

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our first Update of the year. It's been an incredible few months for all schools as they rode the storm of the examinations season and re-opened their doors to students in September. I am so proud and pleased to say that Kineton High School has had a successful first half term under the new 'covid' climate that we are experiencing. We are blessed with students who have come back to school eager and ready to learn. Many inform me that their experiences working at home were not always conducive to learning and they've appreciated being back.



Ironically, the transition for our new Year 7 to secondary has been made much smoother. They've been able to settle well to secondary life whilst remaining in their year group 'bubble'. We have been so impressed with their attitude and approach in lessons. They have been enthusiastic in joining some of the clubs and



activities that are gradually starting up. Whilst chatting in the dining hall with a number of them this week, I was delighted to hear that some don't even want a half term break as they've enjoyed being here. However, it's been a long half term and they are tired!

Thanks to our additional dining space, and staggered social times the food queues are vastly reduced and social times are much calmer; something we will almost certainly look to retain when we finally go back to 'normality'.

Our teachers have adapted to the challenges of moving around the site; their determination to ensure that students still get a full curriculum and maximising the full hours' worth of lessons has been humbling. There is much to take away from the uninvited circumstance; notwithstanding the use of Teams and how it could really support our delivery of the curriculum going forward. We recognise that our students have needed to refocus and get back into good learning habits and this technology has really helped.

Finally, I wish all of our students, staff and wider community a safe and restful half term break.

Ms Bridge

Deputy Headteacher's message

The return to school has been challenging for everyone and it has been so good to see how well everyone has adapted, settled and got on so well with school life. Nationally there have been and still are huge concerns over the well-being of young people and adults. Here at school it is no different, the services we are able to access are fully stretched but we are always looking for different ways to support the students in school. If you have a concern about your child, please do not hesitate to contact their personal tutor to discuss your concerns. In the short term there are a number of web sites, apps and information from Warwickshire Family Information Service that may help. The most important thing is to be able to talk through problems and to try and understand how they are feeling; the act of talking can provide a solution.



Warwickshire Family Information Service:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>



RISE, links and advice for emotional well-being: <https://cwrise.com/>



We do have to be aware of possible lockdowns in the future and/ or the need to self-isolate. Mr Gowney-Hedges has produced information for parents concerning accessing work over teams. I would just like to remind parents that when at home young people will tend to rely, even more, on social media and being on-line to stay in connected. The dangers of over reliance on these platforms is well documented and the very simple advice I can give you is to talk about on-line use and stress the importance of their safety and responsibility in how they use social media. If you have concerns there are great web sites that give you, as parents, help and advice.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

www.internetmatters.org.uk



Thank you for all of your fantastic support over this term and in these very strange times please stay safe.

Mr Mitchell





Deputy Headteacher's message



It's been 7 weeks now since we welcomed all students back into the academy and staff have been working extremely hard to provide students with the best possible learning experience in the current climate. It's been fantastic to see how well both students and staff have adapted to the circumstances and settled back into many of the classic routines that create the rhythm of the school year.

As we have adapted through the first few weeks, we've been able to allow students back into practical science lessons without jeopardising student (or staff) safety. We've managed to re-locate all ICT lessons into IT rooms and are hoping to get some practical music lessons back into specialist rooms after half term. None of this would be possible without the hard work and flexibility of both the students and the staff at the academy – it's a testament to the community spirit here at Kineton that this is possible.

Nevertheless, it has certainly been a time of change. We're delighted with the way students are engaging with their homework being set online and our first online parents evening (through Teams) proved to be a real success. As more students are becoming adept at using this technology, we are able to test the capacities of the Teams platform further and hope to be able to continue to develop our use of this powerful product to further supplement Teaching and Learning across the academy.

