

Headteacher's message



Dear Parents/Carers,

As the term comes to close we get a chance to reflect on the past four months. This term could be summed up as an intense, challenging but extremely rewarding one for me personally; I believe many of the staff would agree. There have been so many highlights and successes to build on as you'll see in this update. The New Year promises to be a very exciting one!

However, it would be remiss of me not to mention the challenge and disruption to learning posed by the school's COVID outbreak in the first half of the term. Thankfully, the circuit break and the half term has meant this has been significantly contained this half term. Students have taken home two boxes of testing kits each for use over the holiday. I firmly encourage all our students (and staff) to continue their testing regimes over the break as the National picture is more concerning. Testing for all eligible students takes place on the 5th January before a full return for everyone on Thursday the 6th.

Perhaps one of my favourite and proudest events of the term was our Open Evening in September. A beautiful summer evening in which we showcased our school. It was wonderful to have so much interest and positive feedback about the atmosphere; our staff and especially our students.

They have continued to impress in many respects since the start of the year; notable examples would be the launch of our Student Council and the pride every form representative takes in wearing their badge. Our students have led on the new Student Voice platform which will be formally introduced early next term and should support their well-being and ability to feedback on matters such as safety and home; in the community and specific incidents in school. A number of students have given presentations last week to their peers to launch 'Rainbow laces' in celebration and recognition of diversity in our community. They have demonstrated great leadership skills in doing this.

Sports fixtures and extra-curricular clubs have taken off and it's fantastic to note that at times, over half of Year 8s and 9s have been in-attendance at one of the clubs on offer after school. The school's sports teams are certainly gaining confidence from the many excellent performances in fixtures and tournaments across the region. It's not only sport that attracts students to stay after school. Art, Drama, E-Sports, Debate Club and more recently STEM club are among the many opportunities open to our students. Our school production rehearsals have seen incredible commitment from a large number of students. I can't wait to see the KHS version of High School Musical!

As is the norm at this time of year, our students have been outstanding in supporting the Christmas charity effort. Santa-runs; food bank collection for Global Virtues week; Christmas Jumper Day have all culminated in a Charity week led by the sixth form students. They have done an inspired job of organising daily entertainment; sales of refreshments and performing a show to all year groups. This year's has had fantastic reviews from all.

Well done Year 7! I really enjoyed the Carol Service held in school. Of particular note was the quality of the readings by our Creative Story winners; such an enthusiastic group of young people.

Behind the scenes throughout the term, our new school building plans have been well under way. Much more to come in the Spring term... but before then have a safe, merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Ms Bridge

Message from Mr Gowney-Hedges

Dear Parents/Carers,

We're pleased to be able to report that Class Charts has now been rolled out to parents and carers – you should have received a letter in the post with both the parental and student access codes for the Class Charts app. This is the first step towards streamlining our communication and we are currently reviewing the potential for incorporating homework setting into Class Charts. If you haven't had your letter yet then please contact the school at: enquiries@kinetonhighschool.org.uk with Class Charts as the subject header. We will be providing students some additional training on the app in the New Year to ensure that they are able to fully engage with all that Class Charts has to offer.



Part of this is the tracking of the House Points competition across the Academy. With the recent Tug of War competition complete for years 7-11 the current standings are: Ainslie and Redgrave tied on 1500 points, Hoy on 1000 with Adlington on 800. All to play for with the Sixth Form and Staff to go! Meanwhile in the main house competition it is Hoy who currently hold the lead (at the time of writing) with 10,138 points with Adlington in second on 9,644 and Redgrave and Ainslie in hot pursuit (9,195 and 9,104 respectively). We've been giving out lots of positive rewards recently, from queue jump passes, non-uniform days, and letters home, but the big house competition is only really starting. The next term there's a big focus on house competitions in PE so please keep an eye out for the updated results of those!

The school is also introducing a new contextual safeguarding programme called Kineton's Student Voice. We hope this will support students both inside and outside school, allowing us to better listen to their views and address them. More information will follow next term but please feel free to check out The Student Voice from the School home page.

It's been fantastic to be able to celebrate so many achievements with all of our students and hopefully the well deserved break will allow everyone to come back with recharged batteries ready for the challenges and opportunities of the new year. See you all in January!

Best wishes,

*Mr Gowney-Hedges
Deputy Headteacher*



Year 12 Geography Trip

Year 12 enjoyed a Geography residential trip to Preston Field Studies Centre in November. They looked at regeneration, the impact of coastal management on the Welsh coast and hydrological processes. The students were amazing and it was lovely for them to have the chance to use different fieldwork techniques, especially as they were unable to this at GCSE.

