

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the welcome arrival of warmer days and longer evenings, there has been a real sense of energy and positivity across our school community this half term. It has been wonderful to see students thriving both in and out of the classroom as we approach a well-earned break. As the saying goes, "Sunshine is the best medicine," and we hope the holiday ahead provides an opportunity for everyone to rest, recharge and enjoy quality time with family, because, as another thoughtful reminder suggests, "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes... including you."

At this important point in the year, I would particularly like to recognise the outstanding way our Year 11 students have conducted themselves during their examinations. Their calm focus, maturity and excellent behaviour have been a real credit to them and to our school community. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Miss Lee and Miss Gorton for their leadership throughout this period, alongside our Year 11 Form Tutors, all Year 11 teachers, Learning Support and the wider Pastoral Team. The collective care, encouragement and support offered to our students has been truly exceptional.

This half term has also brought a number of positive developments across the school. The launch of our Rewards Shop has provided a new and exciting way to recognise students' efforts and contributions, while the new picnic area on the KS3 field is already proving to be a popular and welcoming space during social times. Behind the scenes, we have also invested in important site improvements, including the replacement of several leaking roofs to ensure our buildings are secure and watertight in readiness for the months ahead.

Looking forward to Summer Term 2, we are excited to welcome our incoming Year 6 pupils as part of their transition programme into high school. It is always a pleasure to meet our new students and begin supporting them and their families as they prepare for this important next chapter.

There is much to look forward to in the weeks ahead. Our four-week challenge is already building momentum as we work towards our end-of-year carnival, giving all pupils the opportunity to stay motivated and finish the year strongly. We are also eagerly anticipating the Year 11 prom, which will be a special occasion to celebrate their achievements and their time with us.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support — it makes a real and lasting difference to our school community.

Warm regards,



Roisin Paul
Headteacher

Over the past few years, primary schools locally and nationally have experienced a noticeable decline in pupil numbers, largely due to falling birth rates. This is now feeding through to Secondary Schools.

You may be aware that school funding is directly linked to pupil numbers. This means that, as our intake has decreased, our budget has also been reduced, alongside rising costs in utilities etc. Despite careful financial planning and exploring all possible alternatives, we have regrettably had to make the difficult decision to reduce staffing levels in curriculum areas which are overstaffed and proceed with redundancies.

We recognise that this is unsettling news, and we want to reassure you that this decision was not taken lightly. Our priority throughout has been to protect the quality of education and support for our pupils. We remain strongly committed to maintaining high standards of teaching and learning, as well as ensuring that children continue to feel safe, supported and able to thrive. The work undertaken this year, including these difficult decisions, has been essential in ensuring that the school remains financially secure and sustainable for the years ahead.

We are incredibly grateful for the professionalism and dedication of all our staff, and we are saddened to lose valued colleagues as part of this process.

Please be assured that we will continue to review staffing and provision carefully to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all pupils effectively within the resources available.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Advance Notice: Arrangements for the Last Day of Term Friday 17 July 2026

Pupils will have lunch, register in Period 4 lessons and will be dismissed after getting their mark from 1:15 onwards.

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](#)

Uniform Update

As part of our continued commitment to maintaining high standards, promoting equality, and ensuring that all students feel a strong sense of belonging to our school community, we are writing to outline some updates to our school uniform policy that will come into effect from September 2026.

1. Pleated Skirt

From September 2026, all pupils who choose to wear a skirt will be expected to wear the new pleated version. This skirt has been carefully selected to ensure consistency, durability, and suitability for a busy school day. As your child grows, the waistline can also be adjusted whilst still maintaining the knee length expectation.

2. Uniform Change for Year 9 Students

As part of the transition into Key Stage 4, pupils in Year 9 will now wear the grey jumper from September 2026. This aligns our Year 9 pupils more closely with the expectations and identity of Key Stage 4, helping to support a sense of progression and readiness for the next stage of their education.

3. Footwear Update: Plain Black Trainers

Research into adolescent health indicates that well-fitted, supportive footwear is essential for posture, musculoskeletal development and general comfort throughout the school day. Trainers, when appropriately designed, can:

- Provide adequate cushioning and shock absorption, reducing strain on joints
- Support natural foot movement and posture
- Reduce fatigue during prolonged periods of walking and standing

Therefore, we have made the decision as from September 2026, to allow pupils the choice to wear traditional black school shoes, or plain all black trainers with no obvious logos or branding. (By minimising visible branding, we reduce the unnecessary pressure on families, and it supports our aim of keeping the focus on learning rather than appearance or fashion.)