We've been looking carefully at the feedback from our recent online events – thank you to everyone who participated in these. Please see below for some of our responses to the feedback provided:

You said	We did
We'd like to know what the homework policy is at KHS	The homework policy at KHS sets out expectations/processes. This is being updated and will be available on our website after half term.
We'd like to know what our son/daughter is studying and when	Long Term Curriculum plans are available here for all subjects in KS3. We are currently uploading the KS4 and KS5 curriculum plans. This will provide an overview of the topics studied. However, these may be adapted, especially in light of exceptional events eg school closure/ remote learning.
We'd like to know how you are developing your remote learning policy	We've been working hard on developing a blended learning policy which, not only, accounts for remote learning in the case of a lock-down but provides access to learning for any student at home. This is constantly under review and development and will be available on our website after half term.

Mr Gowney-Hedges

From the Art Department

The Art department are so pleased with the work that has been produced this half term, especially under the tricky circumstances! The students have been really creative, keen and shown such resilience. We would really like to see as many different students in our afterschool clubs that fully start the week after the half term break. They are as follows;

- ◆ Tuesdays - Year 9 Sketchbook Skills & Catch up sessions in room 55
- ◆ Wednesdays - Year 7 - 2D Art club in room 55
- ◆ Wednesdays - Year 8 - 3D Art club in room 33
- ◆ Thursdays – Year 11 Art Masterclass in room in room 27
- ◆ Thursdays – Year 11 Art catch up sessions in room 33

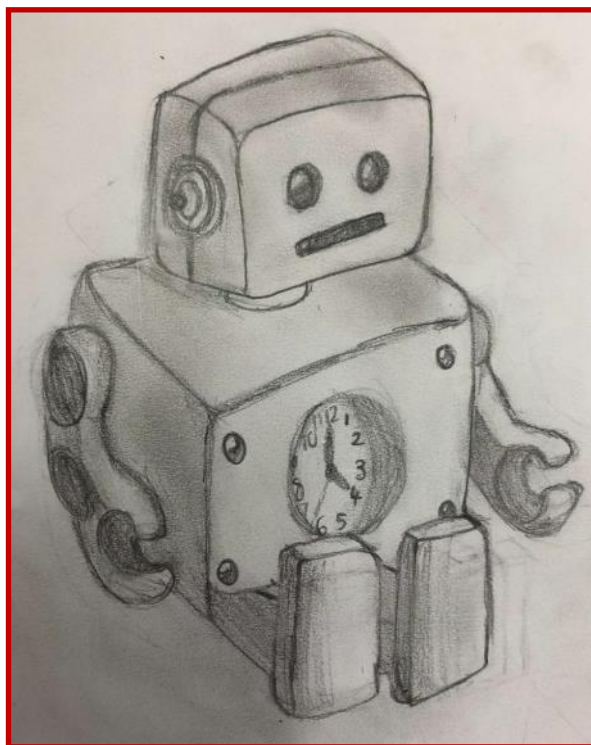
Here are some examples of the excellent work that students have produced this half term. For an online gallery, please follow us on Instagram:



