

A Reflection on Another Wonderful Year at Kettlethorpe High School

As another successful year comes to a close, I am incredibly proud of all that our students, staff and wider school community have achieved together. Throughout the year, our students have demonstrated the values that make Kettlethorpe High School such a special place: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Reflection. Their commitment to learning, willingness to embrace opportunities and determination to achieve their best have been evident every day.

This year has been packed with memorable experiences and achievements. Students have taken part in a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including educational visits to Naples, Belgium and France, exciting Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and a hugely successful Work Experience programme, helping them to develop confidence, independence and valuable life skills. We have celebrated achievements through our expanding Rewards Shop, while events such as our vibrant School Carnival and Year 11 Prom brought our community together and created lasting memories.

Our students have also represented the school with distinction through an extensive programme of sporting events and competitions, demonstrating teamwork, dedication and school pride. The performing arts have continued to flourish, with our talented students impressing audiences through our school productions and performances, showcasing creativity, confidence and teamwork. Whether competing on the sports field, performing on stage, taking part in leadership activities or supporting charitable causes, our students have continued to showcase their many talents and make us proud.

Alongside these opportunities, we have continued to strengthen the quality of education and support available to our young people. This would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, whose commitment extends far beyond the classroom, nor without the ongoing support of our parents and carers. The strong partnership between home and school is essential in helping our students thrive both academically and personally.

As we look ahead to next year, there is even more to be excited about. We will be launching an enhanced Student Leadership Programme, providing greater opportunities for students to shape school life and develop important leadership skills. Our rewards programme will continue to expand, ensuring students' achievements, effort and positive contributions are recognised and celebrated more than ever before.

We are also pleased to be embedding our new Senior Leadership Team, supported by an expanded pastoral team that will provide even greater care, guidance and wellbeing support for students. With a fully staffed team of subject specialists, supported by a range of professionals both within and beyond school, we are well placed to deliver the highest quality educational experience. Students can also look forward to an even wider range of trips, visits and extracurricular activities.

Our vision of Present, Achieving, Excelling remains at the heart of everything we do. We want every student to be fully present in their learning, achieve their personal best and ultimately excel in whatever pathway they choose. Thank you to all of our students, families, governors and staff for your continued support throughout the year. I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to welcoming our community back in September for another exciting chapter in the Kettlethorpe High School journey.

Warm regards,



Roisin Paul
Headteacher

Staff Leaving

As we reach the end of the academic year, we say goodbye to several valued colleagues, both temporary and permanent, who are either retiring or moving on to new positions. The school would like to sincerely thank them for their dedication, hard work, and unwavering support over the years, and we wish them every success in the future. Thank you: Karen Sankey, Sandy George, Harris Vaughan, Eloisa Ridley, Caleb Somerville, Lucy Waterman, Phoebe Cattle, Georgina Couzens, James Wymer, Ed Dyke, Salma Islam, Tilly Hamlett, Gerard Sharkey, Jacob Mayuga, Jill Bell, Georgia Whiteside.

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 31 August	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 1 September	INSET Day
Wednesday 2 September	INSET Day
Thursday 3 September	School opens for Year 7 and Year 11 ONLY <i>School starts at 8.40am. Gates will open to students from 8.15am each day and not before</i>
Friday 4 September	School opens for all year groups
Thursday 17 September	Year 11 Parent/Carer information evening
Thursday 24 September	Year 7 Settling in Evening
Thursday 1 October	Open Evening
Friday 2 October	INSET Day
Wednesday 7 October	Year 7 and 9 photographs by Tempest
Thursday 8 October	Year 9 Settling in Evening

Thursday 22 October	Year 11 Consultation Evening
Friday 23 October	School closes for half term

Uniform

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 develops, 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. We would just like to take this opportunity to remind you that failure to comply with the uniform policy will result in a sanction in line with the school behaviour policy.

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/>

We had our annual KHS Young Dancer of the Year Competition. We were incredibly impressed with the standard of the performances and the variety of styles which pupils chose to showcase. The winners were Beau, Sophia and Iris. Well done everyone one who took part – you really inspired us with each of your performances!



In June, we were delighted to host the heats of our annual Young Musician Competition, culminating in a fantastic final on Friday 12 June.

Our finalists — Rithika, Charlie, Sam, Beth and Ezra — all delivered outstanding performances, showcasing their talent, dedication and musicality. The standard was exceptionally high, making it a very difficult decision for the judges. A special thank you to Ethan, last year's winner, who returned to perform for the audience and present the trophy to this year's champion.

Congratulations to all of our finalists, and a huge well done to Beth, who was crowned Young Musician 2026! We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part!



In the first week of July, we hosted Y6 Induction Day and Evening for our new cohort.

