

Dear Parents/Carers

This term may be short, but we certainly packed a lot in! Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the Spring Term. At Kettlethorpe High School, our Mission, "Together, be the best we can be" sits at the heart of everything we do. It is brought to life through our Vision of pupils being Present, Achieving and Excelling, and through our Values of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Reflection and Kindness. These principles shape the Kettlethorpe Way and, this term, they have been vividly visible in our classrooms, corridors and community. This term has been full of moments that demonstrate the very best of these:

Our Guided Destination interviews with Year 8 went extremely well. It has been a genuine pleasure speaking with pupils about their aspirations and curriculum interests for next year. Their confidence, curiosity and thoughtful decision-making reflect not only ambition but also the reflection and responsibility we are proud to nurture.

We were also inspired by the British Science Week assemblies, delivered by Ms Horn and the Science Team. Their passion, creativity and commitment to sparking curiosity brought science to life and reminded us of our shared love of learning, an everyday expression of our mission to be the best we can be.

Our community values have been equally evident. Mrs Nadeem, supported by staff and pupils, raised over £150 for good causes during Ramadan, demonstrating kindness, respect and unity. We were also delighted to receive a generous sports-kit donation from Wakefield Trinity, strengthening an already positive partnership that is opening new opportunities for our pupils.

Beyond the classroom, pupils have enjoyed rich experiences;

Miss Dyson organised a fantastic KS3 netball tournament, welcoming schools from across the region and giving our pupils the chance to shine, both on the court and through their leadership roles, showing real resilience and responsibility.

Our GCSE Dance pupils enjoyed an inspiring visit to Phoenix Dance Theatre, broadening their understanding of professional performance and encouraging them to aim high and excel.

And our World Book Day celebrations once again brought fun, colour and creativity to school. From Cruella to the Mad Hatter to a team of Where's Wallys, staff and pupils alike embraced the joy of reading with real enthusiasm.

Learning about the world and our place within it remained central to our curriculum. Our Year 7 RE classes welcomed international visitors from Capernwray Bible College, whose stories and cultural experiences enriched classroom learning and supported our values of respect, reflection and kindness.

Finally, I want to give special recognition to our Year 11 pupils. Their maturity, focus and determination during their final set of PPEs have been impressive. We know this can be a challenging and stressful time, and we are incredibly proud of the way they have approached it, truly Present, Achieving and Excelling. We recognise this can be a very stressful time for your children so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns about your child's well-being or progress. We are here to help, guide and support every step of the way.

As we head into the break and the days lengthen, when, as Shakespeare put it, the "darling buds of May" begin to appear, we're reminded of the promise each new season holds. I hope you and your families enjoy a restful couple of weeks, and perhaps even a little sunshine if we're lucky.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to lead a school where Kindness, ambition and curiosity thrive every day—and where, together, we continue to be the best we can be.

Warm regards,



Roisin Paul
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 13 April	School reopens at 8:40am
w/c Monday 20 April	Art/Textiles/Graphics External Task begins
w/c Monday 27 April	Year 11 MFL Speaking Exams
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 7 May	DTP/Meningitis Immunisations – Year 9
Thursday 7 May	GCSE Exam Season begins for Year 11
Friday 22 May	Break Up for Half Term

Uniform Reminder –warm weather

Please be mindful that as we approach the summer months, there is an expectation that pupils will still follow the uniform policy in its entirety.

Also, if your child has outgrown their skirt, please only purchase the new pleated one, as from September this will be the only skirt that will be allowed to be worn.

Thank you in anticipation.

What will we be studying next term?

We are proud of our 5-year broad and balanced curriculum. Whilst at secondary school, it can be difficult to keep up with the many different subjects and qualifications your child follows. Please see our helpful overview document (with linked and clickable resources) so you can discuss what learning your child will be following over the next few weeks in school. You may find the clickable resources useful to help your child catch up on any missed learning or consolidate any tricky topics they may be struggling with in lesson.

- [KS3 Overview](#)
- [KS4 Overview](#)

Extra-Curricular

Please consult our extensive extra-curricular programme and encourage your child to get involved and 'be the best they can be' in other areas such as sport and performing and creative arts amongst many different activities.