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

The Art Department

Year 7

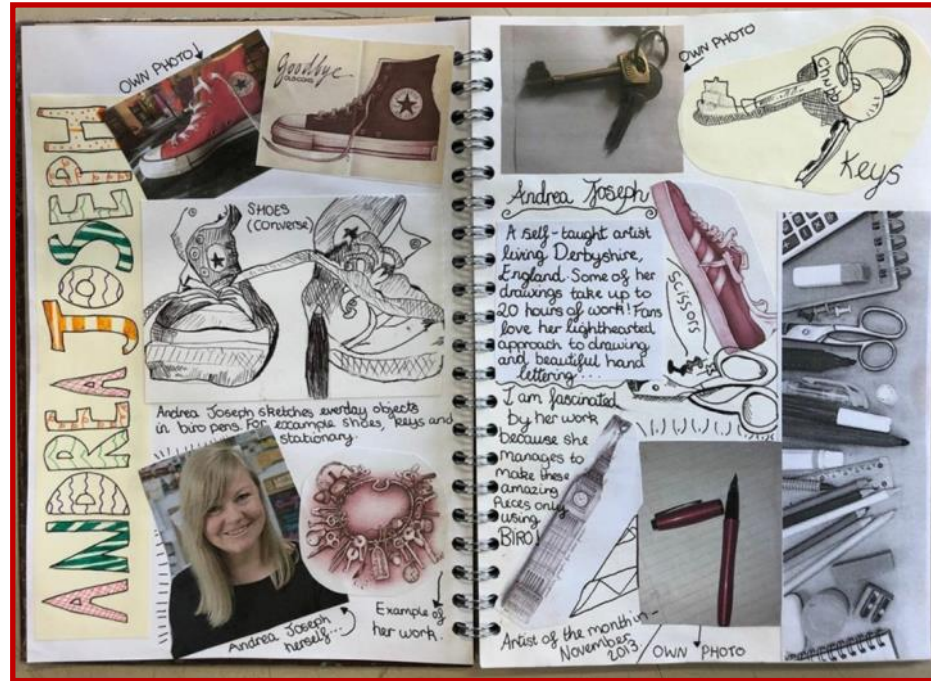


Year 8

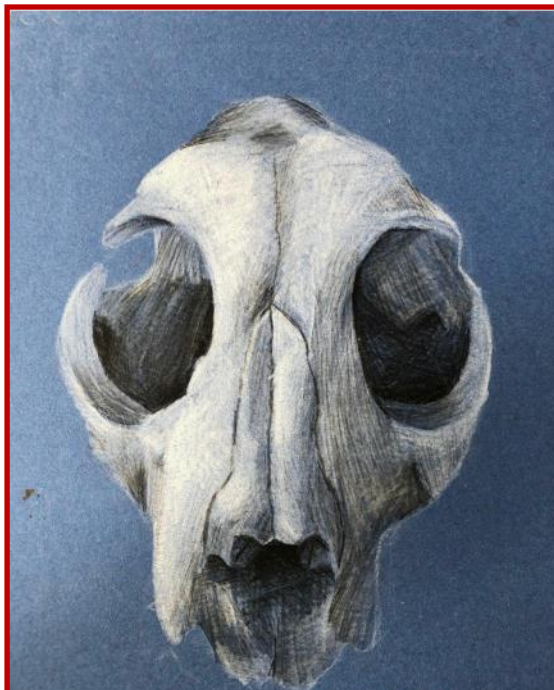


From the Art Department

