving students a realistic sense of their current progress and what they need to focus on in the months ahead.

For many, the results were a celebration of hard work and improvement; for others, they served as a timely reminder of the commitment required as GCSEs approach. Staff and senior leaders were available throughout the day to offer guidance, encouragement, and personalised next steps. Miss Gorton, Head of Year, emphasised that the focus was "not solely on grades but on growth," helping pupils recognise their strengths and set meaningful goals.

The school continues to provide high-quality teaching, targeted intervention, and strong pastoral support to ensure every student feels confident and prepared as the countdown to the summer exams begins. Students have their final round of PPEs w/c Monday 23 February, and we wish all our pupils the best of luck.



Kettlethorpe Students Lead the Way in 'Let It Bee' Sustainability Project

A group of Kettlethorpe High School students were recently celebrated by Vico Homes for their outstanding contribution to the Let It Bee sustainability project. The pupils were shown a video showcasing their creative ideas to promote biodiversity across local communities.

As project pioneers, the students pitched a range of imaginative proposals to a *Dragons' Den*-style panel, impressing judges with their enthusiasm and thoughtful planning. Their suggestions included DIY bird boxes, "plant-a-flower" kits, nature walks, garden competitions, partnership projects, and social media campaigns—all aimed at supporting wild grass areas and encouraging wildlife.

Teacher and project lead Mr Ethan Tindale praised the pupils' passion and commitment and said that they were looking forward to any further collaborations between the school and Vico Homes



Kettlethorpe Featured on BBC News and Look North

Kettlethorpe High School was once again in the spotlight, appearing on both BBC Look North and the BBC national news. The feature focused on the ongoing national discussion around a proposed ban on social media for under-16s.

We were delighted to welcome back Amy Garcia, former Kettlethorpe pupil and now a well-known BBC presenter. Amy returned to school to speak with our students about their views on social media use, online safety and the impact of digital platforms on young people.

A selection of pupils were interviewed on camera, including several who previously took part in the school's mobile phone use experiment. Their thoughtful contributions highlighted the maturity and awareness with which our young people approach the challenges of the online world.



Year 8 Guided Destinations Process Underway

We have now begun the Guided Destinations process for Year 8. Parents, carers, and pupils should have received information from school outlining the next steps. If any pupil feels unsure or would like support, their form tutor should be the first point of contact.

All guidance, subject information and key dates can be found on our school website:
www.kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/guided-destinations

This is an exciting stage in pupils' learning journey and we look forward to helping them make confident, informed choices about their future pathways.

PSHE Sessions

Our PSHE programme has been busy this term with a range of engaging and informative sessions for pupils across the school.

Year 8 welcomed the Smashed Project, who delivered a powerful performance and interactive workshop exploring the dangers of alcohol misuse and the influence of peer pressure. The session encouraged pupils to think carefully about the social and emotional factors behind underage drinking and the real-life consequences it can have.

We also welcomed Spectrum into school to deliver tutor-time workshops for our Year 9 and Year 10 groups. These sessions covered important topics including Relationships and Consent, Contraception, and Sexual Health, helping pupils develop a clear understanding of how to make safe, respectful, and informed choices.

Year 10 Celebrate Success with Bronze CREST Awards

We were delighted to present our Year 10 pupils with their Bronze CREST Award certificates this week. An impressive 221 students achieved accreditation—an outstanding accomplishment for the year group.

The Bronze CREST Award, run by the British Science Association, recognises students who complete a hands-on STEM project by planning, investigating and evaluating their own ideas. It encourages creativity, problem-solving and independent thinking—skills that are highly valued in further study and future careers.



Year 7 Girls Footballers first ever games!

Huge well done to our Year 7 girls football team who played their first ever games this half term in a tournament at Cathedral school. They won 3, drew 1 and lost 2 but Mr Anderson said they all had amazing effort throughout the games and their attitude was outstanding, really representing the school well. Well done girls!



Sports Report: Kettlethorpe High School vs St Wilfrid's Catholic High School

Final Score: 3–3 (Kettlethorpe win 6–5 on penalties)

Kettlethorpe's Year 10 football team kicked off their Wakefield Schools Cup campaign on Friday with a dramatic first-round tie against St Wilfrid's — a match that had everything: goals, grit, late drama, and a tense penalty shootout. (Photos taken by Riley D-M Year 10)

First Half

Kettlethorpe started brightly, controlling possession and creating the early chances. Despite their strong opening, it was St Wilfrid's who struck first, converting a penalty to take an unexpected 0–1 lead. Refusing to let the setback derail them, Kettlethorpe continued to apply pressure. Their persistence was finally rewarded when Toby S found the equaliser, finishing confidently to level the game at 1–1 heading into the break. The goal lifted the team and reflected their dominant first-half performance.

Second Half

The second half began with renewed intensity from St Wilfrid's, who reclaimed the lead with a superb strike from outside the box. Moments later, misfortune struck Kettlethorpe as an own goal from a corner extended St Wilfrid's advantage to 1–3.

With time running out, Kettlethorpe showed resilience and belief. With just six minutes remaining, they earned a free-kick on the edge of the box. Mason G stepped up and curled a beautifully measured effort over the wall and into the corner, pulling the score back to 2–3 and giving his side hope. That belief paid off. Deep into the final minute, Kettlethorpe pushed forward desperately in search of an equaliser. A cross into the box was headed clear only as far as Ted M, who struck a sensational first-time volley from the edge of the area. His effort flew into the far corner, sparking huge celebrations as Kettlethorpe made it 3–3 with only seconds to spare.

Penalty Shootout

With no time left for a winner, the tie was decided from the spot. Both sides showed impressive composure, converting their penalties under pressure. After a series of excellent finishes, it was Kettlethorpe who finally edged ahead, winning the shootout 6–5 and securing their place in the second round.



Important Safeguarding Information

Over the coming weeks, we will be installing *maglocks* on all external doors and on key internal zoning areas throughout the school site. This decision has been made after careful consideration, and forms part of our continued work to strengthen safeguarding and further enhance our emergency and lockdown procedures.

Why this change is important

Strengthening Safeguarding

The safety of our students is always our highest priority. Maglocked entry points will ensure that only authorised individuals are able to access the school building at any time. This significantly reduces the risk of unauthorised entry and provides an additional layer of protection for everyone on site.

Enhancing Lockdown and Emergency Procedures

Although we hope never to need them, robust lockdown procedures are a vital part of modern school safety planning. Maglocked zones allow us to secure areas quickly and effectively, giving staff greater control in any emergency situation and ensuring we can respond swiftly to safeguard students.

Careful Risk Assessment of School Zones

As part of this work, a full risk assessment has been undertaken to ensure that every zoned area within the school has appropriate access to essential facilities. This includes toilets, supervised spaces, and support areas. No student will be placed in a zone without access to the facilities they may reasonably need during the school day.

How this affects students

Your child will still be able to move freely between lesson changeovers under the supervision of staff. Normal routines will continue, and students will be fully briefed on any changes to entry and exit points.

Your support

We appreciate your understanding as we make these important improvements. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and these developments help ensure we provide the safest, most secure learning environment possible.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

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](#)