Mrs Lovell

Head of Geography



Character and Culture

Did you know that every pupil at Kineton takes part in a Character and Culture lesson every 2 weeks. This is based around 3 key themes which are Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), Health and Employability. This term pupils in different year groups have been looking at the following key content:

- ◆ Year 7 – What is Health and how to keep themselves Healthy (both Physically and Mentally)
- ◆ Year 8 – Consent and the law around this including taking and sharing explicit images
- ◆ Year 9 – Different jobs and Organisational Structure. Qualifications and Post-16 pathways.
- ◆ Year 10 – Healthy Relationships, Sexual Harassment, Parenting and Unplanned Pregnancy
- ◆ Year 11 – Stress Management and positive coping mechanisms. The importance of good sleep and how to achieve this. Revision techniques.

Flexible Learning Day

On October 20th pupils participated in a Flexible Learning day. This included partaking in a number of sessions tailored around personal development. Each year group had a particular focus for the day :

- ◆ Year 7 – Safety Day – This including basic first aid training, Road awareness, Water safety and Gambling.
- ◆ Year 8 – Culture Day – This day focused around Culture and Diversity including sessions on Black history month, LGBTQ+, International Sports and British Values.
- ◆ Year 9 – Careers Day – This included an Enterprise challenge, Careers/Personality Quiz and sessions on Goal Setting and Interview questions.
- ◆ Year 10 – Had a life skills day focusing on elements of RSE (relationships and sex education) as well as a Sixth Form Taster session and Money and Finances session.
- ◆ Year 11 – Had the opportunity to get involved in a range of Sixth Form taster sessions focusing on subjects they do not currently study including, Sociology, Psychology, Photography, Media and Health and Social Care.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There has been a wide range of Extra-Curricular clubs on offer to pupils so far this year. Ranging from Sports such as Netball, Football, Rugby in the first half term; Trampoline, Gymnastics, Badminton and Table Tennis this half term to Book Club in the Library for Year 7 and 8 students as well as Art and E-Sports and Debating. Rehearsals for High School Musical are well under way with performances scheduled for February and the Science department have recently launched an exciting new STEM club.

Details of what's on offer can be found on our website here: <https://kinetonhighschool.org.uk/curriculum/extra-curricular-activities> which is updated regularly.

Miss Bonser, Personal Development Lead

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

In Year 9, we have seen 65 pupils start their Bronze DofE journey. They have been into school for their first training day which included learning map skills, how to set up and light a stove as well as putting up their tents.



The bp Ultimate STEM Challenge

In the last week of term, our new national STEM club challenge was launched for year 7 and 8 students. The challenge invites our students to look at the things they can do locally, using science and technology, to come up with a net zero plan for their own community.



We were delighted to see twelve of our young enthusiastic scientists come along to the launch event, to start exploring what net zero means and already start sharing innovative ideas about ways we can achieve this locally. We warmly welcome even more scientists to come on board and join our club when it officially starts on Monday lunchtimes after Christmas. All they need to do is ask for more details from one of their science teachers. Then they too will have the exciting opportunity to also meet our visiting STEM ambassador, Jack Honour, who is Policy Advisor for the Advanced Nuclear Innovation Team Nuclear Directorate (within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy). We are further privileged that John has also offered to mentor and act as a consultant for the students during their projects!

A winner will be chosen from each age category and an overall challenge winner will also be chosen. The overall winner will receive £3000 for a sustainable project in their community. The secondary school category winners will receive £1000 each for their project.

To protect our planet for future generations, one of the biggest challenges the world faces is to limit rising global temperatures and so reduce some of the effects of climate change. To limit rising global temperatures, we need to be aiming to get to net zero. Net zero is reached when the amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activity and released to our atmosphere is the same as the amount taken out.

bp's Ultimate STEM Challenge has been designed to help young people develop their creativity, problem-solving skills and employability by tackling real-world challenges. The competition has been developed based on research which shows that the more science capital (science-related qualifications, interest, literacy and social contacts) a young person has, the more likely they are to pursue a career in STEM.

The future of our planet and local community is in the hands of our Kineton High School young scientists. Thankfully, we know that they will rise to this challenge by exploring innovative approaches that will be an inspiration to us all.

Humanities News



During the week leading up to COP26, students in RE wrote their own promise or commitment for the environment.

In the Humanities Club, students have been learning about stained glass windows. They designed their own light pictures to represent the different festivals of light that take place across the traditions represented in the UK.



Library News

Library Lessons

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

The Library catalogue is available at: <https://uk.accessit.online/knt08/#!dashboard>

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 complete a quiz on it by logging on to the Accelerated Reader website: <https://ukhosted24.renlearn.co.uk/2249454/>. If students are unsure of their log in, they should email Mrs Johnson: cjohnson@kinetonhighschool.org.uk

Completing a quiz tells us if the student has read and understood the text, but it also gives us a word count and lets us know when students have read a million words. So far in our Millionaires' Club we have Hannah, Lauren, Katy, Byron, and Imogen, with Leo being our first **multi-millionaire**, having read over 3 million words!