Year 9



Year 10

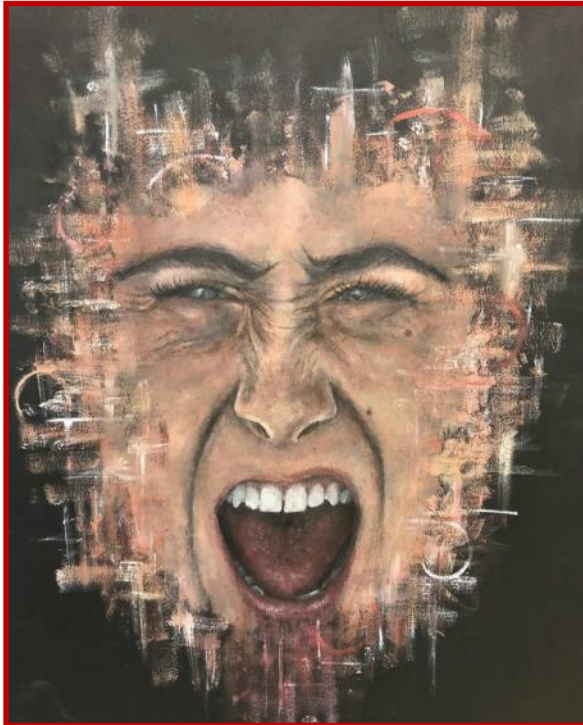


Year 11



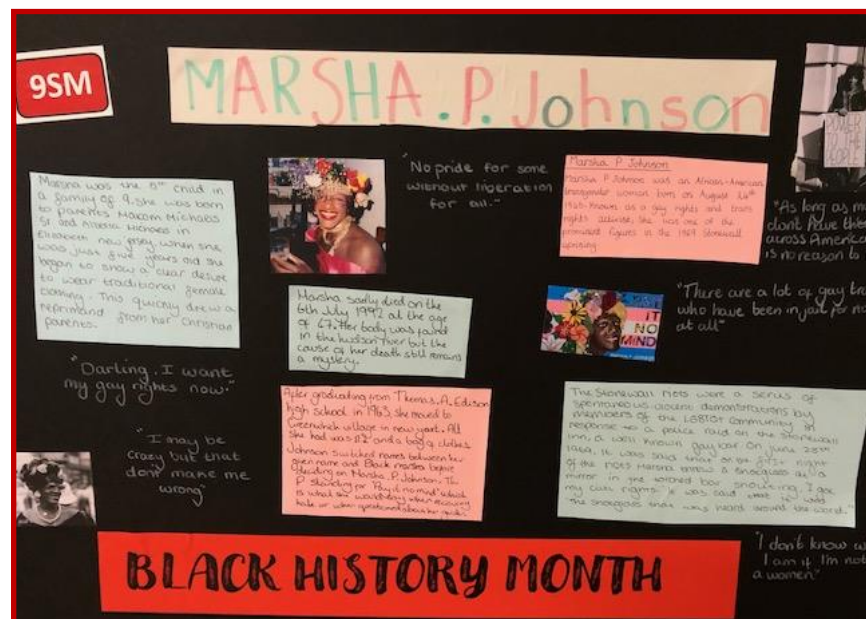
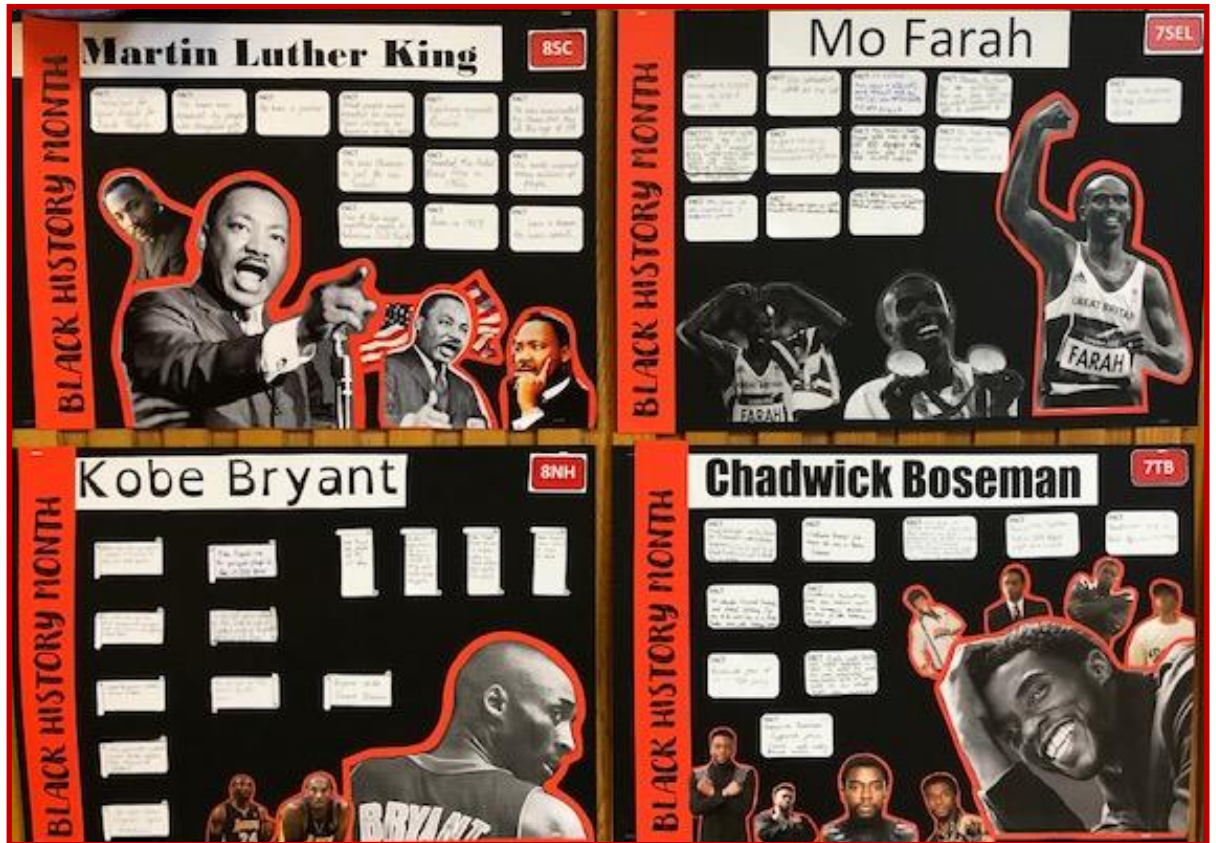
From the Art Department

