

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the term comes to a close and Christmas approaches, we reflect on its strangeness but also on what opportunities there have been; what we've learned about ourselves and the way students cope with the changes they face. We firmly believe that challenges bring opportunities and there have been some positive, unintended consequences this term!



Firstly, I must congratulate all our students for their determination to succeed and in adapting so well to the 'bubble' systems and new rules around face coverings. In general, they have demonstrated understanding and maturity even when they've possibly felt uncertain and anxious. The changes to the structure of the day have ensured that our break and lunchtime queues are minimal meaning that students can fully enjoy their break. Visitors have commented on the 'purposeful and calm' atmosphere during social times. We have noticed that there is certainly a calmness around the site and the management of students' movement is now much eased.

We've strived to continue developing our technical skills throughout the term and have continued the use of Teams for internal staff and Governor meetings; training and of course, our Parent consultations. Many isolating students have been able to join in live lessons and staff have delivered lessons remotely when they've had to stay home too. Thanks to the many parents who've submitted feedback on this process; it really helps.

Uncertain times bring about increased anxieties and we've worked to provide as much support as possible to our students. This has taken the form of additional use of Lifespace, the charity we commission to mentor some of our anxious students; Flourish workshops dedicated to girls in the younger years; Mental Health Awareness Training programmes for staff and students as well as our curriculum work in form time and assemblies. We have been working hard to support and maintain close contact with families in difficult circumstances in many ways. The SEN team has created a guide for parents on how the school supports Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues and gives some really helpful links for further information: <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1608042711/southamcollegecom/rjmyrgczrn3z909pitc5/SocialandEmotionalMentalHealthinYourChild.pdf>

Over the last half of the term, the important values of Tolerance and Respect have been high on our agenda. They have been examined in our anti-bullying campaign week; embracing and understanding the 'Rainbow Lace Day' and in staff training where we reminded ourselves of the 'protected characteristics' that we must teach our students about. We are determined to stamp out prejudice and discrimination in our community and will be tackling this directly in the new term through exploring the casual use of offensive language both in school and at home. I must thank the Year 11 students who have been involved in developing ideas on addressing bias in school; they are a credit to our community.





Headteacher's message

Talking of which, the Sixth Form students have worked tirelessly on making the Charity Week 2020 a memorable one despite the restrictions. The activities have been fun to watch and it's been great to see staff and students coming together to support the charity, Katherine House Hospice, also to give some light relief and entertainment to everyone at the school. I'm very grateful to them and so pleased that we have already raised well over £2000 with a final figure to be announced after the holiday. Absolutely fantastic!

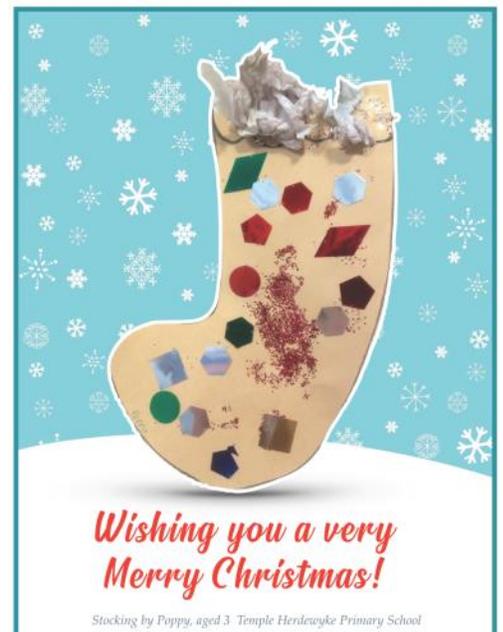
Please read on to find out more about Charity week and life at Kineton this term. You can also read the latest update from the Stowe Valley Trust [here](#) and below is a Christmas greeting from all of our partner schools.

Updates:

- ◆ New security gates have been fitted at the entrance and exit to the school and should be active in January
- ◆ Curriculum plans: some parents have indicated that they aren't sure what their children will be learning. Our curriculum statement and subject plans are on the website here: <https://kinetonhighschool.org.uk/curriculum>

Thank you so much to all our parents; governors and staff for making this difficult term a successful one. I wish all our families a restful, safe and enjoyable Christmas break.

Ms Bridge



Charity Week *By Noah Year 13*

For some reason Charity Week has always been my favourite part of the academic year. It's not the opportunity to see teachers embarrass themselves, the unique creativity of students or the ever-nearing Christmas holidays, but the fact that it is one of the few times when the school properly comes together as a community, from Year Seven to Year Thirteen to staff. This is itself the reason that, when it became apparent back in July that the usual traditions and festivities were going to be impossible, we – as a Sixth Form – were keen to ensure that something would take their place.

