



Headteacher: Mr. T. Griffiths, Kettlethorpe Hall Drive, Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL Tel 01924 251605

Newsletter

September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

The school, has made an excellent start to the new academic year and it really is a privilege to work with such talented and enthusiastic pupils as a school community. Our Year 7 entry is the biggest in recent years with 337 pupils, and we wish them every success over their next five years at the school.

New Staff: The school would also like to introduce and welcome the following teachers who also joined the school this month:

- Miss R Boucher: English
- Mr T Greenwood: Maths
- Miss R Hargreaves: English
- Miss F Laffey: Science
- Mr C Lawson: History.

Uniform: Thank you to all families with their support with our school uniform. The pupils look smart and sharp. They really are a credit to themselves, their families and the school community. It also helps to reinforce high expectations in all we do.

Open Evening: This takes place on Thursday 28 September between 4pm and 8pm. This is an opportunity for Year 6 pupils to visit and see the school ahead of preferencing a high school for September 2018. In order to support pupils and staff in both preparing for, and attending the open evening the school will close for pupils at 1.15pm on Thursday 28 September.

Healthy Eating: As a school we encourage pupils to make sensible choices around eating and snacking when in school. This clearly supports your best interests as parents/carers. Can we all work together to prevent pupils from bringing in large bags (bulk) of crisps and pringles etc. as well as large bottles of fizzy drinks. Alternatives are available in school.

On-Site Parking: The school does get very busy at the end of the day as we see 1550 pupils exit. Can we please ask families not to park on the school site at this time (unless picking up a disabled pupil). In addition, please park safely on the public highway and consider pupil safety, for example, parking on a junction which then restricts pupils' sightlines when crossing roads. Thank you for your support with this.

Measles, Chicken Pox, Shingles, and Gastroenteritis: On roll we currently have a pupil who is receiving medical treatment for cancer and could be placed at serious risk if they are exposed to any of the above listed illnesses. If you suspect your child has measles do please contact the school matron immediately. Thank you.

Behaviour for Learning: As a school community that is centred around learning and being safe we make our expectations around behaviour very clear. Pupils who upset others or interrupt the learning for other pupils will be dealt with in line with the school's behaviour consequences. This has been sent to all families in the 2017/18 parent and carer support documentation. Unfortunately, the school has removed 6 pupils on fixed-term exclusions to date because they feel that it is normal to swear at others/staff (over mobile phones) and disrupt learning in lessons. It matters that all pupils are considerate and give their very best.

Planner Concerns: Following the success for the last two years regarding concerns in planners and our expected target of a minimum of 97% attendance of the year, all pupils have been informed of the requirement to have less than 10 concerns over this academic year. Pupils who succeed with this expectation will be able to go on an end of school year reward trip. Those who do not will not be allowed. Over the time we have used this approach we have seen some pupils go from 50 concerns in the year to less than 8. It can be done. Go for it!

Results 2017: At a time of significant change both to the context of GCSE examinations and grading, we are delighted to report improved pupil outcomes for our last Year 11. The overall % pass for English and maths is up 3% to 67% (national 2016 62%) and our English Baccalaureate figure was 21%. The school also saw improved outcomes for our most able pupils with 14 pupils obtaining a '9' (the highest) for maths and 18 pupils gaining 9's in English. We also saw one pupil score all 9's and A* passes; one of only 2050 nationally to do so. Very well done and it has been great to see all our pupils progress onto college courses and vocational pathways.

Parent Governor: The school's Governing Body currently has a vacancy for a parent governor. The Governing Body meets five times over the academic year and works with school leaders to ensure the best future strategic direction of the school. Additional details are available on the school's website and nomination forms can be collected from from the school reception.

Sporting News: Freya Greensmith (Year 10) and Ella Greensmith (Year 8) have both been selected for the England Rugby Development Player Programme following trials last week. Well done girls!

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 21 September 2017:	Y7 Tutor Evening
Thursday 28 September 2017:	Open Evening, school closes for pupils at 1.15pm
Friday 29 September 2017:	INSET day (School closed to all pupils, apart from some Y11 intervention)
Thursday 12 October 2017:	Y11 Consultation Evening
Friday 20 October 2017:	School closes for half-term holiday
Monday 30 October 2017:	School reopens

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

T. Griffiths
Headteacher