

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. As we reach the end of a fantastic first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff and families for the outstanding start we have made to the new academic year.

We began September on the back of stronger GCSE results, a truly remarkable achievement that reflects the dedication, resilience and ambition of our young people, alongside the unwavering commitment of our staff and the support of parents and carers. We are incredibly proud of everything our Class of 2026 achieved and the doors these results have opened for them.

The new academic year has continued in the same positive vein. Classrooms have been purposeful, attendance has improved across the school, and students have returned ready to learn. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm, commitment and pride in our school community.

One area where we have seen particularly encouraging progress is attendance. We know that attendance matters. Every lesson missed is a learning opportunity lost, and national research consistently shows a strong link between excellent attendance and strong academic outcomes. Whilst we are delighted that attendance is improving, we ask for your continued support to maintain this momentum throughout the year. Even small improvements in attendance can have a significant impact on achievement, wellbeing and future opportunities.

There have already been many highlights this term. We have celebrated students being accepted onto the highly prestigious Eton College Post-16 outreach and application programme, providing them with exceptional opportunities to explore some of the country's leading educational pathways. We have also enjoyed inspirational visits to Leeds University, helping our students raise their aspirations, broaden their horizons and begin thinking about the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

Alongside these achievements, our students have represented the school superbly through sporting fixtures, enrichment activities, student leadership opportunities and charity events. Time and again, they have demonstrated the values that make our school community so special: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Reflection.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the autumn term, we remain focused on ensuring every student is supported to achieve their very best. We have high expectations, ambitious plans and an unwavering belief in the potential of every young person in our care.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are ensuring that our students are not only succeeding today but are developing the knowledge, skills and character they need to thrive in the future.

Warm regards,



Roisin Paul
Headteacher

Opportunities to become a Parent 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. Parent Governors are expected to undertake training and engage in meetings and visits during the school day.

If you are interested in making a positive impact on our school community, please contact headteacher@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 2 November	School reopens
Friday 13 November	Start of Year 11 PPEs
Tuesday 17 November	Flu vaccination (All school years)
Thursday 19 November	Year 10 Consultation Evening
Friday 27 November	INSET Day
w/c Monday 30 November	School Production
Monday 30 November	Year 11 Individual and Whole Cohort Photographs
Wednesday 9 December	Flu vaccination mop up (all year groups)
Thursday 10 December	Year 11 Class of 2026 Presentation Evening
Friday 18 December	School Closes for Christmas

School Uniform

As we approach the half-term break, we would like to remind all parents and carers of our expectations regarding school uniform.

A small number of students have recently been arriving at school without the correct uniform, particularly school ties. Wearing full school uniform is an important part of the Kettlethorpe Way and helps maintain the high standards we expect from all students.

Please can you ensure that your child has a school tie and is wearing it correctly when they return after half term. If a tie has been lost, damaged or broken, a replacement must be purchased during the half-term break so that your child returns to school fully equipped and ready for learning.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that all students return after half term meeting our uniform expectations and are ready to represent the school positively. Together, we can maintain the high standards that are an important part of our school community.

Careers Education and Employer Engagement Update

The start of the academic year has been another busy and exciting period for Careers Education, with students benefiting from a wide range of post 16 college assemblies, the start of our Apprenticeship Academy run by Miss Fitzpatrick, with input from the Department of Work and Pensions and Robertsons Facilities Management, and our Transitions and Mentoring Programmes, with employers (Roberston's FM and West Yorkshire Police) and post our 16 college colleagues.

We have begun our Careers Cafe sessions over lunch time, and we are looking forward to our mini career's fairs supporting our Year 10 and Year 11 Consultation Evenings with apprenticeship employers joining us, such as Mid Yorks NHS, Wakefield Council, Birch Electrical, Robertsons Facilities Management and Production Park who host a lot of the big artists preparing for their tours, and are practically based on our doorstep, showcasing their roles and provision in the backstage industry through their HE provision.

Our Year 11 students have been receiving guidance and support to help them make informed decisions about their next steps, including sixth form, vocational college, apprenticeship and training routes, and our applications sessions have begun in tutor period, supported by the careers team.