Final Thoughts

We believe these updates strike the right balance between smart presentation, pupil wellbeing and fairness for all families. Clear and consistent expectations also help pupils take pride in their appearance and represent the school positively. As per our last communication that we sent out, the decision has been made to close the school's uniform shop with effect from June 2026. Kettlethorpe High School has appointed MySchool.Shop as its new uniform provider. All compulsory uniform and sportswear items will be available to purchase via their website: <https://www.myschool.shop/>

Changes to Kettlethorpe High School Mobile Phone Policy

You may be aware of various announcements this year from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding mobile phones in schools ([Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-phones-in-schools)). Earlier this month, the government announced that it will seek to make the guidance statutory. This means it will become law.

The Department for Education's current guidance highlights how phones, especially smartphones, can create distraction and disruption, and increase safeguarding risks such as online bullying during the school day. This is why we will continue to ban use and/or sight of mobile phones by pupils on school site.

Even so, there is much additional debate about whether having phones off and in the bags is sufficient. What is clear, however, is that at Kettlethorpe High School we will be required to adjust our policy on mobile phone usage once the DfE position has become clearer.

In the meantime, we have reviewed and strengthened Kettlethorpe High School's response to the use of mobile phones by pupils on site, especially in relation to taking and sharing images /films of pupils or staff. The changes are outlined below:

N.B the below now applies to all technology e.g smart watches, air pods, speakers etc

Current policy	Policy from June 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First offence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phone confiscated ○ Returned to parent/carer after the next school day (after 3:05pm) 	First confiscation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Device confiscated ● Returned to the parent/carer (after 3.05pm same day/ later) ● Behaviour sanction issued: behaviour point
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Second offence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phone confiscated. ○ Parent meeting required to collect phone 	Second confiscation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Device confiscated & Parent/carer informed ● Device must be collected by a parent/carer from reception (after 3.05pm same day/later) ● Behaviour sanction issued: 40-minute Detention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Third offence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phone confiscated ○ Meeting with SLT/governor required ○ Confiscations are logged on ClassCharts and parents are notified by text. 	Third and subsequent confiscations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Device confiscated ● Parent/carer required to attend a meeting with the Inclusion Manager when convenient for school ● Device to be returned during or after this meeting only, phones cannot be collected before. ● Time-limited smart-phone ban on school site
Serious Breaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Refusal to hand over a phone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removal from lesson ○ Placed in ARC ○ 2-day step out (may escalate to suspension) ● Recording (photo/audio/video) is strictly forbidden without permission ● School can search devices if safeguarding concerns arise and may involve police 	Serious Breaches <p>Refusal to hand over a device will be treated as a serious breach of the behaviour policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removal from lesson ○ Placement in Reset ○ Further escalation, which may include suspension <p>Recording (photo, video, or audio) of staff or students is strictly prohibited and will be treated as a serious safeguarding concern. Any incident of recording on school grounds will result in an instant ban on bringing a smart mobile phone into school. Students may be subject to searches.</p> <p><u>To read the new Mobile Phone Policy, please click here.</u></p>

Rewards Shop Launch

The vast majority of our students consistently demonstrate our school values every day—living out what we proudly call The Kettlethorpe Way. During our recent Headteacher’s Breakfast, students shared some valuable feedback. They told us that those who regularly make positive choices and meet expectations are not always recognised as much as they should be. They also felt that, at times, too much attention can fall on the small number of students who find it more difficult to meet our standards.

We have listened carefully.

In response, we have launched our new Reward Shop, designed to recognise and celebrate students who demonstrate positive behaviour day in, day out. Students can spend their behaviour points each half term or choose to save them for a more significant reward. This is an important step in strengthening our school culture—ensuring that positive choices are consistently noticed, valued and rewarded.

We want all students to understand that every positive choice counts. By arriving on time, working hard in lessons, showing respect to others and following the Kettlethorpe Way, students:

- achieve their full potential
- help create a calm and purposeful learning environment
- earn reward points and access to the Reward Shop
- develop habits that will support them in later life
- act as positive role models for others

Getting it right is not about being perfect—it is about making positive choices consistently.

