

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since the Easter break the school has very much been refocusing on the curriculum and getting back to normal teaching; the most recent step being lessons moving back into subject areas. This has been extremely well received by all staff and students despite the very warm conditions we've had since half term.



Of course, the examination season is anything but normal this year. The last half term has been an incredibly challenging one for all involved in exams, but particularly so for our Year 11 and 13 students who have all been through a series of assessments and practical work opportunities enabling teachers to add a significant evidence base to all the internal assessments they have already gathered from the duration of the courses.

We said an emotional farewell and had celebrations with both year groups before we finished for half term. It felt more poignant this year as these students have had such disruption and uncertainty throughout their courses; perhaps the most important part of their educational careers. I strongly believe that these cohorts have developed the resilience, determination and commitment to be successful adults, aside from what their results statements look like in the summer. The students pushed themselves to the limit over this half term and every single one of them has produced some of their best work. We are so very proud of them all.

I must not forget to mention the Year 10 cohort who've also undertaken their English Literature course over the last two academic years. Mrs Heggs and the English team are rightly impressed with the high standards they set themselves and their approach to the assessments and mocks; well done Year 10!

There has been a steady return to extra-curricular clubs and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. The PE department been impressed with the enthusiasm displayed by some of our younger students in attending the after-school sports. I was also delighted to hear of the huge win our Year 8 cricketers had against Finham Park School! A promising sign of things to come in future years when we are able to have a full fixture list for all sports.

Bringing me on to the huge personal success that Hope R in Year 10 has had in the Pony Club Mounted Games Trials. She will be part of a Three Nations Team representing England, Scotland and Wales participating in Windsor in July. We wish her the best of luck and congratulations. Please do let the school know of any achievements your children have outside of school; we are keen to find out what they like doing in their spare time.

We have much planned for this half term including our Year 9 residential trip to Devon; a brilliant take-up this year! Ms Lovell, Mrs Heggs and Ms Perks are busy planning our first Summer School for Year 6 students and we are looking forward to a Flexible learning day in July as well as the opportunity to meet all our new Year 6 students in what will hopefully be, a face to face day in school for them.

Ms Bridge

Art and Photography

Royal Mail Stamp Competition

Congratulations to all the Key stage 3 students that entered the Royal Mail Stamp competition. We sent away 262 entries to be judged, a fantastic achievement! If everyone can keep their fingers crossed, hopefully we will get a winner!



After School Clubs

The Art and Photography department's after school clubs are listed below and will run until the end of term – we would love to see as many students as possible attend!

- ◆ **Year 10** GCSE Art Masterclass, Thursdays in room 27, Come and learn new advanced art skills.
- ◆ **Year 10** GCSE Art catch up class, Thursdays in room 33.
- ◆ **Year 9** (that have chosen GCSE Art next year) – GCSE Art Masterclass, Thursdays in room 27, Come and learn new advanced art skills.
- ◆ **Year 8** Art afterschool Club – Come and learn some new arty skills! – Wednesdays in room 33
- ◆ **Year 7** – There is an exciting opportunity for 15 year 7 students to do a mark making workshop with our Artist in Residence, Mrs Stockbridge. This will be 2 sessions. After school Tuesday 15th June and Tuesday 22nd of June. Room 33 Please sign up with your art teacher – if there is too many students we will run the workshop again.

Art and Photography Exhibition - Date for everyone's diary!

On Thursday 1st July 4pm – 7pm we are having a summer exhibition of all our student's Art and Photography work – Years 7 to 13. Please come and enjoy all the hard work!

Do follow us on Instagram for ongoing news and information:

 @kinetonhighschool_artdept

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is back up and running. The new Year 9 Bronze group have now completed an on-site training day learning about maps, how to make route cards and plan routes. They then put this into practise on an accompanied training walk round the local area. Just before half term they completed a weekend practice expedition. They started in Long Compton on the Saturday morning and navigated their way to Shipston on Stour. There was some fantastic navigation, some good navigation and times where groups found it a challenge. But they all completed day 1 having learnt lots about themselves, their group and about perseverance. This time we did send them home to sleep as overnight stays had only been permitted 5 days earlier and we continued to be cautious.

Sunday started really well those who had found it tough going in the Saturday were determined to nail the navigation, and they did! Absolutely spot on this time. Who knew looking at the map frequently was going to help them know where they were. Lots of the students amazed me at how well they worked together and their enthusiasm all weekend. We were always greeted with smiles whenever we saw them. Venture outdoor leader Karen was particularly impressed with Maddie S as she seemed to blossom in all areas within her team. Well Done Maddie super impressed with your attitude.

The next thing for this bronze group is their qualifying expedition in September including the overnight camp.





The Year 11 Silver group are heading out for their qualifying expedition from 16th to 18th July. We will get it finished.

If any of the Year 10's who have completed their bronze want to sign up for Silver I think we can fit in a practice expedition in October and a qualifying after your year 11 exams. Please email me if you are interested and I will see if there are enough of you to make a group

The Year 13 Gold group are completing a "restricted space expedition" from 21st to 24th June. This is possible due to temporary changes in the award. This will see them cycling 170 miles over 4 days on static bikes whilst also completing a project to refurbish some bikes for charity. If there is anyone who is a cycle mechanic and could give us a couple of hours to show them how to change a tyre please get in touch via email abriggs@kinetonhighschool.org.uk

The Year 12 gold group have had a sticky start to their award we had a practice expedition booked but Covid knocked that one. The last 15 months have been hard but it has certainly taught us to be resilient, flexible and to never give up.

