

Head's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the term comes to a close, life in our Kineton community shows no sign of slowing down as you'll see in the newsletter; the Christmas Fayre and Carol Service just two of the highlights of the past fortnight. The added excitement of the election and the activities surrounding it, gave us even more memorial moments.

Before I get too caught up in festive cheer, it has been a massive half-term for our Year 11 students who have undertaken their mock exams, only finishing last Wednesday. They must be congratulated for the way in which they approached these. They were focussed, impeccably behaved throughout and are keen to find out how they got on. The grades will be given out after the holiday in January but the focus remains in lessons this week, where they are going over papers and reviewing responses. Students now have a foundation to build on next term and we'll work closely with them to ensure they do their absolute best in May next year.

Year 13 will be getting their heads down over the holiday in preparation for their mocks in January; though they will inevitably be exhausted from the outstanding work they've done for Charity week and the show they've put on for parents and students. I must say, staff have fully embraced the week and got involved in lunchtime performances throughout; yesterday's 'Dance-off' was certainly memorable.... Mr Bonfield and Mr Davies synchronised their turn on stage to Beyoncé's 'All the Single Ladies'; there were many other highlights (and lowlights!) in this show, enjoyed by a packed hall of students. Look out for more details in the next edition of the newsletter.

Sadly, we say farewell, thank you and good luck to three colleagues at the end of this term: Mrs Darker-Larkings, Teacher of Business Studies who is moving on to new challenges outside of teaching; Mrs Green, Teacher of PE who is also moving to pastures new and finally Jane Rickman, who has served the school for many years as a midday supervisor, cleaner and a past Governor, is retiring. Jane has kindly donated a plant for one of our quadrangles and we thank her for helping us continue to improve our environment!

Finally, I'd like to thank all our parents and carers for supporting the school this term, I wish everyone a very safe, merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We'll see all our students on Tuesday 7th January.

Ms Bridge



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Events

Accelerated Reader Prize Draw

All students who successfully completed five or more Accelerated Reader quizzes this term were entered into a Prize Draw. Congratulations to the nine lucky students who won a book each:

- ◆ Year 7 – Theo, Callum and Matthew
- ◆ Year 8 – Leyla Daniella and Archie
- ◆ Year 9 – Jay, Libby and Piers



Events

Christmas Craft Fayre

One of the unique Kineton traditions is to put on a Christmas Fayre every year in order to raise funds for a charity. Over the last few years it has raised money for Katharine House Hospice in Banbury and we are proud that we've held the award for being the school that annually has raised the most for this important cause.

Of course, it also enables our students to utilise their creative, entrepreneurial skills to decide what to sell; how to make it and to source the materials do so. Every form in the school puts on a stall and this year there was a fabulous selection of artefacts; decorations; nibbles and competitions on display. Teamwork is infectious here and this was certainly epitomised in the evening as it all came together under the skilled supervision of Ms Purnell. The event was supported by Ms Reeder and music students who performed and sung beautifully throughout! Many staff and students worked hard to sell everything on their stalls, a good number raising over a £100.