So, we set about spending far too much of our summer holidays writing a script that could become a filmed, virtual alternative to the usual variety style live performance (and which would have no single mention of coronavirus). Three drafts and an online read through later we had a script ready for rehearsal. Upon reflection, the decision to create a mockumentary exploring a fictionalised version of the sixth form was very apt. After watching multiple edits of the Charity Show over the last fortnight, I now find a poignancy in it (if you'll forgive my urge to find a deeper meaning in my own often superficial script), one that stresses what Kineton High School is at its best: a home. Of course, this is itself primarily a way to raise money for charity. This year it was obvious that we should stray from the useful choice of a national charity for one much more local. To this end Katherine House Hospice was a natural choice, a fantastic local charity that supports over nine-hundred local families a year and relies on donations, especially in such challenging times as this. Much of their funding stream have been truncated this year, for instance Kineton's own yearly Christmas Fayre. To this end, you can still donate on our much under loved Just Giving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kineton-high-school-charity-week>).

Having spent the last term working on plans for charity week, whether rallying students and staff behind format ideas or gradually filming our flagship Charity Show: The Movie, we're proud to say that in the transition to a virtual format not much – we hope – has been lost from Charity Week, perhaps only the collective rush of live performance; there's still teachers embarrassing themselves in our version of Taskmaster and the chance to see the disturbingly competitive side to the staff as they compete to be crowned the cleverest department. I hope that we have also intensified our currently fragmented school community, to the extent that one student featuring in the charity show has already been chased down corridors like a minor celebrity.



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**



Staff and Sixth Formers enjoying a festive pub quiz (non-alcoholic!) after their hard work on the play



Library News

Library Lessons have resumed for Years 7, 8 and 9 once a fortnight, giving students the opportunity to spend an hour reading independently, to choose new books and take Accelerated Reader quizzes. Students are also welcome to pop in at break and lunch to return, take out and quiz on the books they have read.

Mrs Johnson is still happy to provide a 'Click & Select' service. Students just need to email 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.

Accelerated Reader

Star Testing has been completed for KS3 and students are encouraged to read within their ZPD range. 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: <https://ukhosted24.renlearn.co.uk/2249454/> and complete a quiz. Students should log in with their names, e.g. Christopher Hoy and the three letter password.

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. So far in our Millionaires Club we have Isobel, Otto and Isaac, with Hannah being our first multi-millionaire. Congratulations to all!

In January we will announce which English group and which Tutor group has done the most quizzes. They will win a tub of chocolate treats, so keep quizzing over Christmas!



Accelerated Reader Quiz Christmas Challenge

The challenge is for every student in Year 7, 8 and 9 to have taken at least one AR Quiz by 5th January. The English group to pass the most AR Quizzes will win a tub of chocolate treats to share in January. The Tutor group to pass the most AR Quizzes will also win a tub, so keep reading and keep quizzing!

Accelerated Reader Rewards

Throughout 2021 there will be rewards and recognition for passing 10 quizzes, 50 quizzes, reading a million words, the most time spent reading etc. There will be certificates, gold star badges, housepoints, sweet treats, non-uniform days, pizza parties and maybe an exciting trip – Covid permitting. AR success will also result in students' **reading ages improving and vocabulary increasing!**

