

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a term it's been for schools and the experience of staff and students! There's been so much to contend with during an interesting few months of remote learning; COVID testing and planning the process of teacher assessed grades for our Year 11 and 13 students' that is rigorous, clear and fair. Year 11 have risen admirably to the challenge of the mock examinations; and attendance for this year group has been the highest in the school since the return.



I cannot express enough my pride and admiration for our student body over the past weeks. They have demonstrated such resilience during the closure. I've been going into many classrooms recently and seen them being keen to get back into learning despite the discomforts of wearing face coverings all day.

Moreover, members of the local community who came and supported the COVID testing site were incredibly positive about the stoicism and determination of our incredible students.

This week, I have had the pleasure of meeting our Year 12 students who are hoping to be our next Head Boy and Girl team. They have been through a selection process that would befit a Headteacher! It's struck me in those conversations how wise and observant they are about leadership and I was struck by the passion they all feel for the school.

As a community we have been responding to some of the issues raised nationally after the tragic and awful death of Sarah Everard. Some of our students have taken a lead in supporting us in this. A fantastic group of students from Year 11 and the Sixth Form gave up their time to join us in our training day on the invitation of Mr Mitchell who commented; "We asked them to come and talk to us about 'Equality, Prejudice and Discrimination'. They shared their experiences and thoughts about how these current issues are impacting on our school community. They spoke with passion, humility and worldly knowledge, educating and raising staff awareness of these issues. Working with teachers we aim to use their knowledge and experience to refine our practice in how we can address these issues in school."

I look forward to next term, during which I fully anticipate that we will 'tiptoe' towards normality! Happy Easter.

Ms Bridge

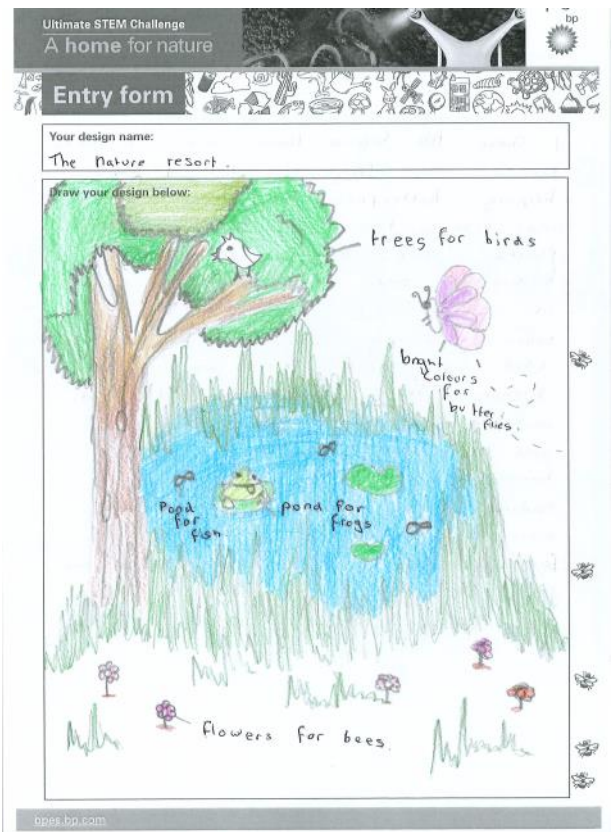
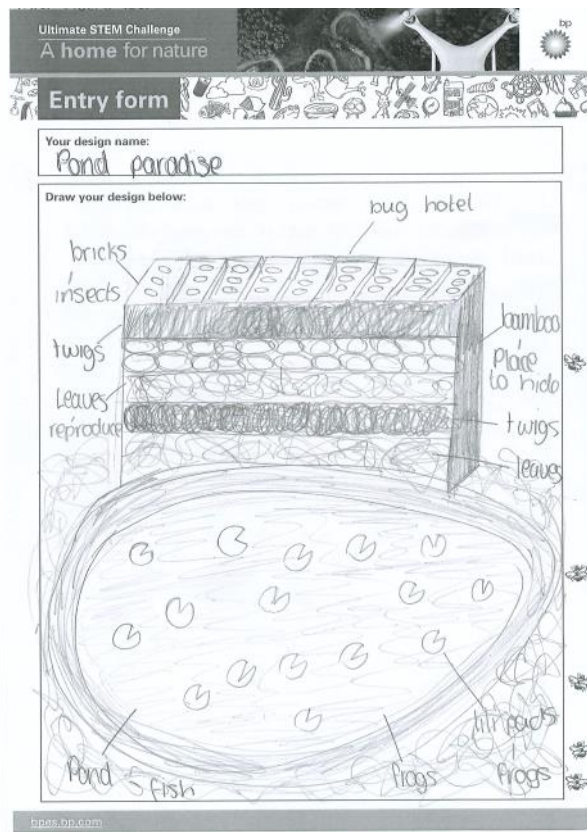
British Science Week

The Science Department have been very busy celebrating British Science Week recently. As well as taking over the Friday tutor time quiz with a Science-themed set of questions, KS3 students have been taking part in an Ultimate STEM Challenge. We rely on the intricate balance between animals and plants to provide us with everything we need to survive and thrive on Earth, but with animal and plant species in decline all over the world, that balance is in danger.



So this year the bp Educational Service Ultimate STEM Challenge invited young people across the UK to come up with a design for an amazing wild area. It needed to include natural and technical solutions for improving biodiversity in school grounds, at home or in the community and help to tackle the decline in our native wildlife. A winner will be chosen from each age category, as well as an overall challenge winner. The overall winner will receive a £3,000 prize to spend on creating their home for nature, while the category winners will receive £1,000 each. Good luck to everybody that has entered!

