

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's full steam ahead for all at Kineton High School since the start of 2022!

Our students in Years 10, 11 and 13 are getting focussed on their important examinations in the summer term. Many are showing impressive determination by attending after school (period 6) revision activities and proactively engaging in reviewing learning and preparing for mocks in March. The website has a new Year 11 page which has key dates and advice on preparing to succeed. There are always staff who can help if they need it; form tutors are always the first port of call.

Year 8 and Year 9 practice examinations take place this week. The students will rehearse the protocols of real exam experiences so they are prepared for the public examinations they'll take later in their school careers.

Enrichment activities continue to evolve since the easing of restrictions. It's been fantastic to watch and hear about the sporting successes of our teams and individuals. Congratulations to our Year 10 boys for becoming the mid-Warwickshire 7-a-side champions! Further information can be found in the newsletter. We have a record number of keen DofE students this year at all levels. Well done to our Gold group who have just completed their practice expedition; thank you to Mrs Briggs and the team for supporting them.

After school clubs continue to be popular; Mrs Sherwood's STEM club were delighted to hear from Jack Honour, Energy Advisor to the Government when he delivered a workshop at a recent lunchtime meeting. Our extra-curricular club timetable can be found on the website [here](#).

Year 10 students were extremely positive about the performance of 'A Christmas Carol' by Quantum Theatre Company last week. It will undoubtedly support their understanding of this key text for their Literature exam this summer.

Thank you to all parents and carers who've responded to our Parents' Survey. Your feedback is really important to the school and in ensuring we continue to improve in key areas. It has now closed but results and actions will be shared in our next newsletter.

Finally, if you are interested in helping to set up a Parents' Association at Kineton, I'd be delighted to hear from you! Please email enquiries@kinetonhighschool.org.uk.

Ms Bridge

COVID notice

Please be advised that there are still a number of cases in school each day. If there is a positive case in the household please test children in the morning *before* coming to school rather than the night before. Please also continue to test twice weekly. Results should be reported on the school website [here](#) and additionally positive LFD tests should be reported to the NHS website [here](#).

Thank you for your cooperation.





Message from Mr Few

The Launch of Kineton High School Student Voice

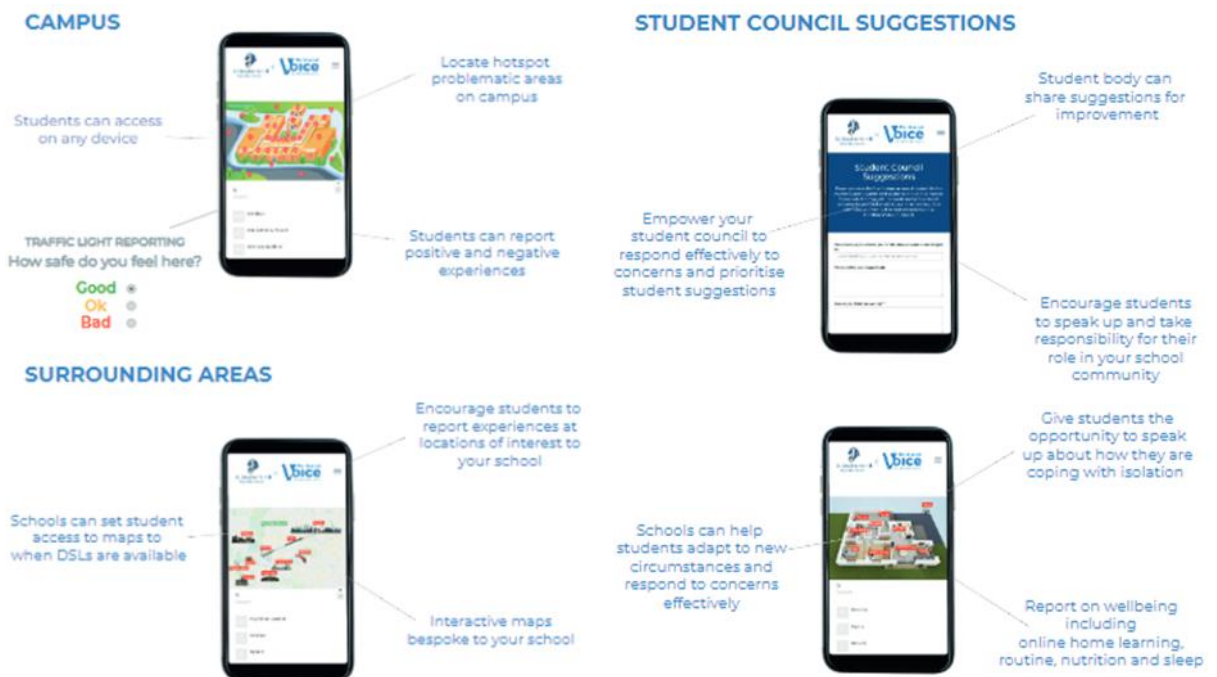


Kineton High School has launched an online platform contextual safeguarding package to support students both in and outside school. Students can log issues on any device at any time and are guided by the platform if they require immediate support or are happy to wait until a member of the Safeguarding team reviews their entry. These can be logged to an area both inside or outside school and so allows the school to build up a picture of where additional support can be provided as well as working with the community to improve these areas. Students have a QR code that links directly to the website although this can be accessed through our own website from the Student Voice banner on the main page.