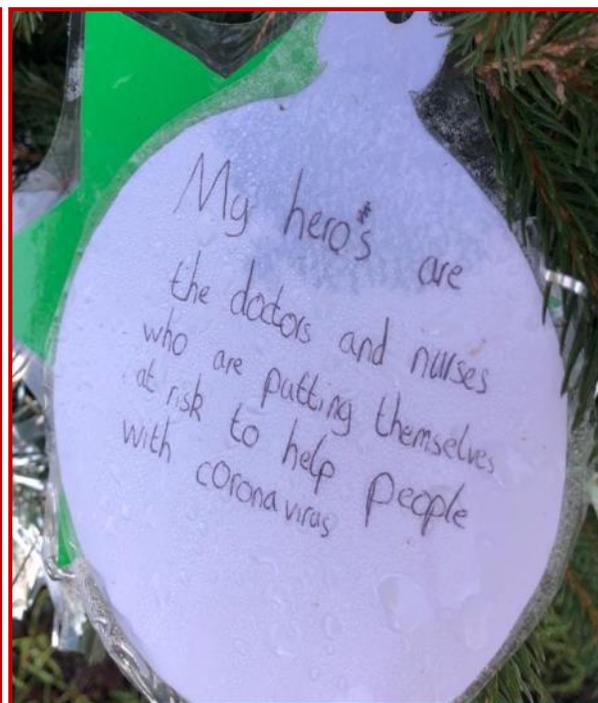
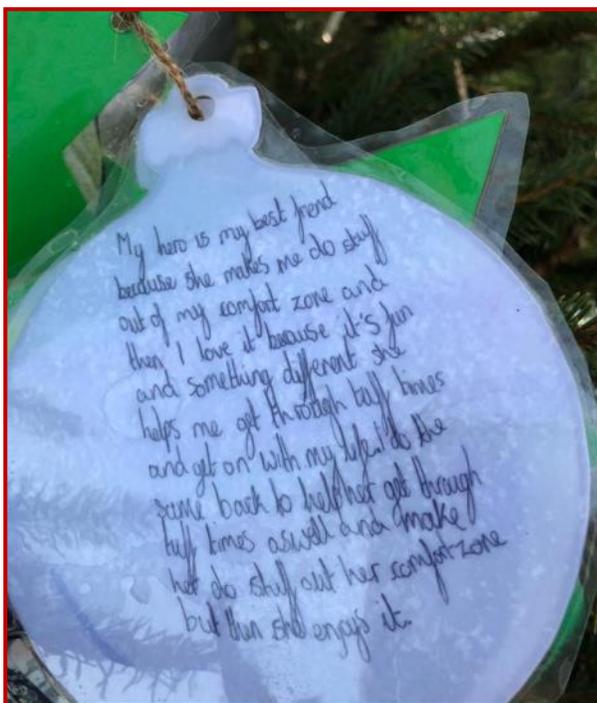




Kineton Christmas Tree Trail

We are really pleased to have been able to take part in the Kineton Christmas Tree Trail again this year. With a theme of 'Heroes and Herorines', our creative Year 7 students, along with Ms Purnell and Mr Bonfield, made some wonderful decorations for the four trees that stand outside the main school entrance.

Our thanks go to Flower Thyme, Moncoe and Friends of Kineton Primary School for organising this fantastic event which consists of 300-500 trees around the village.



Library News

Warwickshire Secondary Schools Book Award

The Book Award has just been launched across the county and we are absolutely delighted that so many Year 7 students have signed up. Their challenge is to read all six of the shortlisted books and vote for the one they think should win. There will be regular meetings in the library to discuss and argue the merits of each book, competitions to enter, reviews to write, and biscuits to be eaten!

The books this year are:-

Deeplight - a fantasy adventure

The Enigma Game - a thrilling story of war-time secrets

Gloves Off - the story of Lily who turns to boxing in an attempt to fight back

That Time I Got Kidnapped - a funny, action-packed road trip adventure

Nothing Ever Happens Here - A barrier-breaking, empathy-inducing story for all

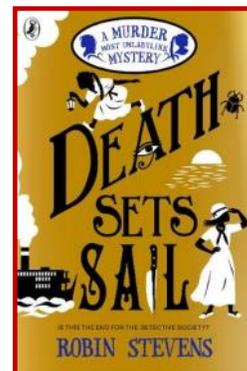
The Last Paper Crane - A powerful novel set in contemporary Japan and also in 1945, Hiroshima. They are all fantastic new books published in the last year, but which one will win the Award? We will have to wait until the votes are counted in March.



A 'Virtual' Author Visit

On Friday 4th December 7B2 spent a very enjoyable lesson with Ms Midgley watching a live webinar with author Robin Stevens.

Robin spoke about her obsession with murder mysteries, which led to her writing her first book 'Murder Most Unladylike'. She was turned down by a number of agents, then her book was rejected by a number of publishers before it was finally accepted and published in 2016. The ninth and last book in the series, 'Death Sets Sail' has just been released.



There are a number of Robin's books from her 'Murder Most Unladylike' series in the Library and they have always proved to be very popular. Let Mrs Johnson know if you would like to read one!



SEND Department News



At the start of the school year, the SEND Department saw many changes – including new rooms, a new SENCO, new Assistant SENCO and two new TAs! Miss Primrose and Mrs Reed were welcomed immediately and we are happy with how well they have become strong members of our department. The team are proud of the steps we have taken so far and the successes we have had in supporting SEND at Kineton in such a short space of time. The SEND lead officer for Stowe Valley Academy has had regular contact with our SENCO and has commented on the fantastic effort of the department at Kineton High School. A number of new initiatives brought in this term at Kineton have been seen as so efficient and successful that there are now plans to roll them out across the other secondary schools in the academy.

