



Head's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write this piece I am conscious that in a fortnight's time, our pre-Christmas election will be over and the results will be with us. It feels a momentous occasion, given the ongoing uncertainty over some of the major issues the country is debating at present. It is without doubt a pivotal moment in the lives of our Year 13 students who will be exercising their right to vote for the first time. I'm delighted that the year group will be participating in a hustings event at Southam College next Thursday, where candidates fighting for our constituency (Kenilworth and Southam) from Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem and Green parties will be answering questions posed by the sixth formers. I'm passionate that our young people are aware of their responsibilities as citizens and are ready and prepared to exercise their right to vote so this opportunity is fantastic.

26 of our Sixth Form mathematicians took part in the Senior Maths Challenge last week, accompanied by Mr Moulder. Congratulations to Shane in Year 12 who performed superbly, achieving a gold award and goes through to the next National round; the first student from Kineton to do this. Congratulations too to those who also attained the bronze and silver awards.

Next week we're participating in Global Virtues Week. A week identified by the Stowe Valley Trust as one in which we celebrate the positive characteristics and qualities that make us successful human beings. This year the qualities identified are Solidarity, Strength and Spirit. Mr Bonfield has delivered inspirational and enjoyable assemblies this week and there'll be themed activities in all subjects linked to these virtues. We also continue our preparations for one of the school's unique and much loved annual events, the Christmas Fayre which is being held on Wednesday 11th December.

Finally, Kineton High School is keen to support local community events and has embraced the challenge set by local businesses in the village to participate in the annual Christmas tree trail. There is a book theme this year and I think you'll agree that our transformed Houses with their Harry Potter 'Hogwarts' theme definitely brighten up the entrance to our school. Thank you to Miss Purnell and students from a variety of year groups for creating the decorations. The Christmas Tree trail is on Friday 29th November during the Victorian Evening in the village; do come and join in!

Ms Bridge



Global Virtues Week

2nd - 6th December 2019



SOLIDARITY • STRENGTH • SPIRIT

In lessons we will be looking at:

Art

Designing logos for virtues

Business Studies

Why is team working so highly valued by businesses?

Computer Science

Why might a team approach be useful in coding a new programme?

Design & Technology

Working together to reduce litter

Drama

How does the performance process develop our solidarity?

English

What does it mean to be strong?

Geography

What does solidarity against climate change look like?

History

How have strength, solidarity and spirit been shown throughout history?

Languages

What does learning about other cultures teach us about tolerance?

Maths

Do you believe in infinity?

PE

Team building games

RE

What does it mean to have spirit?

Science

Nobel prize winners and collaboration

DEMOCRACY • THE RULE OF LAW • INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY • MUTUAL RESPECT • TOLERANCE OF OTHER FAITHS AND BELIEFS





Events

Clive Sanders Poetry Workshop

We were lucky enough on Friday 22nd November to have Clive Sanders, a Retired Army Officer now an established poet, leading a workshop to Year 10,12 and 13 students for the 'Never such Innocence' charity.

Our pupils were fantastic and seemed captivated by Clive's talks on his experiences of conflict and how this has influenced his poetry. Clive spoke about various events and experiences, but it was his personal stories about military life in Bosnia, and his moving stories of civilians in a war torn town, that particularly resonated with our students.

All students took part in the workshop and produced outstanding pieces of poetry. Three students; Kai, Noah and Louis have now been selected to represent Kineton at the 'Never Such Innocence'- showcase event at Compton Verney on Friday 6th December. Clive said they were among some of the best he had heard in his role of ambassador – and judge – for the charity. In particular he referred to Kai's poem as "something truly special".

For Sama: A Response by Noah

I dreamt of a sand-stunned ghost town,
Jenga towers of layered grief;
Dreams held there in chasms of air
Blown shattered by a gambling thief.
Today quiet, contented, peace.

Through that long silence she echoes,
The damaged drone of distant death.
Long departed she still bellows
for that shell-shocked nostalgia, a
Screaming vacuum of choking peace.