- [Extra-Curricular Programme](#)

Give Construction A Try

Year 8 pupils gained a valuable careers experience of the construction industry by attending the annual event at Castleford College- Give Construction A Try. By taking part in various practical craft-based activities: bricklaying, electrical installation, plumbing and plastering and also technical activities: BIM modelling, design, quantity surveying, virtual reality and drone construction tasks; in addition, build and construct team challenges all showcasing the wide range of career paths available. Huge thanks to the highly professional delivery and engagement given from construction employers, for example, Hargreaves, Willmott Dixon, Caddick, Morgan Sindall, Vico Homes, Robertson, Milestone, Tri-Tech, Wates, BAM, Sigma, Illingworth & Gregory and others.

Next Term Just Got Exciting — Here's What's Coming!

As part of our new rewards strategy — and as we wrap up this term and take a much-needed breather — here's a little sneak peek at all the good stuff coming your way next term

The Rewards Shop Is Finally Launching!

Yes, it's happening. Get ready to spend those hard-earned points because our brand-new rewards shop is opening its virtual doors. Keep an eye out for the official catalogue of goodies dropping very soon.

Year 11 Prom

After months of revision, exams and sheer determination, Year 11 will finally get to celebrate their GCSE journey in style. This is your red-carpet moment, and honestly... you deserve it.

End-of-Year Carnival

Our end of year rewards day is returning to the field for an afternoon of games, food, sunshine (we hope) and all the good vibes to officially close out the year. Bring your energy and maybe a hat — we're manifesting excellent weather for this one.

Here's to a term full of fun, rewards and celebrations — stay tuned!

Phoenix Dance

On the March 11, the Year 9 and 10 dance cohorts went on a trip to Phoenix Dance Theatre in Leeds. Pupils took part in a choreography workshop inspired by a solo dance from one of their set works 'Shadows' by Christopher Bruce. The day included a lecture demonstration, live performance and Q and A of the set work. Our pupils were commended for their ability, hard work and enthusiasm on the day. Well done to all involved.

Year 10 explore their futures at college Taster Day

On Thursday 12 March, our Year 10 pupils took part in an exciting college taster day at either Wakefield or Castleford College. Each pupil selected from a range of Vocational and A-Level subjects, giving them a valuable insight into the Post-16 pathways available.

We are incredibly proud to share that all pupils represented the school brilliantly. Staff at the colleges offered glowing feedback, noting that our pupils “got involved in whole-class discussions” and “put lots of effort into the subjects.” Their engagement and maturity made a fantastic impression throughout the day.

This experience has given our Year 10s a great foundation as they begin thinking about their next steps and we look forward to supporting them on that journey.



Boxing News

We're so pleased to share that Alfie S in Year 9 competed in Birmingham last weekend & has won the junior WMO area title.

Poetry Live! – An Inspiring Opportunity for GCSE Students

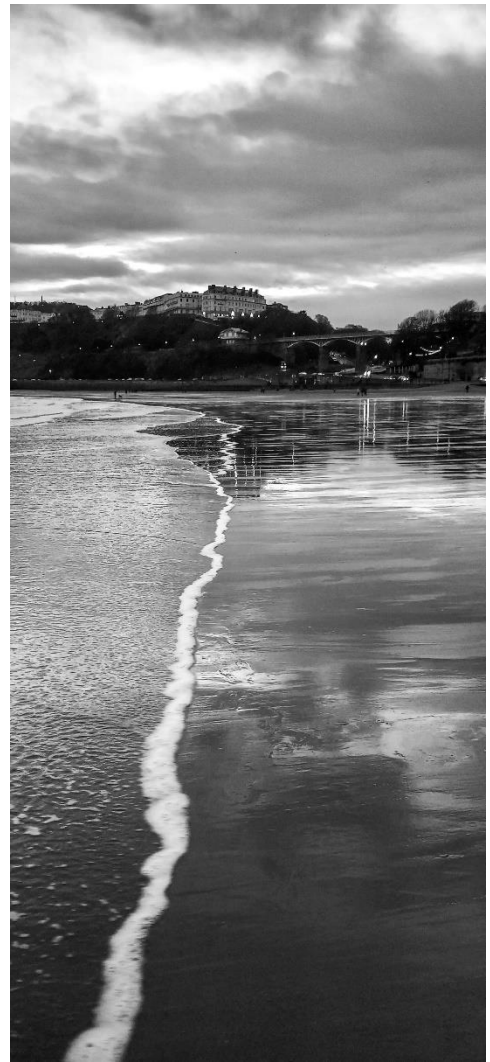
Our KS4 pupils had the chance to attend *Poetry Live!*, a national event that brings together some of the most influential contemporary poets studied at GCSE. Students heard from Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, Liz Berry and Imtiaz Dharker perform their work and discuss the ideas behind their poems.