We are very excited about our opportunity to join staff from Leeds General Infirmary for their medical conference at the Royal Armouries where a very bespoke schedule has been prepared some of our Year 10 students attending - we are extremely privileged to have this opportunity! We are looking forward to our visit to Huddersfield University in December where 100 of our Year 8's will be experiencing what it is like to study at university; the rest of the year group will be attending in subsequent years.

Preparations are also continuing for work experience and the launch of our Work Experience Job Shop, and the mock interview day in January for our Year 10's. Employer engagement activities are continuing to build, helping our students develop essential employability skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving and resilience. Through partnerships with local employers and organisations, students are gaining a greater understanding of the world of work and the skills that employers value, an example of this is when Menzies Logistics have delivered a masterclass in business in September with more sessions planned, and employers offering to work with our ASDAN students and Childcare Development students to deliver sessions in the curriculum.

A huge thank you goes to all of our employer partners, training providers, colleges and apprenticeship organisations who continue to support our students through assemblies, workshops, careers events and workplace opportunities. Their involvement plays a vital role in helping our young people raise aspirations, explore career possibilities and make successful choices for the future. If any parent/carer has a business or works for a forward-thinking business who would like to support our careers programme, we would be extremely pleased to talk to them: jfitzpatrick@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

And finally, our careers surgeries begin on the 10th of November between 15.10pm and 16.10pm for any parent/carer needing to chat about careers or work experience - in person, by telephone or by a team's call - please use the above email to organise.

We look forward to sharing further careers activities and student successes throughout the year.

Alumni

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 after Kettlethorpe High School.

Geography Trip

Fieldwork is a vital part of the AQA GCSE Geography course, giving students the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to real-world places and issues. This half term, our Year 11 Geographers took to the streets of Pontefract for their Human Geography fieldwork investigation. Armed with clipboards, surveys and data collection sheets, students gathered a wide range of evidence to explore whether housing inequalities exist across different parts of the town.

The weather was on our side, making for several fantastic days of fieldwork and allowing students to collect high-quality data on housing, environmental quality and local services. Back in the classroom, students are now using a range of geographical skills to present, analyse and interpret their findings. Through techniques such as graphs, maps and statistical analysis, they will evaluate the evidence and reach conclusions about the patterns and inequalities they have identified. It has been great to see students engaging so positively with the enquiry process and developing the independent fieldwork skills that are such an important part of GCSE Geography.

Rewards Assemblies

We recently held our half-termly Rewards Assemblies, celebrating students 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 exceptional effort, achievement and commitment to school life.

Congratulations to all our award winners and to every student who has helped make this first half term such a positive and successful one. We are incredibly proud of all that our students have achieved and look forward to seeing their continued success throughout the year.

Outdoor Pursuits Trip

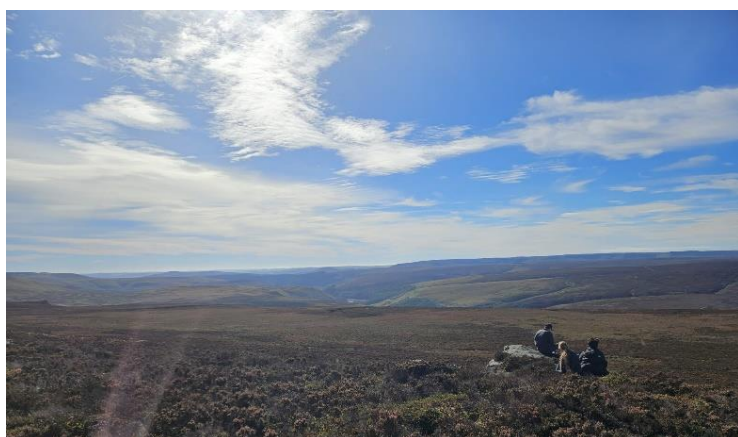
Our Year 10 Outdoor Pursuits students enjoyed a fantastic day walk to Dovestone Reservoir this week, making the most of a dry autumn day in the great outdoors. Throughout the walk, students demonstrated resilience, determination and excellent teamwork as they tackled a challenging climb, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and rising to the challenge with enthusiasm. As well as enjoying the stunning scenery, students developed valuable navigation skills, learning how to read maps, identify their location and successfully relocate themselves using key landscape features. Their positive attitude, effort and willingness to learn were a credit to both themselves and the school. Well done to everyone involved on successful and rewarding days of outdoor learning and adventure.