A parasitic memory
Churns. And crawling with blood-soaked lies
Forgets your cries for freedom.
It is the soul which holds you now -
In very different types of peace

We are together, yet far apart.
I'm sat comfy to view your endless death.
Not there in that sand-stunned ghost town
Crying for you; still I'm at rest.
Safe, protected, naïveful peace.

Though this will flee from my heart.
Tasting someone's pain, viewed not lived.
What's still my greatest suffering
Is Netflix starting buffering.
Here in my home town at peace.

Society is Shattered. Humanity is lost.
On the scales of Lady Justice, does the gain out way the cost?
The safety of the people for which the fearless fighters fought.
The souls that fell in Flanders fields; is this what they fell for?
they fought for all our futures, believing Britons shall never be slaves.
Is this the greatest Britain, that they gave their lives to save?
There's no infantry on our streets, but infants armed with knives,
should the children in our classrooms be prepared to lose their lives?
Rejected, scared and lonely,
a child the age of nine,
death accepts him warmly,
another victim of knife crime.
The battle is just started, 'tis the start of his last fight,
with soothing sighs a mother cries, 'don't go gentle into that goodnight.'
The baby boy bathed in blood, begins his dance with death,
waltzing into darkness as his lungs draw their last breath.
Those who think, this could never happen to me,
I live in the countryside not in the city,
This is just in London. No,
it could be your children's children
sipping air as seconds slip by,
their chest movements getting slower, that gentle fall and rise
you're left Staring into their eyes, where their primal fear resides
you offer your best comforting lies
until that final goodbye, when departure arrives.

We'll find hope in the morning

By Kai

The sun kisses the horizon, a new day has begun,
mourning parents are left grieving for their daughters and their sons.
Day to day youths' lives are lost, it's parents that pay the final cost,
we're in debt to those who've faced agonies
those reunited with their families;
and those, that in peace, are at eternal rest;
it's through loss we're all united, we're brothers in arms in this quest.
We will congregate as a community
we will stand together in unity,
love will be the foundation of our new society.
We will find our humanity,
though the path to peace is treacherous, we won't have to walk alone;
Hope is our beacon, let hope guide our way home.

Events

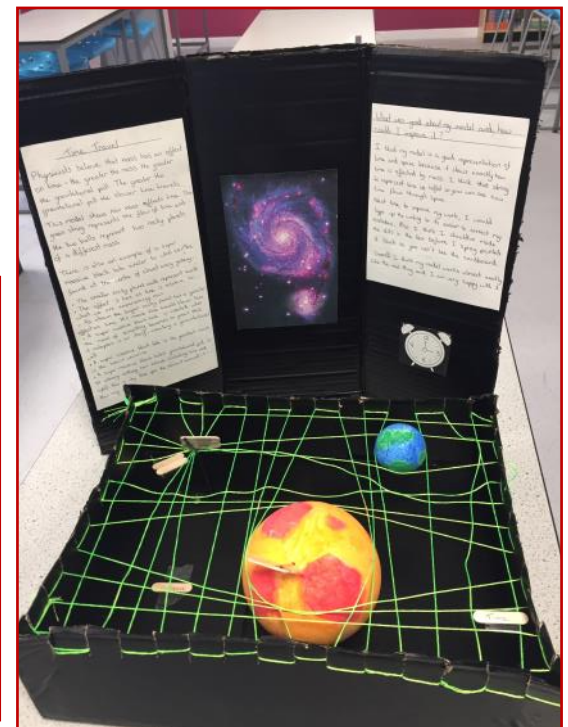
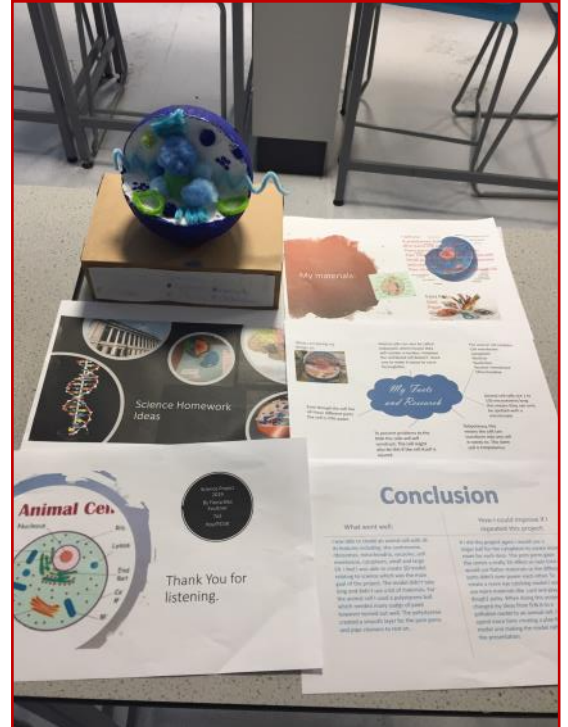
Year 7 Science ILT