They also benefited from some excellent guidance from chief examiner Tony Childs, who offered reassuringly clear tips on how to tackle the Unseen question—cue lots of focused note-taking and nods of relief!

This event was an excellent way to bring the GCSE anthology to life and inspire students to engage more deeply with poetry and pupils commented that they found the trip helpful and some left truly inspired by the work with one saying “**I never realised poetry could be so beautiful.**”

GCSE Photography

This year we proudly launched GCSE Photography for our Year 9 pupils following the Excel Guided Destinations route. To mark this exciting addition to our curriculum, the department has produced a set of postcards showcasing two exceptional student photographs. The featured images were captured and edited entirely by the pupils themselves. Congratulations to Rory C-S and Kobi W (both Year 9) for creating such striking and professional-quality work.



Rugby News

The Year 8 boys rugby team put in a brilliant performance during a close game against Woodkirk in the Yorkshire Shield. Showing real character and resilience to never give up right to the final whistle, in a game that could have gone either way, well done boys!

Basketball Success

Well done to our KS3 basketball team who won 26-17 against King's school!

Performance News

Mariela A in Year 8 performed alongside her D-Day Juniors in the outstanding *D-Day Darlings* show at Portsmouth Guildhall, accompanied by the BBC Big Band. Katie, the founder of the D-Day Darlings, is also a former student of Kettlethorpe High, which made the occasion even more meaningful.

The audience included some of the last surviving D-Day veterans, as well as members of the family of Dame Vera Lynn, and Chelsea Pensioner and *Britain's Got Talent* winner Colin Thackeray.

One of the veterans pictured is 102-year-old Alec, who served in the Royal Navy on HMS *Campania*, a ship that played a vital role during the D-Day landings.



Gymnastics Champion

Mailey Brown in Year 9 has been successfully selected on to the Great Britain squad this year in Acrobatic Gymnastics in the senior development category. Mailey has also been given an amazing opportunity to compete in Poland this June representing GB!

Over the past few weeks Mailey has competed at the Pat Wade Classic in Stoke coming away with a bronze medal and the Spelthorne Acro Cup international coming away with a gold medal.





Netball Tournament

Well done to our Netball team for their fantastic performance at the tournament hosted in school on 11th March. The girls demonstrated impressive resilience and brilliant teamwork throughout the event. A huge thank you also to our Sports Leaders for their support with scoring, timing and helping the tournament run smoothly.

Netball News

The Year 8 netball team came third out of 17 in the Wakefield School's tournament. They were fantastic in terms of attitude, behaviour and showed great teamwork! Well done all!

Golf Success

On Tuesday 17th March, ten pupils from Kettlethorpe High School represented the school at the South Yorkshire Schools Golf Competition, held at Wheatley Golf Club. The event saw a strong field of 75 competitors from across the region. All our pupils performed with determination and represented the school with pride. Their final standings were as follows:

- 13th – Harry
- 33rd – Lincoln
- 38th – Kian
- 39th – Harrison
- 48th – Ethan
- 52nd – Anais
- 55th – Jamie
- 60th – Josh
- 65th – Nathan
- 74th – Billy

All participants should be commended for their effort, sportsmanship and positive representation of the school.



Rugby League

In the February half term holiday Poppy in Year 9 trialed for the Scotland rugby league pathway scheme. She successfully completed the trial and earned herself a place on the Girls U14 Scotland Rugby League team.



Rivers Fieldwork

Year 10 Geography visited the Edale Valley to investigate whether 'Grindsbrook follows the Bradshaw Model' (does it behave like a river should?)

The day began with a walk up the valley to reach the river, where students measured a range of river characteristics including width, depth, velocity and sediment size. They tested a variety of fieldwork techniques - with some proving more successful than others. Next term, students will analyse and present their data in lessons before reaching a final conclusion - this will be assessed in the Paper 3 Geography exam at the end of Y11.

The weather was kind on some days and far less kind on others; across the four groups we experienced all four seasons. Students returned to school with plenty of data, several pairs of wet feet, and a strong sense of accomplishment.

Camping Trip

Year 10 Outdoor Pursuits went camping to the Peak District. They had to do an alternative route due to the snow and it was very cold overnight. Mr Leighton reported back that the students were brilliant, well done everyone!



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.

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](#)