

Goodbye from Mr Mitchell

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is no coincidence that in the final week of term the Thought for the Week is 'reflectiveness'.

After such a tumultuous 18 months it is worth reflecting on how we have developed as a school community. The resilience and capacity to adapt of the students and staff to the constant alterations in national guidelines and the very necessary changes in how we went about our business here at school and at home during the lockdowns has been remarkable and truly reflects the spirit of Kineton High School. It also allows me the pleasure to reflect on my time here at Kineton, not just over this short period of time but the 15 odd years I have been here.

I have had the pleasure to work with a huge number of students and families over this period of time and I have enjoyed every moment of it. It is difficult to look back and identify any one single moment that stands out for me; the countless fixtures, parents evenings, information evenings, option evenings, ski trips, Devon trips, to mention a few, let alone the individual lessons all have a special memory. It is only when you stop and look back at your time and are able to reflect on everything that has happened that it dawns on you the immense satisfaction and pleasure it has been working with the community of Kineton High School, past and present.

I feel extremely proud and privileged to have been able to work with all the fantastic students and families that have made up the Kineton community and wish all of you the very best for the future.

Mr Mitchell



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a tumultuous year it's been for all of us; it's hard to believe that the academic year has come to a close. Strangely, whilst we hoped that the COVID crisis, and all its subsequent measures, will come to an end in school, it has come very quickly!



I am in full agreement with many in saying that our Nation's students have been victims of the circumstance in so many ways. This could be seen in all the challenging decisions that had to be made in light of the pandemic. Cancellation of Proms for year 11 and 13 students who so deserved them; sending home bus-loads of students to isolate and asking students (and staff) to keep face covering on whilst in classrooms; virtual induction events for Year 6... just a few of the difficult tasks we faced over the year.

However, despite the adverse conditions, our students and staff have shown incredible resilience and determination throughout. The community has undoubtedly grown in strength as a result of the year and this sets us in good stead for the coming one.

This term has seen green shoots of normality which makes me excited for September for example sports fixtures: Particular well done to our Year 8 cricketers who just missed winning the area competition in a final against King Edwards' School. We have seen great numbers of enthusiastic students keen to audition for next year's Drama production, 'High School Musical' and it was wonderful to spend an evening as a guest of the Art Department who hosted an exhibition of work at the start of this month. I must also mention the successful trips our students have finally been able to attend this term, culminating in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award expedition last weekend- a very hot and sticky one!

We will see some changes to the staffing as we enter the new term; Mr Mitchell, our long serving Deputy Head Teacher will be moving into a new exciting phase of life and we wish him the very best for the future.

I'd like to remind you of the letter sent last week which outlines arrangements for the new term. All consenting students will be tested at the start of term and this means a staggered beginning. I strongly encourage you to complete the consent form. The schedules will be sent shortly once we have a clear idea of the numbers of students attending tests.

In the meantime, I hope our students stay safe and have a wonderful summer break. Thank you to all our parents for your ongoing support this year.

Ms Bridge



Kineton Writers

The English Department at Kineton work hard to ensure every student is able to develop, not only their critical analytical skills, but also their confidence. We encourage students to have the confidence to be creative, take risks with their writing and celebrate their progress.

We have many exceptional writers at Kineton and wanted to include a couple of examples that deserve to be published. Please enjoy!

[Cargate's Diamonds](#) by Annabelle, Year 9

[The Man Inside](#) by Kiya, Year 10

[The Window](#) by Willow, Year 10

Year 9 'An Inspector Calls' Mastermind

Do you know the final stage direction of the play? Do you know how much money Mr Birling paid his employees? Do you know the order in which the inspector questioned the characters?

Our wonderful Year 9s had their knowledge of the play tested to the max this week as they took part in the big Year 9 Mastermind on the text they have been studying. Three students were selected from each class and they took part in the grand finals in the library. The events were live streamed into classrooms so that fellow classmates could take part and cheer on their team.

The results were impressive (Mrs Heggs found it a challenge to write questions hard enough!).

Well done to all Year 9s for their commitment and learning. Well done to all the teams who took part and well done to the winning team from the B half: Mrs Boyd's group, Jacque, Liam and Rihanna and from the A half: Miss Midgley's group, D'Arcy, Gabriel and William.



Literacy News

Vocabulary is integral to our everyday lives.