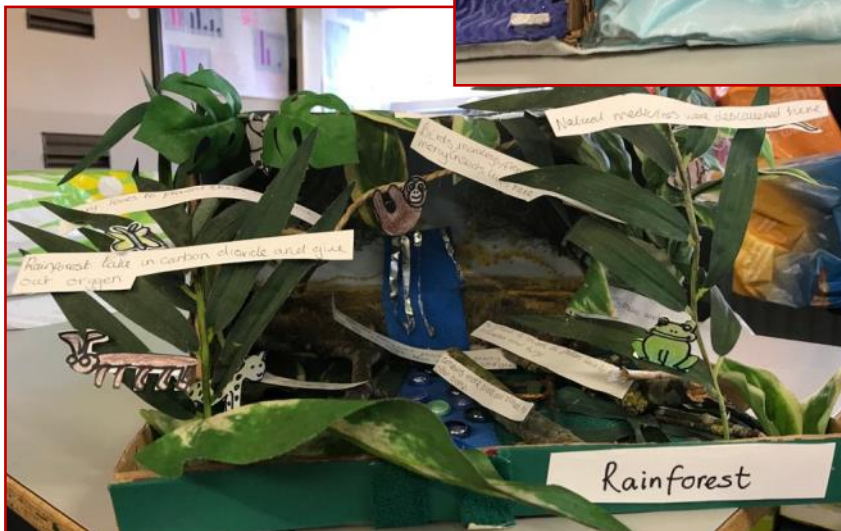
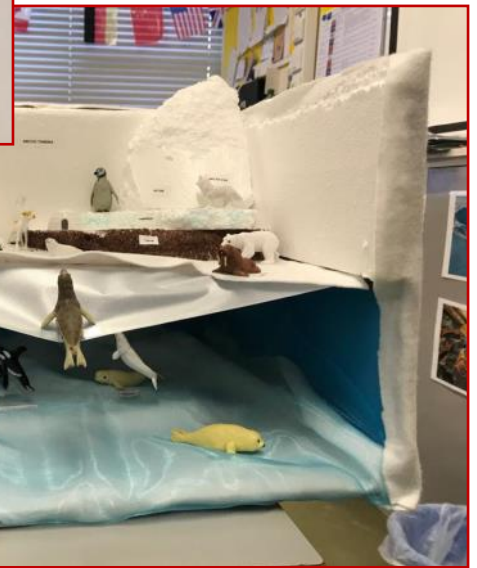
Thank you to all who came and spent the evening with us; our students raised over **£2000** on the night and the running total raised so far is **£2731!** Fantastic achievement by everyone involved.



Events

Year 8 Geography ILTs

Over the last 4 weeks Year 8 have been completing their Geography ILT (independent learning task). They had to create a 'biome in a box' and we are so impressed with the incredible work they have done.



Achieving Personal Best



KHS Update

Volume 2, Issue 6

2nd - 20th December 2019



Stowe Valley
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Events

Key Stage 3 Art Club

This takes place every Wednesday from 2.45 to 3.45pm and all Year 7 and 8 students are welcome. We have had a brilliant turn out this term with about 18 students taking part on a regular basis.

So far this term we have developed drawing skills concentrating on Manga drawings, with great success. We then moved onto Lino printing and students have produced these wonderful Christmas cards, which they will give to family and friends .

We would like to say how proud we have been of these students, they have been a pleasure to teach. Hopefully our A Level students of the future!!

It is our intention to explore clay work after Christmas . We start again on Wednesday 15th January and look forward to welcoming new students as well as existing students.

Thanks Ms Evans and Ms Purnell



Year 9 Lionheart Challenge

Back in the summer our Year 9 students took part in the Valpak Lionheart Challenge as part of our Enrichment Week. Students had to produce the best business idea to support the most vulnerable in the community and Valpak staff formed part of the judging panel. Please click the link below to watch a video of the day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w64iO106Tz4>



Events

Hustings, Mock Election and Any Questions? Debate

We've certainly been getting political over the last couple weeks here at Kineton High School.

Year 13 attended a husting with prospective parliamentary candidates (representatives from the Conservative, Labour, Green and Liberal Democrat parties), hosted by Southam College. Sixth forms students managed to play a key role in the discussion, responding to much of what was said and were very vocal in debate. One student successfully challenged MP Jeremy Wright on his Brexit position, to much applause.

Back at Kineton High School a whole school mock election on the day of the vote managed to capture the many political discussions and arguments that have populated the Sixth Form common room over the last few weeks into a numerical form. Students have definitely been able to engage in political discussion throughout. The Conservatives just managed to win the vote, followed closely by the Lib Dems. Labour plummeted to the bottom: 'That doesn't bode well for Labour tonight' I said when the results of our mock elections came in; perhaps I should have paid more attention to my own words.