Y7 Induction Day helpers were incredible. The feedback from staff, Y6 pupils, and families was exceptionally complimentary and our pupils really demonstrated what it means to be part of the Kettlethorpe Community.

For the first time on Induction Day, Year 9 Photography pupils were allocated a form group to work with for the morning. They were a huge credit to school and have produced some outstanding photos that we were able to share with Year 6 families, well done!

Year 8 pupils supported Science Induction Activities also, this was a really successful morning and the helpers involved were a credit to school.

A heartfelt thank you to Miss Fitzpatrick for her exceptional leadership in coordinating this year's Year 10 Work Experience programme. Her commitment, organisation and attention to detail ensured the experience was a tremendous success for all involved.

We have received an abundance of positive feedback from employers, who praised our students for their enthusiasm, professionalism, maturity and willingness to learn. Their conduct throughout the placement period was a credit to themselves, their families and our school, and reflected the values we strive to develop every day at Kettlethorpe High School.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the many employers who generously gave their time, expertise and resources to support our students. By providing meaningful workplace experiences, guidance and encouragement, you have helped our young people develop valuable skills, build confidence and gain a greater understanding of the opportunities available to them in the future. Your support has undoubtedly inspired many of our students to think more ambitiously about their next steps and future careers.

Work experience is an invaluable part of a young person's education, helping to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the wider world of work. It is through the dedication of staff, the generosity of employers and the enthusiasm of our students that opportunities like these continue to thrive, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who played a part in making this year's programme such a success.

Rewards Assemblies and Carnival Celebration

We ended the school year with a fantastic four-week Attendance and Behaviour Challenge, designed to encourage positive habits, excellent attendance and high standards right up to the summer break. Pupils who met the challenge earned a ticket to our end-of-year carnival, and what a brilliant afternoon it was!

The school field was transformed into a celebration space, with music, ice cream, pizza and plenty of laughter as pupils enjoyed spending time with their friends and staff. It was a wonderful way to recognise the hard work and commitment shown by so many pupils throughout the half term.

We also held our half-termly Rewards Assemblies, celebrating pupils who consistently demonstrate our 4Rs and Kindness Charter values. Awards were presented for excellent attendance, alongside Progress Leader and Headteacher Commendations, recognising those who have shown outstanding effort, achievement and commitment to school life.

Congratulations to all of our award winners and to everyone who contributed to such a positive end to another successful school year. We are incredibly proud of all that our pupils have achieved.



We were delighted to host the Waterton Academy Trust Young Chef of the Year KS3 final at Kettlethorpe High School in June. Students from across the trust showcased their incredible culinary skills, giving the judges a very tough decision with so many fantastic dishes on display.

A huge thank you to the Trust for entrusting us with the event, and to our brilliant Year 7 and 9 pupils for their support throughout the day.

Student Alumni News

We are delighted to share some fantastic news about several of our former students, kindly provided by NEW College Pontefract.

Thomas Hunter and Lucy Cleveley have both secured offers to study History at the University of Oxford – a remarkable achievement that reflects their hard work, dedication and passion for their subject.

We are also thrilled that Lilah Morrissey has successfully secured an offer to study Medicine and Surgery at Newcastle University, following years of commitment and academic excellence.

We are incredibly proud of Thomas, Lucy and Lilah and wish them every success as they embark on the next stage of their educational journeys. Their achievements are an inspiration to our current students, and we look forward to hearing about their future successes.

We always enjoy hearing about the achievements and experiences of our former students. If you have any alumni news that you would like to share with the school community, please contact our Careers Lead, Jane Fitzpatrick, at jfitzpatrick@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk. We would love to celebrate your successes and keep in touch with where your journey has taken you.



Ethan in Year 8 has had an amazing season with his Wakefield city juniors under 13s team. Winning their division and also the cup in the same season, the only team to do this in their age group. Ethan also received parents player of the year in the team's annual awards night!



Mason in Year 8 has shaved his head to raise money for 'Breast Mates Cancer support group', he has done it in solidarity with his mum who is currently undergoing treatment.

Lis in Year 10 was selected for the England Rugby League Girls Talent Hub. The Girls Talent Hubs are the first step on the performance pathway, and act as one element of identifying girls to progress as a U17 onto the England Diploma in Sporting Excellence Programme.



Well done to our Year 8 Boys athletics team who won the Wakefield school Championships! Well done to Sam C, Lily D, Sydney S, Isobel P, Rebecca A, Dylan H & Lilly C all achieving first place in their individual events.