The words we use have a great impact on our lives and are instrumental to our success in many areas of life. Every subject across the curriculum requires an understanding of a wide breadth of vocabulary. Even subjects which are not traditionally thought of as English heavy in content are not exceptions to this rule. Literacy skills are also imperative for life outside of school.

With literacy and vocabulary being so important, Kineton High School has made literacy a whole school focus to be taught across all subjects. In the summer term we introduced a fortnightly literacy focus to give students the opportunity to demonstrate and practise their skills. For those parents looking to support their young people from home, please read our list of advice below:

- ◆ Build reading into your daily routine.
- ◆ Encourage your young person to follow their interests with their reading.
- ◆ Share stories from your day.
- ◆ Check the literacy bookmarks for their progress.
- ◆ Download 'PowerVocab' (Android only)
- ◆ Download 'Word of the Day Widget' (iOS)
- ◆ Above all, make sure that words are an enjoyable part of life.

KHS Literacy focus

You're/your
They're/their/there




THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CORRECTLY USE YOUR, YOU'RE, THERE, THEY'RE AND THEIR

Kineton High School

1.6. I can use:
You're/your
They're/their/there

You're - Means 'you are'

Your - Shows ownership, used to describe something as belonging to you.

They're - Shortened from 'they are'

There - Shows something eg 'it' is their car.

There - Refers to a place eg 'two went to Paris and stayed there for 10 days.'

their
there
they're

Complete each sentence with the right word

You're/your:

A. _____ the one I saw on television yesterday, aren't you?

B. May I drive _____ car to the dance tonight, Dad?

C. _____ going to the game is a bad idea.

They're/their/there

_____ going to have to _____ money _____ to afford that house over _____

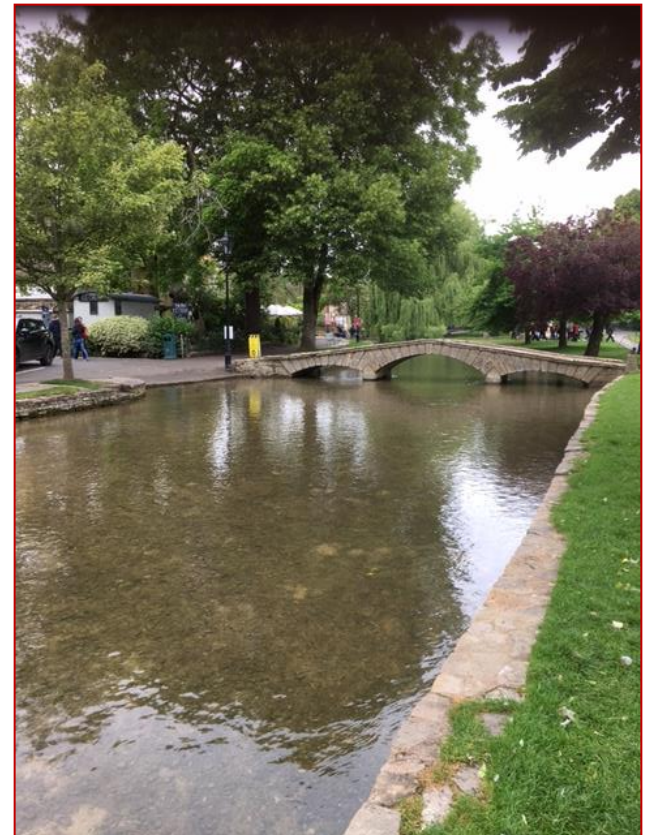
_____ lesson

Literacy Lead: Mrs. Montiel



Year 7 Geography Trips

Tuesday 29th June - Thursday 1st July saw our Year 7 students take their first trip of the academic year to visit beautiful Bourton-on-the-Water. They were looking at the impact of tourism on the area. The students got to carry out a range of fieldwork techniques as well as sampling the local chips! We were complemented by several members of the public on how well behaved they were.



The Venice
of the
Cotswolds.



Year 10 Geography Trips

Year 10 Students visited the Wyre Forest Tuesday 13th - Thursday 15th July for their GCSE Geography Fieldtrips. Various fieldwork techniques were carried out to see how the landscape was helping shape the river. The students were amazing all week.



Year 9 Trip to Devon

Year 9 spent five fun-filled days at Knapp House in Devon, taking part in a whole range of outdoor activities including water-skiing, pedal carts, tunnelling, coastal walks and surfing!