Last week we hosted the annual Stowe Valley Trust Any Questions? Debate. A panel of sixth form students from Southam College joined Kineton sixth form and Year 10 students to discuss electoral reform, fake news and the wellbeing of the current teenage generation. A particularly passionate discussion ended afternoon by talking about the problems for students that have resulted from electoral reform. Thanks to all involved.



Events

Warwickshire Secondary Book Award

We are so excited to be taking part in the Warwickshire Secondary Book Award again this year! More than thirty Year 7 & 8 students have signed up and they will be reading six of the most exceptional books published during the last year, meeting up regularly to discuss the books, entering competitions and voting for their favourite. The winner must simply be “a page-turner that pupils would highly recommend to others”.

The majority of Warwickshire’s secondary schools participate each year in the book award, seeing it as a terrific opportunity for pupils to enjoy reading and discussion together. Being part of a county-wide initiative offers real empowerment to the Year 7 and 8 youngsters taking part. Schools regularly report pupils developing a greater sense of confidence and self-esteem through the scheme.

The six awe-inspiring books are:

- ◆ Don’t Stop Thinking About Tomorrow by Siobhan Curham
- ◆ The Gifted, The Talented and Me by William Sutcliffe
- ◆ The Girl Who Came Out of the Woods by Emily Barr
- ◆ Paper Avalanche by Lisa Williamson
- ◆ One Shot by Tanya Landman
- ◆ Mud by Emily Thomas



Trips

Year 12 EES Project Trip to Birmingham University

Day 1:

The first day started off with a registration and safety meeting, briefing the team on what they should expect for the rest of the day. Then we were escorted to the labs where we were introduced to the different technicians who would be assisting us during our work. After being showed to our work bench, we got started with our project, a way of recovering energy through vibrations in a car shock absorber by using the principle of moving a magnet through a coil of wire to produce electricity.

The first thing we did was separate into two teams, Ed and Ollie P would be working on the smaller demonstration model to show the concept works, while Henry and Ollie W worked on the actual shock absorber which would act as a display piece, showing the judges and fellow students how the concept would be put into use. The first day consisted of a lot of measuring and cutting, our plan was to get our dimensions and then try to cut or measure as many as the pieces we would need as possible so that we could assemble it all and clean it up on day 2. By the end of day 1 all the steel pieces for the two stands were measured and cut, the shock absorber was gutted, display windows in the shock were cut and all the pieces for the working demonstration piece were cut. This left us in a great position going into the second day as all we had to do was assemble the demonstration piece, clean up the shock absorber, weld and paint.

Day 2:

Day 2 started off well, we arrived at the labs early and were able to seek the assistance from the technicians as there was no one else there. This meant that we got all our welding done early on and were able to focus our attention on the smaller demonstration piece. We soon soldered and coiled the wire around the PVC pipe and attached the magnets to the wooden dowel meaning all we had left to do was attach the pipe to the stand, position the CAM underneath the wooden dowel and add an end cap to the pipe so that the wooden dowel doesn't accidentally fly out of the top of the pipe. With the demonstration piece now ready for a motor to be added, we could finally add the finishing touches to the display piece, adding a sample of cut coil to the top and returning the shock itself to the body, meaning all that was left to do was paint both stands and attach a motor to the demonstration piece, which we decided to do at home as we didn't need the university's equipment or facilities for those tasks.



Trips

Year 12 & 13 'Physics in Action' at Warwick University

On Wednesday 27th November, Year 12 and 13 Physics students went to Warwick University to attend the 'Physics in Action' event. This day out consisted of a series of lectures by professional physicists, all of whom were specialists within their field. Throughout this event we improved our knowledge in a range of subjects related to the overall topic of physics.