DofE

During the first weekend in October, our Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Silver students completed their practice expedition.

This was carried out in the moorland around and behind Langsett Reservoir. Even though students were with staff at all times, they were in charge of map reading, group management and route finding, with staff intervention only been used where needed. Students then had to complete a route of approx. 14km on the first day, before camping overnight and cooking their own food, and then completing a route of approx. 16km on the second day. These routes were all walked with full rucksacks, with students carrying everything they needed for the weekend. The skills learnt will be necessary for their actual expedition, which is to be carried out in Hope Valley at the end of June.

All students were a credit to the school, with members of the public and the campsite owners complimenting students on their politeness and all round attitude.



Children in Need 2026

We have officially launched our annual fundraising campaign for Children in Need and are currently planning a week of fun activities and events to help raise money for this fantastic cause. We are working closely with our Student Leadership Team and tutor groups to gather ideas and ensure students have the opportunity to help shape this year's fundraising activities.

As part of our fundraising efforts, we will be holding a Non-Uniform Day on Friday 13 November. Students who wish to wear non-uniform are asked to make a £1 donation, with all proceeds going to Children in Need.

We look forward to sharing more details about the week's activities soon and thank everyone in advance for their support.

Boxing News

Huge congratulations to Alfie S in Year 10 on becoming a two-time Junior English WKA Champion. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to his dedication, determination and hard work.

Alfie's success extends beyond the competition arena. He continues to work hard in school, where his positive attitude and commitment to his studies are regularly recognised by his teachers. We are incredibly proud of all he has achieved and look forward to celebrating his future successes.



Extra-Curricular

At Kettlethorpe High School, we are proud to offer an extensive and diverse extra-curricular programme, providing opportunities for every student to get involved, develop new skills and pursue their interests beyond the classroom. From sport and performing arts to science, reading and creative activities, there is something for everyone. The programme includes opportunities such as football, netball, badminton, science club, book club, homework support, textiles workshops, band rehearsals and art enrichment, alongside many other activities running before school, at lunchtime and after school.

Taking part in extra-curricular activities brings a wide range of benefits. Students can build confidence, develop teamwork and leadership skills, improve resilience, make new friendships and discover new talents. Regular participation can also enhance wellbeing, increase engagement with school life and support academic achievement by helping students develop valuable habits such as commitment, organisation and perseverance.

We encourage all students to explore the opportunities available and challenge themselves to try something new this year. Whether they are looking to improve a sporting skill, express themselves creatively, develop a passion for reading or receive additional academic support, our extra-curricular programme offers a fantastic way to enrich their school experience and make the most of every opportunity at Kettlethorpe High School.

Parents/carers can view the full extra-curricular timetable on the school website: [Extra Curricular - Kettlethorpe High School](#)

Kayaking

Our Year 10 Sports Studies students have been making excellent use of the recent dry weather as part of their classes. Through practical kayaking sessions, students have developed their understanding of the specialist equipment, clothing and technology used within the sport, while also gaining valuable insight into the safe planning and delivery of outdoor activity sessions.

The knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by students throughout these sessions have been outstanding, and both Mr Puxley and Mr Anderson have been highly impressed by the positive attitude shown by all involved.



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 students can share anything they are worried about and this will be picked up by one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads. Students must use their Kettlethorpe email address to log in. Link here: [Share Your Worries Form](#)

SAFEGUARDING SUPERVISION DROP-IN SESSIONS (FOR ALL STUDENTS)

**They're
held ...**

**Monday
12:30-1:05pm**

**Wednesday
12:30-
1:05pm**

**Held in the
DSL Office**

**Kettlethorpe
HIGH SCHOOL**

**Together, be the
best we can be**