Library News

Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards

Students across Warwickshire took on the challenge of reading all six of the shortlisted books in this year's Book Award, voting for their favourite. When the KHS votes were counted, it was very close between *Gloves Off* and *Nothing Ever Happens Here*, but the outright winner for our students was *The Last Paper Crane*. Would the other schools agree?

Well done to all our students for taking on the challenge, and congratulations to Sam who won Competition 3, a blog about taking part in the Book Award.



Accelerated Reader

We end the year with sixteen word millionaires! Congratulations to the latest members of the club, **Liam and Brooklyn**, who have received certificates and star badges.



Congratulations also to 7/SEL, 8/AB and 9/HS 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 Monday!**

Well done to the star readers in each form, Fatimah, Brooklyn and Harry for helping to lead their forms to victory.

The five top AR readers from each year are:

Year 7 - Liam, Jimmy, Archie, Lottie, Freddie

Year 8 - Shannon, Isobel, Hannah, Otto and Isaac

Year 9 - Harry, Lucy, Joe, Bea and Charlotte

Their prize was a pizza party in the Library on Monday!



Our New Library system

We have now moved over to a new Library system called Accessit, which is designed to support the whole school community, engaging and motivating students and supporting digital literacy.

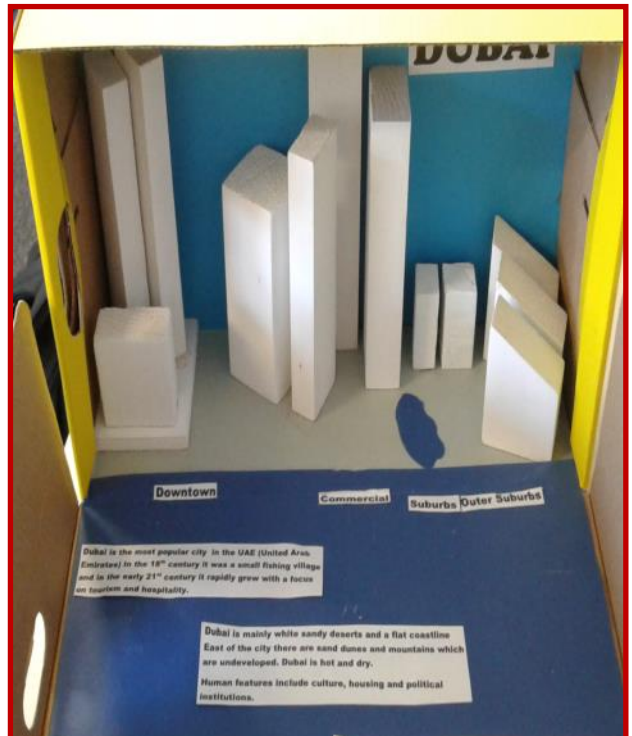
To see how this looks for students, please take a look at this short [demo](#).

Accessit



Year 7 Geography ILTs

Well done to all our Year 7 students who recently created some fantastic 'Cityscape in a Box' for their independent learning task.



Sports News

Warwickshire U13 Cricket Final

Well done to all of the Year 8 students who were runners up in the Warwickshire U13 Cricket final. It was a fantastic game against KES and played in great spirit. Player of the match: Matthew M.



Sports Days

All students in Years 7-10 have recently taken part in Sports Day events during PE lessons over the last week. Activities included 800m, shot putt, long jump and javelin.



Extra Curricular Clubs

It has been wonderful to welcome students back to extra curricular clubs, especially to make the most of our amazing swimming pool.



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



Congratulations:

To Madden in Year 8 for achieving a Merit in his Grade 1 Exam in Drums, especially with the difficulties COVID have added. He is now working towards Grade 2. Very well done Madden!

Notices:

We will be rolling out Class Charts next term as a key strand in our parental communication. There are both parent and student apps available for this and further details will follow in the new academic year. In essence this should provide parents/carers additional details on how their son/daughter is performing in school, allowing them to track both positive praise and any concerns raised. Please click [here](#) for a parental information leaflet for Class Charts should you be interested in delving further into this. Further information will be added to the school website in due course.

Forthcoming events:

Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ *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*

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



@KinetonHighSch



@KinetonHighSchool





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.