A Level



Black History Month

During October, form groups were set the task of researching and presenting facts about famous people in Black history. These are all displayed in our hall, below are some examples.



Library News

Although the Library cannot open fully at the moment, we are pleased that we can still offer books to all our students, even if only by 'Click & Select'. All they need to do is email our Librarian Mrs Johnson cjohnson@kinetonhighschool.org.uk with their book requests and she will deliver them to the students' form rooms. The Library catalogue is available in school via Sharepoint if they need inspiration. Book returns can simply be placed in the box inside the library door and they are quarantined for the recommended 72 hours.

Library lessons have resumed for Years 7, 8 and 9, so that once a fortnight students can come to the Library for a lovely, relaxing read, choose new books and take Accelerated Reader quizzes. Chairs are all forward facing and well spaced out with plenty of sanitiser available to keep everyone safe.

Accelerated Reader

Star Testing for KS3 is almost complete, giving us a clear indication of students' reading ages and the level of books they need to be reading to ensure good progress. Parents can really help by encouraging 20 minutes of reading every day. When a student finishes a book they should log on to the Accelerated Reader website and complete a quiz. Not only will this tell us if the student has read and understood the text but will also give a word count and let us know when they are word millionaires! <https://ukhosted24.renlearn.co.uk/2249454/> Reminder: Students should log in with their names, e.g. Christopher Hoy and the three letter password.

Warwickshire Secondary Schools Book Award

We still intend to run the Book Award, at least for Year 7, so watch out for the announcement of the shortlist in November!

eBooks

We now have our own eBook platform, so students can have access to books 24/7 on their phones, tablets or laptops. It's easy to get started:-

1. Download the App (search for ePlatform by Wheelers)
2. Find your library (Kineton High School)
3. Log in (students use your school computer log in)
4. Borrow an eBook and enjoy!

<https://kinetonhighschool.eplatform.co>



New books!

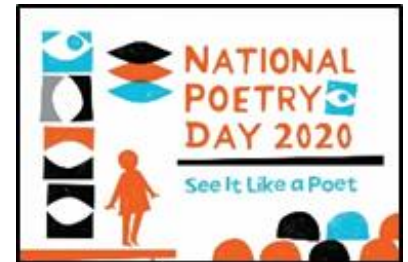


National Poetry Day

We celebrated National Poetry Day with a competition to write a poem for our PoeTree. Students could either use the tutorial:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMHgf6jBpc&feature=emb_logo

to write a poem in five minutes, use the NPD theme of Vision, or choose any theme or style they wanted.



Congratulations to our winners: Juliet, Freya, Tyler and Lola from Year 8 and Lucy from Year 9, who received chocolate and 10 housepoints. Highly Commended was a poem by Jack, which was inspired by Robert Macfarlane's poems in the beautiful book, 'The Lost Words'.

Thank you for all the entries, most of which are on our lovely PoeTree outside the library, and to Ms Midgley for the tree and the inspiration!



Juliet, Freya
and Tyler

Sixth Form News

On Tuesday 20th October, as part of our Character and Culture programme, Kineton Sixth welcomed Springfield and Mind; charities working with young people on well-being and mental health, to work with some of our Year 12 students. Within the session students explored the physical and mental symptoms of anxiety and also practical strategies to help them deal with these. Some students also had the opportunity to experience a VR boxing match, exploring how physical activity can improve our well being and mental health.