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 1 June	School reopens at 8:40am
w/c Monday 15 June	Year 10 PPEs begin (for 2 weeks)
Tuesday 16 June	Year 11 Exam Season finishes
Thursday 18 June	Vaccination Mop-Up Session
Wednesday 24 June	Year 11 Prom
Thursday 25 June	Year 6 Small Cohort Transition Day
w/c Monday 29 June	Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 2 July	Year 6 Transition Day and Evening
Thursday 9 July	End of Year Rewards Event
Friday 10 July	End of Year Rewards Event
Friday 17 July	Break Up for Summer

4-Week Challenge – End of Year Rewards Event

Starting Monday 18 May 2026

We are encouraging all pupils to take part in our 4-week challenge, focusing on building positive habits and maintaining high standards.

Pupils who meet the expectations will be eligible to attend our End of Year Rewards Events, taking place on Thursday 9 July and Friday 10 July 2026.

To be eligible for the rewards event, pupils should aim to meet the following priorities:

Priority 1: Attendance

Maintain strong attendance over the four-week period.

Priority 2: Punctuality

Arrive on time to school, tutor time and all lessons (this includes avoiding late marks during the day).

Priority 3: Conduct

Demonstrate positive behaviour and a constructive attitude towards learning.

Important Information

Please note that the school reserves the right to withdraw a pupil's place at the rewards event at any point if expectations are not met. This includes:

- Attendance falling below school expectations
- Behaviour in school or within the community not meeting expectations
- A poor attitude towards learning
- Involvement in any serious incident resulting in a suspension

We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to maintain high standards during this challenge.



STEM Event

In April, a group of Year 9 pupils took part in The Smallpiece Trust's Renewable Energy Day; a fantastic opportunity to put their Science and DT experience into context and think about human impact on climate. Pupils designed and built models of wind, water and solar power stations, and planned the layout of a town, including the impact on habitats and residents, and the cost of building.

Drax Visit

Twenty-five Year 9 students recently took part in the Drax Sustainability Work Experience Programme, giving them a valuable first-hand insight into how a major energy company is addressing climate change and working towards a more sustainable future.

During the visit, students learned about Drax's role in renewable energy production and the steps being taken to reduce carbon emissions. They explored how biomass energy works, the importance of sustainable forestry, and how innovation and technology are being used to support the transition to low-carbon energy. The programme also highlighted a wide range of careers available within the energy and sustainability sector, helping students to link their learning to real-world applications.

The day included a tour of the site, inside and out, interactive activities, and discussions that encouraged students to think critically about environmental issues, renewable energy, and their own responsibility in creating a sustainable future. Students were highly engaged throughout and demonstrated curiosity, enthusiasm, and a growing awareness of how science, engineering and environmental studies connect to future careers.

Overall, the visit was an inspiring and informative experience, helping to raise aspirations, broaden knowledge of sustainability, and support students' understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the renewable energy industry.

The day trip to the site was part of a three-day programme with two of the days involving members of staff from Drax Power Station coming in to school to work with the group.



Rugby News

Congratulations to the Year 10 Boys Rugby team on their excellent 22–4 victory over Hessle Academy in the Yorkshire Shield Rugby League semi-final. It was a fantastic, hard-fought match played in great spirit by both teams. Kettlethorpe eventually pulled away to secure the win. We wish the boys the very best as they go on to represent the school in the final in a few weeks time!



Italy Food Trip

Our recent trip to Italy was a highly memorable and enriching experience for all involved. Pupils arrived safely and settled into accommodation in Sorrento before taking part in a wide range of cultural, historical and culinary activities. Highlights included hands on cooking experiences such as pizza making, gnocchi and traditional desserts, as well as producing gelato and lemon sorbet under expert guidance. Pupils also visited Pompeii, where they explored the remarkably well preserved ruins and gained a deeper understanding of daily life prior to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Educational visits to local olive oil, mozzarella and limoncello producers provided valuable insight into traditional Italian food production. With excellent weather throughout and a full programme of engaging activities, the trip was both educational and thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.



Football Success

The Year 11 football team won the League Trophy on Friday 17 April with a 3-1 victory against Castleford Academy. It has capped off an amazing 5 years for the team as they have won 10 titles over Years 7-11. A great way to finish their time at Kettlethorpe.



Charity Donations 2025/2026

We would like to share the final amounts that we have donated to our chosen charities this year:

UNICEF - £136.60

Wakefield Hospice - £1021.92

BBC Children in Need - £3471.37

A huge thank you to anyone who donated, fundraised or supported our pupils and staff raising this money.