Congratulations to them all!

The English group and Tutor group to have done the most quizzes will win a non-school uniform day.

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:-



Library News

- ◆ **Cardboard Cowboys** - A warm and funny story of the unlikely friendship that helps one lonely, bullied boy see himself differently
- ◆ **When the World was Ours** - an exceptionally powerful book based on the author's family's extraordinary escape from Nazi occupied countries
- ◆ **Asking for a friend** - A feel-good YA story about valuing the friends that value you.
- ◆ **The Supreme Lie** - An enthralling new novel is set in a world paralysed by natural disaster and dangerous lies.
- ◆ **The Monsters of Rookhaven** - A magnificent, shadowy, gothic adventure full of heart
- ◆ **The Humiliations of Welton Blake** - Hilarity follows disaster in this sharp-witted tale of the trials of teen life

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 few of the students who have taken on the Warwickshire Book Award challenge

Student Librarians

We now have a waiting list for students who would like to apply to become Student Librarians. Many thanks to the current team who give up at least one break and lunchtime each week to help with the running of the library.

Sports News

Football



Well done to our Sixth Form team who won 3-2 away against Southam College on Wednesday 10th November. Goals: Oli (2) and Jamie.



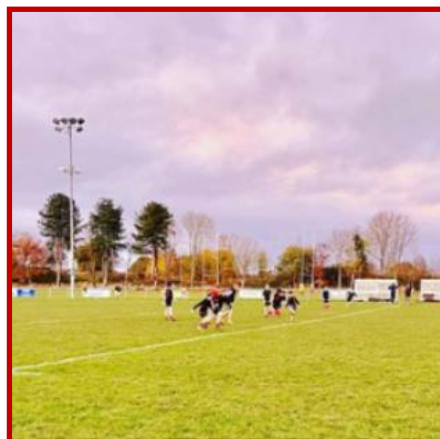
Year 10 remain undefeated so far this year with a brilliant team performance against Aylesford on Tuesday 16th November. Final score: 5-3. Goals: Ollie (3), Joe and Sam

Santa Fun Run



This week, all students have taken part in a Santa Fun Run during PE lessons. All donations will be going to Katharine House Hospice, thank you to everyone for taking part.

Rugby



On Friday 19th November Year 9 enjoyed an evening of Rugby at Leamington RFC. They won 2 matches, drew one and lost one—well played!

Cross Country

Brilliant performances at the South Warwickshire Cross Country on Saturday 6th November. Mark (Y8) finished 5th, George (Y9) 7th, Isobel (Y9) 7th and Hannah (Y9) 21st. 3 have now qualified for the next round—well done!



Student Achievements

Oxford Students

Congratulations to two of our former Sixth Form students, Noah and Ursula, who completed their matriculation into Oxford University in October. They are both enjoying Uni life so far and we wish them every success for the future.

Good luck to all our Year 13 students who are currently applying for universities, apprenticeships and employment.



Notices:

Upcoming Parents Evening Dates

- ◆ Year 9 - Wednesday 19th January
- ◆ Year 10 - Thursday 10th February
- ◆ Year 7 - Wednesday 2nd March
- ◆ Year 8 - Thursday 17th March
- ◆ Year 12 - Thursday 12th May

COVID Clinics for 12-15 year olds

COVID vaccination clinics are now available for children aged 12-15 who have not had their first dose. Please note, if your young person has had a positive COVID test they need to wait 12 weeks before attending a vaccination clinic. The 12 weeks start from the date they had their PCR test.

- ◆ Northgate House, Warwick - to book click [here](#)
- ◆ Coventry Central Library - to book click [here](#)
- ◆ Bedworth Civic Hall - to book click [here](#)
- ◆ Hospital of St Cross, Rugby - to book click [here](#)

Forthcoming events:

Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ *Monday 20th December - Monday 3rd January—Christmas and New Year Break*
- ◆ *Tuesday 4th January—Teacher Training Day*
- ◆ *Wednesday 5th January - Remote learning/School closed to students (except for testing)*
- ◆ *Thursday 6th January - All students return to school*
- ◆ *Monday 31st January to Tuesday 1st February - Year 8 Maths and English Exams*
- ◆ *Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4th February - Year 9 Exams*
- ◆ *Tuesday 15th February - Flexible Learning Day*
- ◆ *Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th February - High School Musical Performance*
- ◆ *Wednesday 16th February - A Level Geography Field Trip*
- ◆ *Monday 21st to Friday 25th February—Half Term*

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





Leave of Absence During Term Time 2021-22



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.