For most of us, the most interesting topics were presented to us by Dr Andrew Steele with superconductivity and they're potential future uses by eliminating resistance in his talk "resistance is futile", and Dr Jen Gupta, the astrophysicist, who talked about the invisible universe and the ways in which we can detect a birthing star. Michael De Podesta had the most engaging lecture and entertained the audience by introducing to us his own set of SI Base Units.

Overall, this trip was very interesting and we all managed to learn more about how physics is applied to the real world.

By Oliver



Sports News

Hockey

Our Year 7/8 Boys hockey team played some fantastic hockey in a tournament with Shipston, Alcester and KES schools, coming away with 2 draws and 1 loss.



Football



On Monday 2nd December our Year 9/10 Girls team played in a tournament with Shipston, Stratford and Shottery schools. All teams played well and enjoyed the event.

Our Year 7/8 Girls team played their first game on Tuesday 10th December. They worked hard and showed great potential.

Wednesday 11th December saw a Year 11 Boys team take a fantastic 8-0 victory against Campion School, meaning they keep their 100% unbeaten record—well done!

KS4 Table Tennis

Our KS4 table tennis team played in a tournament of 7 teams at Shipston on Wednesday 4th December. All played well and Kineton did extremely well, finishing 2nd overall—well done!



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

Students of the week:

- ◆ Hannah and Noah in Year 7
- ◆ Luca and Martha in Year 8
- ◆ Jack and Erin in Year 9
- ◆ Ellie and Oliver in Year 10
- ◆ Edward and Lucy in Year 11

Notices:

Admissions Policy Consultation

On 9th December 2019 Stowe Valley MAT, as the Admissions Authority for all schools within the MAT, has launched a consultation on the Admissions Policy. The policy can be found on our website <http://kinetonhighschool.org.uk/about-us/prospectus-and-admissions/>. Responses are to be sent to: Clerk to the Trust, Stowe Valley MAT, Southam College, Welsh Road West, Southam, Warwickshire CV47 0JW or by email: Clerktotrustees@stowevalley.com by the closing date of 19th January 2020.

PE Department Hall of Fame

Our PE department are creating a Hall of Fame display to share achievements and would like to hear about any students who compete in activities/sports outside of school. Please send any information and a photo to a.sandford@kinetonhighschool.org.uk


Work Experience

Many of the Year 10's have secured exciting work placements for the week commencing 6th July 2020, in line with their Career Aspirations, which is fantastic. Please return the Health & Safety Forms (available in the Curriculum section on school website) after Christmas if you have not done this. If your son/daughter needs further support, please can you let their Form tutor know so we can schedule Mr Perkin, our Work Experience Co-ordinator, to give support, thank you.

Forthcoming events:

Dates from calendar/trips:

