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## Newsletter

December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now in the final three weeks of what really has been a super autumn term and one where the pupil body have responded positively to their new learning and the challenges presented to them by teachers. Well done!

**Staffing:** This term we have one member of staff leaving and two members of staff joining school:

- Mrs S Wrightson retiring: Maths teacher who joined the school in 1993. This represents 24 years of teaching at Kettlethorpe High School. We wish her every success in her retirement.
- Mr Jonathan Adamson: Joins the school as Director of Communications from The Rodillian Trust
- Mr Tim Holden: Joins the school for a temporary post in the English Department.
- Mrs L Wood retiring: Admin Office Manager who joined the school in 1993. We wish her a very long and happy retirement.

**Children in Need:** Once again, our school community showed what can be done to support young people who are not so fortunate. Very well done to everyone involved in raising a total of £12279.25. The school had several mentions on BBC Look North on the day as well as seeing Austin Atkinson and Sophie Fedzin being interviewed at the Halifax Piece Hall, on live TV. A great experience for them!

**Year 11:** Well done to the year group for their preparation and efforts with their first set of mock GCSE examinations. Be sure to keep your focus maintained and ongoing over the Christmas break as this will see you benefit next summer. Go for it!

The school's Year 11 leaving date for 2018 will be Friday 15 June. Pupils will be required to be in school for examinations and taught revision until this date. The final examination takes place on Friday 22 June. The Year 11 Prom takes place on Wednesday 4 July 2018 at the King's Croft Hotel, Pontefract.

**Presentation Evening:** This was held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and it was great to see nearly 200 pupils return to receive their prizes and certificates from ex-staff and current staff from the school. We wish them every success with their future career plans and aspirations.

**Christmas Concert:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you join the pupils at this popular event.

**Christmas Jumper Day:** Pupils are allowed to wear Christmas jumpers and/or themed 'decorations' on Wednesday 20 December with a 50p donation going to support local charities and people in need. The school will also serve Christmas dinner on this day for pupils and staff.

**Christmas Hampers:** As in previous years, the school is collecting non-perishable food items in order to support families of our pupils over the Christmas period. This has proved very successful and beneficial in recent years. This year we are looking to make up 20+ hampers for delivery at the end of the term. Any donations or contribution of food etc. can be left at the school reception. Thank you.

**Pupil Behaviour:** The school is very clear about setting and maintaining high expectations for all pupils both in school, in lessons and on site, as well as when travelling to and from school. The vast majority of our pupils are a credit to themselves and their families and continually get it right. Some pupils do present challenges. To date, the school has permanently excluded two pupils this year; one pupil for a drug related matter and the other for defiant and obstructive behaviour. As a school we also use periods of fixed term exclusion and alternative education to deal with pupils who are disrupting the learning and wellbeing of pupils. The messages are pretty clear, get it right and you will be rewarded and if you get it wrong consequences will follow.

**Tim Gregory Astronaut Visit:** Tim appeared on the BBC programme, 'Astronauts, do you have what it takes.' Tim visited school, last week, and gave a presentation to interested pupils who were also involved in a question and answer session. Pupils' feedback was very positive.

**Year 7 Football:** Well done to the 13 girls who took part in the recent 6-a-side tournament at Ossett Academy. Well done for coming third.

**Alastair Haigh Year 10:** Following on from the last newsletter Alastair has been selected for the England U16 Wheelchair Football Team. A great honour. Well done Alastair!

**National Schools' Swimming:** Well done to the following girls who got through to the national championships held recently, at the Olympic pool in London. The freestyle team improved to 12<sup>th</sup> nationally and the medley team got a place in the final 8 teams. Well done to Georgia Lee, Maisie and Lola Yoxall, Sarah Mathur and Megan Warner. Impressive!

**Taekwondo:** Very well done to Elliot Lindley, Year 9, on obtaining his 1st Dan black belt recently. This is as a result of Elliot's hard work and determination over many years. Very well done!

**Ice Skating:** Billy Wilson-French in Year 10 continues to be successful as an elite competitor. Last week he competed in the British Figure Skating Championships and won. He is the current British Solo Champion for his age group. Keep on going Billy!

**End of Term:** School will be finishing on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 1.15pm. Please be advised that this is a very busy afternoon and in previous years we have seen very busy roads as businesses close early for Christmas. Do please check arrangements and also bus timetables etc.

#### **Dates for the Diary:**

<b>Tuesday 19 December 2017:</b>	Christmas Concert: 7pm
<b>Wednesday 20 December 2017:</b>	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
<b>Friday 22 December 2017:</b>	School closes for the Christmas holiday at 1.15pm
<b>Monday 8 January 2017:</b>	School re-opens

The school would like to wish all pupils and their families a very Merry Christmas and also a successful 2018. Enjoy the Christmas break and we look forward to seeing everybody back in school in January.

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

T. Griffiths  
Headteacher