The Student Voice also allows us to receive feedback on Student lives such as online gaming or social media so the school can adjust the pastoral support programme to guide students in these areas of life if a need arises. We also are strongly encouraging students to use the Student Voice to log any issues regarding friendships or perceived bullying so the Heads of Year can alleviate the problem swiftly.

Finally, the Student Voice can allow us to receive feedback from key areas of the school which are fed into the School Council and Senior Leadership Team. We are starting to receive invaluable feedback from our young students which will help us to guide and inform us about what is important to them and how we can all work together to improve the student experience at Kineton High School.

Mr Few, Assistant Headteacher



A Christmas Carol

Our Year 10s have been working very hard preparing for their GCSE English Literature exams which they will sit this summer. They have already studied Macbeth, An Inspector Calls and are making excellent progress with A Christmas Carol. We therefore decided this was the perfect time to bring in some live theatre.

On Thursday 27th January we welcomed Quantum Theatre into Kineton where they performed an abridged version of Dickens' classic for all Year 10 students. There were only 3 actors (2 males and one female) and a couple of our students were even involved in the production! They really liked that it was quite interactive in this way and also that the cast sang Christmas carols when they were moving the set. Even though it was the end of January, it felt very Christmassy! Students felt the play was very well-planned and well-organised and was easy to follow because of the costumes, acting and set. They really brought a 150 year old novel to life! Thank you to Quantum Theatre for coming in and giving our students this opportunity.



STEM Club Special Guest

We were absolutely delighted to welcome STEM ambassador Jack Honour, energy advisor in the Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to our lunchtime STEM club on Monday 17th January.

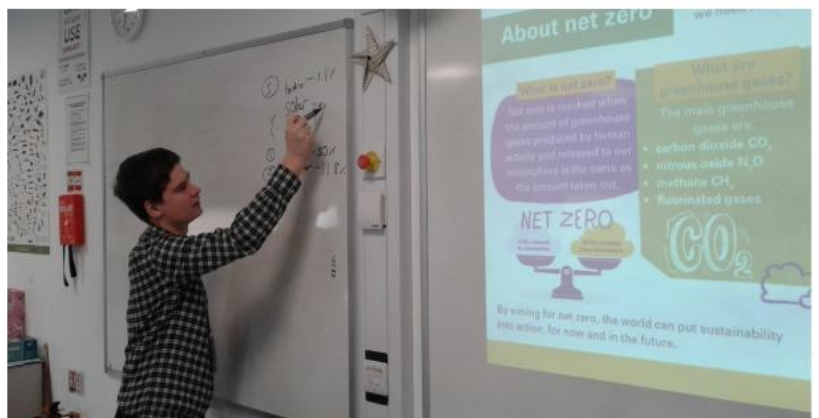
Our club is entering a national competition to use science and technology to design a net zero plan for our own community. To protect our planet for future generations, one of the biggest challenges the world faces is to limit rising global temperatures and so reduce some of the effects of climate change. To limit rising global temperatures, we need to be aiming to get to net zero.

Jack worked with a group of our enthusiastic year 7 students to firstly pick apart exactly what net zero means and together they then explored the energy resources currently used, together with what changes need to be made in the future to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In terms of the latter, the group discussed the pros and cons of nuclear fuels and various renewable energies.

Jack was impressed that the students were quick to reason that the issues around these are complex and that we need to consider multiple resource options in the future.

The discussion then moved on to explore ways in which global warming can be reduced by addressing alternative modes of transport, such as through bike hire schemes and by limiting energy consumption in the first place. Together with Jack, the students came up with many innovative ideas such as: using more battery powered appliances that use mobile rechargeable batteries that easily get recharged at solar powered recharge stations; charging your mobile phone by transferring the movement

energy when you walk or cycle or even from the vibrational energy when the school stairwell steps vibrate at the end of the day! The next steps for the student scientists at our STEM club is for them to build upon their discussions and continue developing their ideas for local plans to achieve net zero. Jack was so impressed with their enthusiasm for the topic, he has offered to come back in a few weeks time to see how they are getting on and continue to develop their ideas with them.



Library News

Congratulations

To Emily H who has won first place in the 14-17 category of the 2021 Solstice Prize for young writers. The Solstice Prize is an annual competition for young writers, showcasing imaginative short stories and provocative poems. Much of Emily's writing is inspired by nature, and we can't wait to read "Removing Caterpillars from my Grandfather's Cabbages"!

WANTED!