Collaboration with Wakefield Trinity

A group of our pupils have begun taking part in a 12-week intervention programme delivered by Wakefield Trinity Community Foundation. This pathway aims to support pupils in developing resilience in the classroom, understanding the risks around drugs and alcohol, addressing behavioural issues and promoting positive choices. Each session includes an hour of classroom-based learning, followed by an hour of rugby or sports training.

Our girl's rugby team have played their first ever games in a tournament hosted at Kettlethorpe in May. A huge thank you to Jacob from the Community Foundation for being the girls' coach for the last few weeks and for coming down to referee the games. Every player showed real determination and we cannot wait to see them in more upcoming games!



Football News

Huge congratulations goes out to Noah B-S in Year 9 who has just signed a 2 Year contract at Burnley FC. Absolutely fantastic news, well done Noah!



Photography Work

Huge congratulations to Joel S, one of our Year 9 photography GCSE pupils who took part in some work experience taking photos at a Wakefield Trinity home game. The photos have since been shared by the club and some of the players. Fantastic photos, well done, Joel!

Netball News!

Georgie in Year 8 won best mid court player of the year (C) at the EOY South Yorkshire Netball presentation.

A fantastic achievement to be playing for South Yorkshire!

Also played in the U14 Loughborough Lightening tournament on the weekend and was named player of the tournament! Well done Georgie!



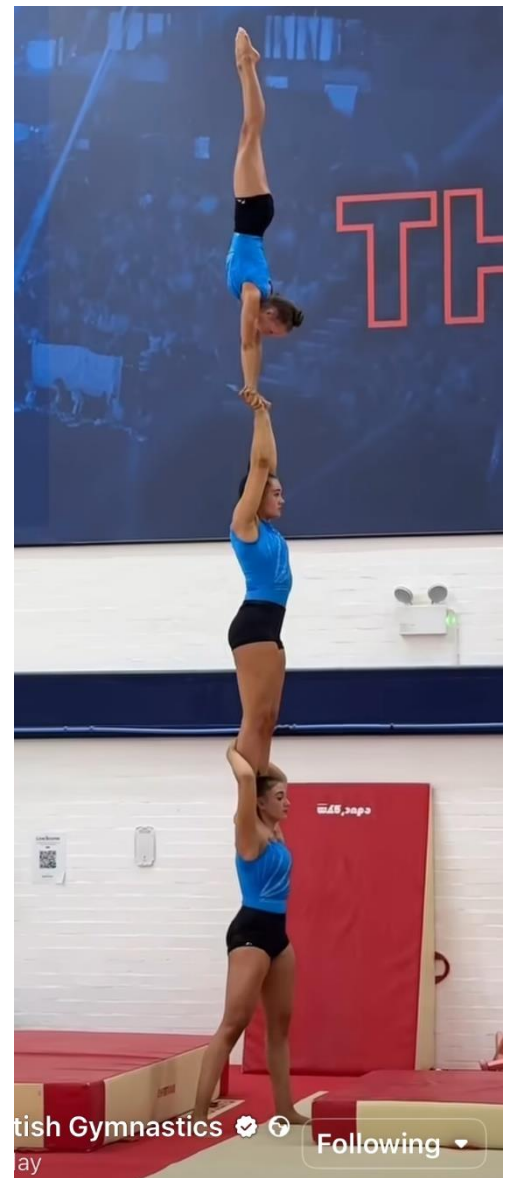
Squash Success Story

Noah in Year 11 participated in an England Squash Silver event, playing up a grade to under 19's and he won! Well done Noah!



Gymnastics Update

An update on Mailey in Year 9 and her gymnastics achievements: She attended the Acrobatic English Championships last month – proudly came away with a bronze medal overall. Earlier this month, attended a second Great Britain training camp at Lilleshall National Sports Centre. She also took part in an incredible Cirque Du Soleil workshop during the camp. And in just a few weeks, she is heading to Poland to compete for Team GB at the Rzeszów International Acro Cup.



Basketball News

Y7 and 8 Basketball beat City Fields 18-9 in the first round of the JrNBA playoffs. Onwards and upwards to the next round.

Well done everyone!



Picnic Area

Due to the recent warm weather, we are pleased to share that our picnic area is now open for Key Stage 3 pupils at lunchtime. This provides a lovely opportunity for pupils to enjoy the sunshine, sit together on blankets, and have their lunch in a relaxed outdoor setting. We hope this space encourages social time with friends while making the most of the warmer days.



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](#)