Our rebranded Horizon (formally the SSC) has seen some of our students at Kineton High School doing a fantastic job. Students are using the space to revise for their up-coming mock exams, or catch-up on any work that they may have missed. We are also immensely proud of three students in particular who, despite struggles at the start of term, are now back on a full timetable and enjoying school again. A huge achievement and turn-around for such a short space of time!

One student, who struggled to go to lessons, has stated:

'Horizon helped me when I was scared of lessons. Everyone is really nice and it is safe there. I like my lessons again now because they helped me'.

One of our Y11 Horizon students has said:

'Horizon has had a massive impact on my school life. Having that place to go just for a little breather seriously takes the stress off my shoulders. Especially going through the tough times and stress of year 11. Thank you!'

The SEND Department have also been working hard to get interventions for pupils back up and running. Our aim is to support as many pupils as possible through these interventions. They are 30 minute sessions, once per week, and run on a 6 week carousel. They are led by our fantastic TA, Mrs Ryan. The interventions have been a big success and we are proud of the programmes that have been created for them, and the large amount of pupils who will benefit from them. Students have been really positive about the impact these sessions are having on them.

This term has been an immensely busy, at moments challenging, term. However the SEND department have worked tirelessly to support the SEN students at Kineton High. In the new term we look forward to achieving even more in supporting our SEND students.

Ms Hooper



Sports News

Southern Warwickshire School Games

Very well done to our teams who took part in the Virtual SW School Games this term and will go on to represent South Warwickshire at the CSW County Finals in:

- Year 7/8 Girls Football
- Year 7/8 Boys Football
- Year 7 Girls Pentathlon
- Year 7 Boys Pentathlon

Extra-curricular Activities

Frustratingly Covid delayed our start to Extra-curricular sport at Kineton after just three sessions - Year 7,8,9 Football/Netball. Between the two activities we had an average of about 45 students taking part from each year group, something which we hope to see again once clubs resume after the Christmas break. Year 11 GCSE PE students have been attending coursework support sessions Tuesday-Thursday for the past three weeks.

Extra-curricular clubs will return in the new year with Football and Netball on a year group rotation across a week 1 and week 2 school timetable. These clubs will run for a half term before a change of activities. We will be looking to offer the following activities for the remainder of this academic year (in line with government and sport's national governing bodies); Netball, Football, Hockey, Cross country/Fitness, Badminton, Athletics, Swimming, Rounders, Rugby.



KHS PE: Extra-Curricular

Please note that clubs are
1-year-group per-day
across the fortnight
Half Term 3: 05/01/21 – 12/02/21



Week 1		
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 7 Football	Year 8 Football	Year 9 Football
Year 7 Netball	Year 8 Netball	Year 9 Netball

Week 2		
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 10 Football	Sixth Form Football	Year 11 Football
Year 10 Netball	Sixth Form Netball	Year 11 Netball

Both male and female students are welcome to attend any club within their year-group-tubble





Do follow us on Twitter for ongoing news and information:  @KHS_pe

Congratulations

To Zoe in Year 8 who obtained her blue belt in Taekwondo back in March and has recently received her belt and certificate. Well done Zoe on your fantastic achievement!



Notices

- ◆ Polite reminder - when collecting or dropping off students, please only park either outside school or on the sports courts to the left of the main building. Please do not park on the main school drive as this blocks access.
- ◆ Worcester Warriors Rugby Club are running rugby camps over the Christmas Holidays:



WARRIORS RUGBY CAMPS CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

DATE	WHERE	AGE
22-23 DEC	Sixways Stadium	6-16
22-23 DEC	Sixways Stadium (ALL GIRLS)	11-18

01905 780735
WARRIORS.CO.UK/RUGBYCAMPS
CAMPS@WARRIORS.CO.UK





Forthcoming events:

Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ *Monday 20th December to Friday 1st January - Christmas Holiday*
- ◆ *Monday 4th January - Teacher Training Day*
- ◆ *Tuesday 5th January - Spring Term Starts*
- ◆ *Tuesday 5th - Monday 18th January - Year 11 Mock Exams*
- ◆ *Tuesday 12th January - Year 7 Virtual Parents Consultation*
- ◆ *W/C Monday 11th January (date TBC) -Year 12 Virtual Parents Consultation*
- ◆ *Thursday 28th January - Year 13 Virtual Parents Consultation*

Do follow us on Twitter for ongoing news and information:

 @KinetonHighSch



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.