Kettlethorpe played the second day of the Wakefield Schools Golf Championship on 16 June. Our team of Thomas W, Ollie A and Miles W finished joint second with Rodillian and Ackworth at -5. The eventual winners were the Kettlethorpe team of Anais S, Lincoln L and Harry S who finished on -7. A very successful championship for all schools, with us having the most entries we have ever had. A massive thank you to Woolley Park Golf Club for hosting us and making everything so easy.



Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

Click the link to visit the attraction finder website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings.

<https://summersavings.gov.uk/>

**PLACES KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2026**
moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

ANGUS STEAKHOUSE Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm	MARCO PIERRE WHITE Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend
ASDA Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend	MORRISONS Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend
ASK ITALIAN 2 Kids eat free every day until Sept 6th 2026	PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day
BELLA ITALIA Children eat free Sunday - Thursday	PIZZA HUT Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm
BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE 2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with 1 paying adult	PREMIER INN 2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast
BILLS Kids Eat Free weekdays until September 1 st 2026	PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult
BREWDOG 1 Kid eats free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August	PREZZO Kids up to age 12 eat for £1 during half terms
CAFE ROUGE Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week	PUREZZA Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal
CHIQUITO Kids eat free during all school holidays	SA BRAINS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays
COCONUT TREE Kids eat free Mon 13th July - Sun 6th Sept	SIZZLING PUBS Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm
DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase	TABLE TABLE 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult
FARMHOUSE INNS 2 Kids eat FREE this summer holidays	TESCO Kids eat free every day this summer with a 65p spend
FLAMING GRILL PUBS Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays	TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free until 6 th September (Via App)
FRANKIE & BENNY'S Kids eat FREE during school holidays	THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend
FRANCO MANCIA Kids eat FREE school holidays Mon-Thurs	TRAVELODGE 2 kids eat for £1 with 1 adult breakfast
FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal	TOBY CARVERY Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1 st 2026
GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day	TURTLE BAY Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend via app
HARVESTER Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1 st 2026	VILLAGE HOTELS Kids eat free 20th July - 4th Sept via the village app
HUNGRY HORSE Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays	WHITBREAD INNS 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am	YO! SUSHI Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays
LAS IGUANAS Kids under 12 eat FREE via the App	ZIZZI Kids eat free via app during school holidays

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Wakefield Council and WISENDSS have a helpful telephone service for if your child is feeling anxious about their return to school in September, all the information is on the graphic.

Please see below the flyer for the Central Youth Hub's Happy Healthy Holiday events,

They have organised four activities for young people aged 11–16:

Bowling

Cinema & Pizza Hut

Ninja Warrior

Thornes Park Event

Please note that spaces are limited, so early booking is recommended. You can secure a place using the link:

<http://bit.ly/4ppHAsS>



"Return to school helpline"

Do you have worries about your child's return to school in September?

(e.g. Attendance, Behaviour, Anxiety, SEND, Transition)

Would you like strategies that you could try to help your child?

Would you like to speak to somebody and get advice on what could be done to help?

If you have answered "yes" to any of the above, then the "Return to school helpline" service is available for parents and carers throughout August and September.

We have Educational Improvement Teachers (EITs) available to take your call to listen to your worries, suggest possible support and provide impartial advice.

The EITs are available to take your telephone call on the following dates:

Wednesday 5 th August 2026	10am – 4.00pm
Wednesday 12 th August 2026	
Wednesday 19 th August 2026	
Wednesday 26 th August 2026	
Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	
Wednesday 9 th September 2026	
Wednesday 16 th September 2026	
Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	



Please call the Educational Psychology Service on **01924 307403** and ask to speak to an EIT.

Activities for 11–16 year olds THIS SUMMER

Summer Activities

WF Happy Healthy Holidays

Funded by Department for Education

Wednesday 5th August 2026 - Pizza Hut & Cinema

Wednesday 12th August 2026 - Ninja Warrior

Wednesday 19th August 2026 - Bowling

Friday 28th August 2026 - Thornes Park Event

Activities are FREE for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals



Scan the QR code to find out what's on offer and book a place:



or visit:
eequ.org/happyhealthyholidayswakefield

For more information visit:
<https://www.wakefieldfamiliesaltogether.co.uk/support-for-parents-and-carers/happy-healthy-holidays/>



Home-Start's expert staff and trained volunteers work alongside families just like yours to give non-judgmental, compassionate and confidential support - [Things Home-Start can help you with](#) (could add this to the Home Start Poster)

Family Hubs - Raising a family can come with its challenges – support is available when you need it. Family Hubs provide local, all-age support, advice and guidance to parents and carers from pregnancy to your child being 18 years (up to 24 if there is a SEND need). You can walk-in, email, or call to access support for the whole family. [Family Hubs – Wakefield Families Together](#) (could add with Family Hub locations image)

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](#)