Here are some of the wonderful entries our students have created:



British Science Week

Ultimate STEM Challenge
A home for nature

Entry form

Your design name: Animal wonderland

Draw your design below:

Labels in drawing: bird floor area, long grass for birds to hide, Pond, mini pond, bird house, bird nest, Bee hive, Bird feeder, Insects house, Lilly pads, Rocks, Pond, wood, bug hotel, slabs, grass and bits for an ants to their homes from places for bugs, mini trees for birds, mouse hiding place, ground suitable for animals to create dens/nests.

bp

Ultimate STEM Challenge
A home for nature

Entry form

Your design name: The eco friendly home

Draw your design below:

Labels in drawing: owl house, bird house, Bird house, Bee hive, Bird nest, Bird feeder, Insects house, Lilly pads, Rocks, Pond, Leaves, Bird feeder, Flowers.

bp

Ultimate STEM Challenge
A home for nature

Entry form

Your design name: The pocket biome

Draw your design below:

Labels in drawing: Tree for birds such as owls and Robins, Logs for insect-such as wood louse, Male hole leads to den for smelting, Bug hotels made of bamboo and bark, Pipe from matts make for forces + Badgers.

The Pocket Biome

bp

Ultimate STEM Challenge
A home for nature

Entry form

Your design name: Nature place

Draw your design below:

Labels in drawing: Bird Feeder, Stream, Spools for bees, Bee House, Camera, Fish Pond, Bark Path, Bug Hotel, Animals can hide in bushes (fox, rabbits, hedgehog), will grasses + flowers + bushes.

bp



Kineton Creates

During the post-Christmas lockdown, all Kineton students were invited to take part in a whole school 400 word creative writing competition. The challenge was to write about a location; be it a town, city, place or a fictional environment.

Entries were submitted to English teachers who selected those that went through to the final round. Every member of the department commented on the creativity and excellent writing skills displayed, making it a genuine challenge to choose which to put forward. We have many, many talented writers!

One winner from each year group was selected to have their story read and recorded by a celebrity. These will be shared on the website / in form time when all recordings have been received.

Runners up:

KS3

Connor
Wesley
Tula
Harriet
Isobel
Saoirse
Sasha

KS4

Grace
Lily
Lucy
Will
Madison
Josh
Joseph

KS5

Eleanor
Jess
Joe
Jagpal

Winners:

Year 7

Emily

Year 8

Theo

Year 9

Annabelle

Year 10

Kiya

Year 11

Melanie

Year 12

Charlotte

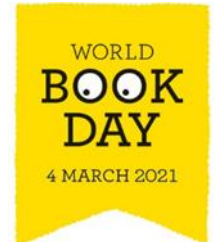
Year 13

Miles

Congratulations to all who took part, reading the stories was a delight!

Library News—World Book Day

At KHS we managed to celebrate World Book Day (albeit virtually) on Thursday 4th March. Our story in a day was *The Strapbox Flyer* by Paul Jennings and there were two ‘Design a Facemask’ competitions to enter. Years 7-10 had a virtual visit on Teams from author Bali Rai, and although Years 11, 12 and 13 were off timetable in order to come in to school for their Covid tests, Bali recorded a personal message for them.



He spoke of his upbringing in multicultural Leicester and how reading for pleasure is the single most important thing you can do to succeed at school and beyond. It is a more powerful factor in life achievement than economic or social background. It can make you more empathetic and can be used to train your brain; the more you practice reading, the better you get at it! You can read around your subjects, increasing your knowledge, which in turn makes you more confident.



Bali spoke about some of the people who have inspired him such as Sue Townsend, author of *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4*, and Space Scientist and Presenter Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, and the importance of following your dreams.

We hope that Bali will actually be here with us for World Book Day 2022!



Thank you for all your competition entries! Congratulations to the winners:-

Millie from 7/AMB for her Tom Gates inspired mask



Wesley from 7/AKB for his Paddington book face.



Sports News

It's been lovely to have the student's back in school and seeing them take part in PE again, both in lessons and in after school activities.



Year 7 - Capture the Flag



Year 10 - Football



Year 8 - Football



Year 8 - Tennis

Do follow us on Twitter for ongoing news and information:



Congratulations

On Monday 1st February, we had a number of our year 9 - 11 students take part in the annual Intermediate Maths Challenge. The challenge consists of a 60 minute exam paper with a range of questions designed to stretch the most able mathematicians across the country. Questions are not presented like they are in GCSE exam papers – they require logical thinking, understanding of abstract concepts and the ability to spot patterns and links across a number of difficult topics. It was a little different this year, as participation was online.

We recently received the results and are pleased to say that we had 4 students achieving a bronze certificate, 7 achieving silver and Ed and Melissa in year 11 managed to achieve the gold certificate, as well as qualifying for the additional 'Kangaroo' round. This is a very impressive feat as only students scoring in the top 25% in the Intermediate Maths Challenge are eligible to take part in the 'Kangaroo' round.

Ed and Melissa have now taken part in the additional round and await their results.

A huge congratulations to all who took part!

To Hope in Year 10 who has been nominated by her pony club to trial for The Mounted Games England Team on 25th April. This is a very exciting time for Hope who began representing her local pony club team in this discipline 10 or more years ago as a novice rider and is now in her final year of being able to compete in pony club mounted games due to age restrictions. We wish you every success Hope!



Forthcoming events:

Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ *Friday 2nd to Sunday 18th April - Easter Holiday*
- ◆ *Monday 19th April - Summer Term Starts*
- ◆ *Tuesday 20th April - Year 8 Virtual Options Evening*

Do follow us on Twitter for ongoing news and information:



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.