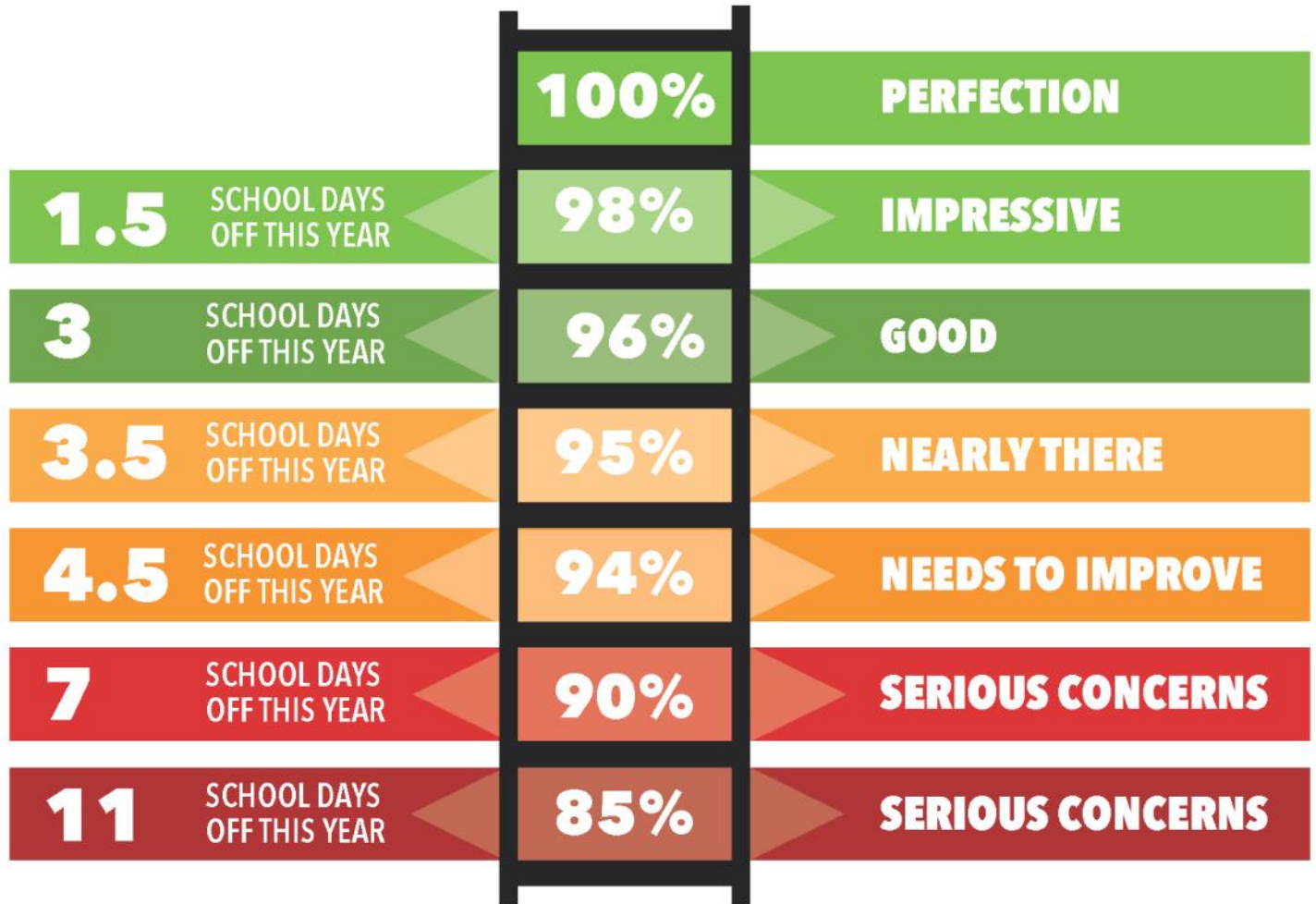
- ◆ *Christmas Holiday - Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January - school closed*
- ◆ *Teacher Training Day - Monday 6th January - school closed to pupils*
- ◆ *Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening - Thursday 8th January 4.30-7.00pm*
- ◆ *Year 13 Mock Exams - Monday 13th to Friday 17th January*
- ◆ *Year 10 performance of DNA - Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th January*

Do follow us on Twitter where you can pick up ongoing news and information:  [@KinetonHighSch](https://twitter.com/KinetonHighSch)

You can also follow our Art Department on Instagram:

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

ATTENDANCE LADDER AUTUMN TERM



Department for Education statistics show that students with 100% attendance are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs at 9-5 including English and Maths than pupils with lower than 90% attendance. Every day and every lesson matters!

'We know parents try wherever possible to not have medical appointments during the school day in order to avoid missed lesson time and a reduction in school attendance. However we appreciate this is not always avoidable, therefore please try to book appointments using student social times, such as between 10.30-12.30am mark which will use break and lunchtime and therefore minimises lost lesson times. This can ensure that students are in school for the other 4 lessons and only missing part of one lesson, rather than losing morning or afternoon lessons. Thank you for your on-going support with this.'





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.