If any parent or older sibling has completed their DofE awards please read the following:

CELEBRATING AN EXCEPTIONAL LEGACY, HRH PRINCE PHILIP KG, KT

As founder of the DofE, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh has helped transform how millions of young people see themselves and see the world around them. Launched in 1956, the DofE offers young people the chance to take on their own challenges, follow their own passions, discover new skills and make a difference in their community.

To celebrate The Duke's inspiring impact on generations of young people, we're asking anyone who's been in the DofE across the decades to help us build a powerful collection of your DofE stories, and inspire the next generation of young people to begin their DofE journey.

To add your memories, go to: <https://www.dofe.org/memories/>

A Letter to Year 10 Students

Dear Students,

Take a moment. Take a moment to breathe and reflect on your achievement this past year; to reflect on how amazing you are!

By half term you had completed a GCSE in English Literature. That was a significant challenge. It would have required a significant amount of hard work and commitment under 'normal' circumstances but let's throw in two lockdowns, online learning, isolations, a changed school day, strict seating plans and face masks to test your resilience to the maximum. But you did it ... and not only did you step up a gear, you did so with maturity and positivity.

The literature course is not easy; it requires high levels of knowledge and a lot of skill. You have not only memorised plots, themes and characters but you have become highly competent critical readers and analytical writers – these are life skills.

As an English department, we realised early on in the year what a wonderful group of young people we had in front of us. You may not know this but you have cheered us up on many a bleak day. Honestly, through hard times there has been many a memorable comment made by your teachers saying how proud they are of you. And that is the main message of this letter: we are so very proud of you, Year 10s and you should be very proud of yourselves.

You have impressed us all and we are all looking forward to continuing working with you through your GCSE Language course.

Well done, Year 10s!

Ms Heggs, Ms Balloch, Ms Boyd, Dr Lockhart, Ms Edwards, Mr Ford,
Ms Midgley



Library News

Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards

Schools across Warwickshire take part in the Book Award each year, which challenges students to read all six of the shortlisted books.

Despite the disruptions this year, our students have carried on reading, meeting up regularly to discuss the books, writing reviews and entering the competitions.

Next week they will meet with Hannah Thompson, an Advisor from Warwickshire Schools Library Service, to discuss the books at length and soon they will be voting for their favourite. The winner must simply be “a page-turner that students would highly recommend to others”. It is becoming clear that three of the books are proving very popular, but it remains to be seen which one will win the Kineton vote!



Accelerated Reader

We now have fourteen word millionaires! Congratulations to the latest members of the club; **Joseph, Beatrice, Emily M, Georgia, Sasha, Emily G, Lucy, Shannon and Jimmy**. Jimmy is the first Year 7 to read a million words. They

have received certificates and star badges. Well done to Isobel, who has just read War and Peace by Tolstoy; no wonder she is a multi-millionaire!

Congratulations also to 7/BR, 8/SH and 9/PW for being the best forms in each year group at using Accelerated Reader and quizzing after finishing each book. **Their reward was a non-uniform day on the last day of term!** Well done to the star readers in each form, Raman, Grace, and Joseph for helping to lead their forms to victory.



Coming soon..... A new Library system

We are in the process of moving over to a new Library system called Accessit; a system designed to support the whole school community, engaging and motivating students and supporting digital literacy.



More details will follow, but in the meantime please take a look at this short demo:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT7qS-jwAiA>



Sports News

Fits a Knockout Competition

Well done to all of the KHS students who took part in the Think Active CSW Fits a Knockout competition. We finished an impressive 2nd out of the whole county. Congratulations to Lode Heath School who were winners overall.



Rounders

The Year 9 Rounders team took part in a tournament hosted by Alcester Grammar School and finished 3rd overall.

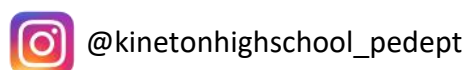


Year 8

Have enjoyed lessons in ultimate Frisbee, volleyball and tennis this half term.



Do follow us on Twitter and Instagram for ongoing news and information:



Congratulations

To Peggy S in Year 11 who recently achieved her fastest U18 women's cycling record of 28.08 on her Chippy 10—well done Peggy, a fantastic achievement!



Notices:

WorkPays FREE workshop: Workpays are running a FREE workshop on the following dates for Parents/Carers to gain an insight into apprenticeships, traineeships and T-levels:

[Wednesday 16th June 6.00pm-7.00pm](#)

[Wednesday 23rd June 6.30pm-7.30pm](#)

[Tuesday 29th June 6.00pm-7.00pm](#)

[Wednesday 7th July 6.00pm-7.00pm](#)

[Thursday 15th July 6.00pm-7.00pm](#)

[Tuesday 20th July 6.30pm-7.30pm](#)

[Tuesday 27th July 6.00pm-7.00pm](#)

Forthcoming events:

Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ Tuesday 29th June - Thursday 1st July—Year 7 Geography Trips to Bourton on the Water
- ◆ Monday 5th - Friday 9th July—Year 9 Trip to Devon
- ◆ Wednesday 7th July—New Year 7 Induction Day
- ◆ Wednesday 14th - Thursday 15th July—Year 10 Geography Field Trip
- ◆ Tuesday 20th July - Summer Term Ends
- ◆ **Wednesday 21st July - Wednesday 1st September—Summer Holidays**
- ◆ Monday 26th - Friday 30th July—New Year 7 Summer School
- ◆ Tuesday 10th August—A Level results Day
- ◆ Thursday 12th August—GCSE Results Day
- ◆ **Thursday 2nd - Friday 3rd September—Teacher Training Days**
- ◆ Monday 6th September—Autumn Term Starts

Do follow us on Twitter and Facebook 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.