Year 7 have recently completed their first ILT in Science. They were asked to produce a model that could be used to teach any aspect of Science of their choosing. They were asked to label their model and explain how it worked, before trying to evaluate the materials they had chosen. Once the models had been brought in, students then took part in a "Science Fair" lesson, where their classmates were able to see each others models, offer praise and constructive feedback, and staff could talk to students about what they had made. Some really pleasing levels were achieved and lots of house points have been awarded for the effort that was put in. Here are some pictures to give you an idea of what students made.





Events



Sports News

Student Achievements

Taekwondo

Congratulations to Zoe in Year 7 who recently did her grading at BBTA Academy and passed; she is now blue stripe 5th kup in Taekwondo. Well done Zoe!



Football



On Tuesday 19th November our Year 11 team played against Shipston. The game was end to end from the first minute to the last whistle with Kineton securing a 3-2 win. Goals: Oliver, Malachy and Alex. Player of the match: Jack

Our Year 7 team took on Champion School on Wednesday 20th November, continuing their fantastic start to the season with a 2-0 win. Goals: Jack and Richie. Player of the match: Brooklyn.

Hockey

On Wednesday 27th November both our Year 7 and Year 8 girls teams played against Sibford with Year 7 winning their match 1-0.



Rugby



On Thursday 21st November Year 10 played against Shipston. It was a great game with Shipston taking the win 29-17. Player of the match: Louis.

Our girls rugby team also played against Shipston on Tuesday 26th November. It was a great game with both sides enjoying themselves and getting stuck in.



On Thursday 28th November our Year 7's played a superb game against Shipston which ended in a well deserved 4-4 draw.



Do follow our PE department on Twitter where you can pick up ongoing news and information:

Students of the week:

- ◆ Riley and Katie in Year 7
- ◆ Tommy and Ben in Year 8
- ◆ Samson and Ellie in Year 9
- ◆ Matthew and Elea in Year 10
- ◆ Shaylanae and Sean in Year 11

Notices:

Social Media

There are plenty of good things about social media but also many risks and things young people should avoid. They don't always make good choices when they post something to a site, and this can lead to problems. So it's important to talk with them about how to use social media wisely. Please see the attached information sheet and websites below for further information.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stayingsafeonline

www.internetmatters.org.uk

www.ceop.police.uk

www.snapchat.com/safety

Forthcoming events:

Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening - Thursday 5th December 4.30-7.00pm
- ◆ Christmas Craft Fayre - Wednesday 11th December 4.30-6.30pm
- ◆ Charity Show - Tuesday 17th December
- ◆ Year 7 Carol Service - Wednesday 18th December
- ◆ Christmas Holiday - Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January - school closed
- ◆ Teacher Training Day - Monday 6th January - school closed to pupils

Do follow us on Twitter where you can pick up ongoing news and information:  @KinetonHighSch

You can also follow our Art Department on Instagram:

 [kinetonhighschool_artdept](https://www.instagram.com/kinetonhighschool_artdept)



What's Good About Social Media

Social media can help:

- stay connected with friends and family
- volunteer or get involved with a campaign, nonprofit, or charity
- enhance their creativity by sharing ideas, music, and art
- meet and interact with others who share similar interests
- communicate with educators and fellow students

What's Bad About Social Media

The flipside is that social media can be a hub for things like [cyberbullying](#) and questionable activities. There are social media sites that allow anonymous comments and allow you to communicate with anyone! Sites like these open up young people to all sorts of dangers.

