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Newsletter

November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now well underway with the second half-term of the academic year and school continues to be both busy and purposeful. As a school we are privileged to work with very talented and enthusiastic pupils. Increasingly, they are responding positively to the challenges of school life. As such, this does make the school a great place to be.

Remembrance Service: Last Friday, the school had its second remembrance service on the school quiet quad. Pupils involved in youth and cadet groups attended, in uniform, supported by colleagues from school who have been in the armed services. Pupils read out poems and The Last Post was played by Isobel Walsh in Year 8. The whole school then observed a minutes silence.

Wicked: A number of Key Stage 4 pupils spent a day in London, last week, and attended a West End performance of 'Wicked'. This was a particularly special event as the lead character, Elphaba, was played by Laura Pick, a former pupil of the school. The teacher who led the trip said the pupils involved were a credit to our school, as was Laura.

Cycling to School: It is always encouraging to see pupils riding bikes to and from school and making use of the school's bike storage facilities. As the nights get darker can parents/carers check their child's bike has suitable lighting and that a helmet is worn. The wearing of a helmet is a requirement of the school's bike permit. Thank you.

Year 11 Mock Examinations: Pupils in Year 11 are now preparing hard for their mock examinations. Full details of both the examination timetable and additional revision sessions can be found on the school's website. By now Year 11 pupils should have clear ideas about where they want to move on to in terms of post-16 college and guidance is available from the school's careers office. Do please contact Mrs Sharkey if you have any questions regarding progression next year.

School Uniform Consultation: Several years ago the school decided to take on the purchase and selling of school uniform, on site, as the quality and service locally was not good enough. This has ensured a better quality of school uniform and reduced cost to families. The school makes no profit from school uniform sales.

This year we have introduced an 'A' line skirt made by Blue Max Banner. This has proved popular with our new Year 7 pupils. The school is proposing a move to this skirt style only, from September 2018, and to then not allow the Honiton style or any type of stretch lycra skirt. This is because pupils choose to roll these skirts up at the waist to make them shorter. As such, this does not look smart and is not appropriate as school uniform.

The new style skirts will cost between £10 to £15 and, if approved by the Governing Body, will be available from the school shop only.

If you have any observations, comments or thoughts on the choice and style of school uniform skirts can you please contact Mrs J Babbage at school either by letter or email to jbabbage@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk.

The period of consultation will close on Friday 12 January 2018. The Governing Body will then finalise a decision on this matter on Monday 29 January 2018.

Children in Need: This takes place on Friday 17 November and already the pupils across the school are well under way with their individual £10 challenges. Once again, Austin Atkinson, in Year 8, has set himself a personal challenge and is involved in a triathlon event, details of which are on the school website. Also, well done to Sophie Fedzin, in Year 8, who has already collected £415.82. A super effort. BBC Look North will be in school filming on the day and staff/pupils will be in the Look North studio on the day. Very exciting. School will, hopefully, be featured at 8.20pm on Friday night, as well as the normal Look North programme. Friday should, once again be a very special day in school. It is a non-uniform day for all pupils and staff. Go for it!

Coffee Morning: The recent Macmillan coffee morning that was run by a pupil group, raised £130. Very well done to all involved.

The School Newsletter: As we move into new ways of working we are responding to parents' wishes to see the school newsletter emailed out. We currently have over 80% of our school families who have provided us with an email contact address. Do please advise school reception if you are not on the email circulation list. From January all newsletters will be emailed out and copies posted on the school website. A number of printed copies will be made available for collection from reception. Thank you for your support with this new approach.

Pupil News

University of Huddersfield STEM Event: Well done to Mia Morrell and Nell Miles who recently won a competition with their design for a historic/scientific lab coat. The lab coat is featured on the school's website.

Leeds Powerchair Football: Very well done to Alistair Haigh, in Year 10, who plays for the Chariots team in his powered wheelchair in the national championships league. His team have won 5 games with no losses. Alistair has an article featured on the school website. I have had a go in his purpose built wheelchair and will be hoping to get one for Christmas. A lot of fun and more powerful than my car! Well done Alistair.

Swimming: This weekend a team of swimmers are travelling to the Olympic Aquatic Centre in London to take part in the national championships. The Year 7/8 girl's individual medley team are attending as West Yorkshire Champions along with the junior girl's freestyle team. A coach of staff, pupils and parents are travelling down. We wish them every success.

Dates for the Diary:

Friday 17 November 2017:	Children in Need Day: non-uniform
Friday 24 November 2017:	INSET Day. School closed to pupils
Tuesday 19 December 2017:	Christmas Concert: 7pm
Friday 22 December 2017:	School closes for the Christmas holiday at 1.15pm
Monday 8 January 2017:	School re-opens

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

T. Griffiths
Headteacher