Feedback from students was very positive about the session and we are looking forward to welcoming both charities back over the coming weeks to work with the rest of the year group.



Sports News

Extra-curricular Activities

Over the last two weeks, Year 7 students have been able to take part in extra-curricular activities. They started off with Your School Games competitions of football and netball and finished this week with house competitions in football, hockey and netball.



Activities for all year groups will start after half term on Tuesday 3rd November.

Details will be shared with students and on the PE Department Twitter account:



Trips

Key Skills Fishing Trip

On Wednesday 21st October Mr Daly and Miss Turner took some students fishing to Fir Tree Fishery as part of the Asdan qualification. A great day was had by all, despite the weather.



Congratulations

To Hannah in Year 8 who took part in the 2020 West Midlands Junior Triathlon Series-BCT Aquathlon at Wombourne at the end of September.

Hannah competes in the TriStar 2 distance currently and will be moving to TriStar 3 in January.

Well done Hannah!



To Peggy in Year 11 who took part in the National Cycling Time Trials at Thruxton Race Circuit on 11th October. Peggy and 10 other members of the Banbury Star Cyclists' Club rode for 11.7 miles and Peggy came 5th in the 15 age group. Well done Peggy!



Sixth Form Open Evening

Kineton High School Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening 2020

Tuesday 10th
November, 5.00pm

A virtual event via
the school website

Welcome from Ms Bridge (Head Teacher) and Miss Loveridge (Head of Sixth Form) and virtual presentations exploring student life and teaching and learning.

We are recruiting students for both A Level and Level 3 Vocational courses from across Warwickshire and North Oxfordshire.

Teaching is having a good impact across the school, enabling pupils to be **curious** and **interested** in their learning.

Ofsted 2017

Kineton High School, Banbury Road, Kineton, CV35 0JX
T: 01926 640465 E: enquiries@kinetonhighschool.org.uk




Rockademy music lessons

Rockademy offer weekly music lessons in school, taught either 121 or in small groups. Please see the following page for further details and how to book.

Forthcoming events:

Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ Saturday 24th to Sunday 25th October - Bronze DofE Practice Days
- ◆ Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - Half Term
- ◆ Tuesday 10th November - Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening
- ◆ Tuesday 17th November - Year 11 Virtual Parents Consultation Evening
- ◆ Tuesday 8th December - Year 8 Virtual Parents Consultation Evening
- ◆ Monday 20th December to Friday 1st January - Christmas Holiday
- ◆ Monday 4th January - Teacher Training Day

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



NOW YOU CAN LEARN TO PLAY MUSIC THE FUN WAY WITH

ROCK ADEMY

JOIN THE MOVEMENT TODAY AT WWW.ROCKADEMY.CO.UK



WE BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE FUN LEARNING MUSIC AND NOW YOUR CHILD HAS THE CHANCE TO ROCK ON GUITAR, DRUMS, KEYBOARD, BASS, EVEN UKULELE... 121 OR IN A SMALL GROUP * Instruments offered are subject to school, groups are sibling only during Covid-19 period.

...WE RUN WEEKLY LESSONS IN SCHOOL TIME TEACHING SONGS LIKE 'BAD GUY' 'OLD TOWN ROAD' & 'EYE OF THE TIGER' ENROLLING NEW STUDENTS OF ALL AGES CONTACT US DIRECT FOR MORE INFO



"SHE HAS ALREADY HAD ONE LESSON THIS TERM AND SHE SAID SHE HAD REALLY ENJOYED IT. I ALSO ASKED HER TO PLAY SOMETHING AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH HOW SHE CAN READ MUSIC"
Ali aka Mum - Bournemouth



ENROL: www.rockademy.co.uk/enrollment

EMAIL: ROCKADEMY@OUTLOOK.COM

ONLINE: WWW.ROCKADEMY.CO.UK

SEE WHAT WE DO @ROCKADEMYMUSIC





Leave of Absence

During Term Time 2020-21



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 2020-21



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.