We are in urgent need of new or used copies of **Manga/Anime, Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Tom Gates**, as they are proving extremely popular with our students! If you have any that are no longer used, please consider donating them to the library and get in touch with Mrs Johnson by email: cjohnson@kinetonhighschool.org.uk

Library Catalogue

The new Library system, Accessit, is great for students as it enables them to search the catalogue for books to read, check which books they still have on loan, write reviews, make reading lists and search outside the library using One Search. They can search as a Guest, or use the blue Login Via SSO button and enter their usual school computer login.

Take a look at: <https://uk.accessit.online/knt08/#!/dashboard>

Accelerated Reader

In the Autumn Term we ran competitions to find the English groups and Form groups who passed the most AR quizzes. The winners, who **won non-uniform days**, were:

7/B2 (150 quizzes!), **8/A2** (99), **9/A1** (94)

7/ETY (143), **8/CP** (90) and **9/PL** (70)



The second round of Star Testing is almost complete, and it is encouraging to see an improvement in reading ages. Reading for just 20 minutes per day can make a difference!

When students finish a book they should complete a quiz on it by logging on to the Accelerated Reader: <https://ukhosted24.renlearn.co.uk/2249454/>.

We now have ten students who have read over a million words. New members of our Millionaires' Club are Emily, Otto and Grace, with Isobel being our second **multi-millionaire**, having read over 2 million words! Congratulations to them all and well done to Clover, who has passed the most quizzes so far this term!

Library News

Warwickshire Secondary Schools Book Award

Our Book Award students have made a brilliant start and are reading their way through the six books on the shortlist (well done to Leo who has finished them all already!). Students are coming to the weekly meetings and it is clear they are enjoying the variety of genres and writing styles. We have until 18th March to read the books and vote for our favourite. The winner will be announced on 24th March.



Student Librarians

I am so grateful to our team of 17 Student Librarians who help to keep the library running smoothly. They are reliable, conscientious, work well as a team, and I couldn't manage without them!

Below: Samuel, Lily R, Lily M, Isobel, Marty, Aidan, Lety and Libby (Year 9 & 10)



Sports News

Football

Year 10 Mid and South Warwickshire Football Champions

Huge congratulations to our fantastic Year 10 Football team who won the Mid and South Warwickshire 7 a side Football Tournament on Wednesday 26th January.

They played some outstanding football, winning 3 matches and drawing 2 with a total of 4 goals scored by Ollie and James.

This continues their winning streak as they remain undefeated since the start of the academic year.

Well done team; we are extremely proud of you.

Mr Grant, Learning Leader of PE



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Sports News

Cross Country

County Cross Country Championships



We were delighted to host the County Cross Country Championships here at Kineton High School on Saturday 22nd January.

There was a fantastic turnout from schools across the district and it was great to welcome so many supporters.



Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to all the students who qualified for the next round.

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Sports News

Football



Well done to our Sixth Form team who took part in the North Leamington Football Tournament on Wednesday 12th January. Goal: Jack W, Player of the Match: Rory W



Year 10 still remain undefeated so far this year with a fantastic team performance against Myton on Thursday 13th January. All 4 goals were scored by Ollie H.



Congratulations to both Year 11 teams who played in a 6 a side tournament on Tuesday 18th January. Kineton A finished 2nd place and Kineton B 3rd.



Our Year 8 team also remain unbeaten this year with a 4-4 draw against Campion on Friday 21st January. Goals: Ellis, Harry and Hasan. Player of the Match: Jamie

Notices:

Careers Bulletin

Please click [here](#) for the latest careers bulletin which has details of activities that have taken place in school and upcoming related events. The careers page on our school website has up to date information and guidance on the careers programme and experiences we offer to students:

<https://kinetonhighschool.org.uk/curriculum/careers>

Work Experience

Well done to Year 10 students who have been busy securing work experience placements for July. We are extremely grateful to all the organisations who have agreed to host our pupils and particular thanks go to British Motor Museum who will be having 6 students across 6 different departments. If pupils need help finding a placement please can they see Mr Perkin.

Vacancy: Warwickshire County Council School Governance Professional

Warwickshire County Council are recruiting for School Governance Professionals to deliver a high-quality clerking service to schools. For further information please click [here](#).

Forthcoming events:

Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ Tuesday 1st February - Year 9 Maths Exam
- ◆ Wednesday 2nd February - Year 9 English Exam
- ◆ Thursday 3rd February - Year 8 Science Exam
- ◆ Thursday 10th February - Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening
- ◆ Tuesday 15th February - Flexible Learning Day
- ◆ Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th February - High School Musical Performances
- ◆ Wednesday 16th February - A Level Geography Field Trip
- ◆ **Monday 21st to Friday 25th February—Half Term**
- ◆ Monday 28th February - All students return to school
- ◆ Monday 28th February to Friday 11th March - Year 13 Mock Exams
- ◆ Wednesday 2nd March - Year 7 Parents Evening
- ◆ Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day

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



@KinetonHighSch



@KinetonHighSchool





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.