Concerns and Consequences

Besides problems like cyberbullying and online predators, young people can also unwittingly reveal their location. Many newer apps automatically reveal the poster's location when they're used. This can tell anyone exactly where to find the person using the app.

And photos, videos, and comments made online usually can't be taken back once they're posted. Even when they think something has been deleted, it can be impossible to completely erase it from the Internet. Posting an inappropriate photo can damage a reputation and cause problems years later — such as when a potential employer or college admissions officer does a background check. And sending a mean-spirited text, even as a joke, can be very hurtful to someone else and even taken as a threat.

What Can You Do?

It's important to be aware of what they do online. The key is to stay involved in a way that makes them understand that you respect their privacy but want to make sure they're safe.

Talk to them that it's important to:

- **Be nice.** Mean behaviour is not OK. Make it clear that you expect them to treat others with respect, and to never post hurtful or embarrassing messages. And ask them to always tell you about any harassing or bullying messages that others post.
- **Think twice before hitting "enter."** Remind them that what they post can be used against them. For example, letting the world know that you're off on vacation or posting your home address gives would-be robbers a chance to strike. Teens also should avoid posting specific locations of parties or events, as well as phone numbers.
- **Follow the "WWGS?" (What Would Grandma Say?) rule.** Teach kids not to share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admissions officers, future bosses — and yes, grandma — to see.
- **Use privacy settings.** Privacy settings are important. Go through them together to make sure your kids understand each one. Also, explain that passwords are there to protect them against things like identity theft. They should never share them with anyone, even a boyfriend, girlfriend, or best friend.
- **Don't "friend" strangers.** "If you don't know them, don't friend them." This is a plain, simple — and safe — rule of thumb.



Leave of Absence

During Term Time 2019-20



Student Absence Procedure

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please call the **24 hour Absence Line on 01926 645 611 before 8.50am**, stating their name and form, your name and the reason. This must be done for each day they will be absent.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason other than illness, planned or emergency (part day, full day or multiple days), please always complete a leave of absence form and send it by email to enquiries@kinetonhighschool.org.uk. This form should be used for all appointments (medical, dental, music exams or external sporting activities), holiday requests, religious observance dates and all other reasons or circumstances where your child will be absent from school.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Unauthorised Absence

There are times when children are absent for reasons, which are not permitted by law. Examples of unauthorised absence are parental illness, term time holidays or a family day out. Where there is no explanation for an absence or where the explanation or reason for the absence is considered unsatisfactory absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'.

Unauthorised Absences have to be reported to the Local Authority. The Attendance Compliance Enforcement Team may contact you where unauthorised absence continues to be a problem. Unauthorised absence could result in a Fixed Penalty Fine or other legal action. We are always concerned about the amount of school time pupils miss as a result of term time leave. There is no entitlement to time off during term time. Leave of absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Headteacher in accordance with the school policy as agreed by the governing body.

Leave of Absence forms are available on our website

<http://kinetonhighschool.org.uk/absence-form/>

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with you to enable your child to reach their academic targets and to support their social development. For this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible - we all need to play our part.

It is our policy:

- Only in an exceptional circumstance will term time leave be allowed. Parents/Carers wishing to apply for leave of absence need to fill in an application form well in advance and before booking tickets or making travel arrangements.
- If term time leave is taken without prior permission from the school, the absence will be unauthorised and you may be liable for a fixed-penalty fine or other legal action.
- Please remember that absence for whatever reason disadvantages a child by creating gaps in his/her learning. A good understanding of the work and good progress can only take place when the child is in the classroom regularly and on time.

If you think you have exceptional circumstances please talk to us without delay and before arrangements are entered into or money committed. If exceptional circumstances are accepted the Headteacher will determine how much absence will be authorised. Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

The full Attendance policy can be found under <http://kinetonhighschool.org.uk/information/school-policies/>



Leave of Absence During Term Time 2019-20



The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, Head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire Secondary School pupils recorded 6,651 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring term during academic year 2018/19. This is an increase of 602 on the previous year.