

## Headteacher's message



Dear Parents/Carers,

I write this message at the end of a busy and rewarding half term at Kineton High School; on a day when our Prime Minister resigned, having been the shortest serving Prime Minister in the country's history. The lunchtime announcement was the topic of much discussion, interest and excitement across school. I was proud of the genuinely serious way in which students of all years engaged with this momentous news. Whilst the stability of our government is clearly uncertain, our young citizens of the future are incredibly curious and concerned about what is going to happen. I feel reassured that they will learn from the mistakes of their elders when decisions are in their hands (mostly)!

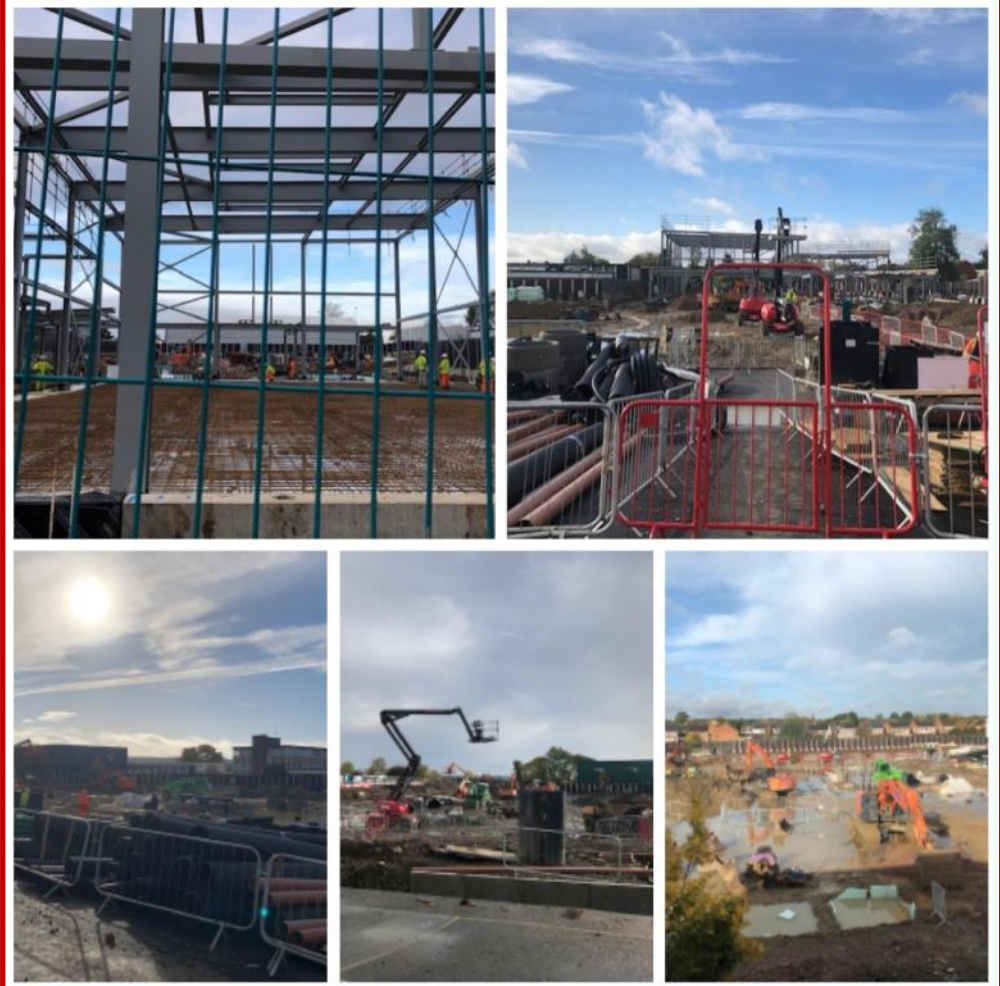
There can be no doubt that the cost of living has soared in recent months. With that concern in mind please do check eligibility for free school meals or additional support if your family is struggling to make ends meet. There is information about the Pupil Premium and Sixth Form Bursary on our website [Free School Meals - Kineton High School](#). The school will endeavour to keep costs to parents as low as possible. Whilst we are excited to be able to get our extra-curricular trips and activities going again, it is appreciated that some families may benefit from additional support. Please do contact the school as necessary.

There have been some extremely well attended trips and exciting opportunities for students this term as you'll see from the many photographs and write-ups in the newsletter. I was delighted to receive such positive affirmation from members of the public who commented on the outstanding conduct of our students on the Granada trip. Notwithstanding, the trip led by Mrs Boyd for her Year 10 Literacy group to have a tour around the new school building site. We are grateful to our developers from Wates who kitted out the enthusiastic group with protective clothing before taking them on a tour. A write-up by students will follow in our next newsletter.

The new school building project is well underway and making great progress. We are really starting to see the new Sports Block taking shape and the main 'Superblock' is outlined as foundations are gradually carved out. The images below really do give a sense of the magnitude of the build.



Whilst watching the various exploits of the builders is intriguing, our main business has been getting on with delivering the curriculum and learning! We have welcomed our critical friends from other schools in the Trust to come and review the work we've been doing on the curriculum and I'm pleased to say this was viewed very



positively in our evaluation day in September. If you wish to find out more about what your children will be learning in each subject, do look at the curriculum area on our website here: [Curriculum](#) . Here you will find information on every subject as well as the development of knowledge and skills from Year 7-13.

Years 11 and 13 have certainly hit the ground running this year as expected. The first set of mock examinations for Year 11 start a fortnight after our return on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. We have been impressed with the way in which students have focussed on 'achieving personal best' this term. There has been a rising uptake of students attending after school revision activities or simply staying in school to study. The 'attitude to learning' grades for the year group have improved significantly in the first reports. I will look forward to seeing many of our students and parents at the Sixth Form Open Evening on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Finally, well done to Year 7; a sixth of the way through their first year at Kineton! No better way to celebrate than at the Year 7 PTSA Disco which will now be held on Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Have a restful half term everyone.

*Ms Bridge*

## Year 9 Art Trip to Compton Verney

Art students in Year 9 had a fantastic day at Compton Verney on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September looking at the amazing work of Morag Myerscough and David Batchelor. They were lucky enough to meet David in person during their visit and ask lots of questions about his exhibition.

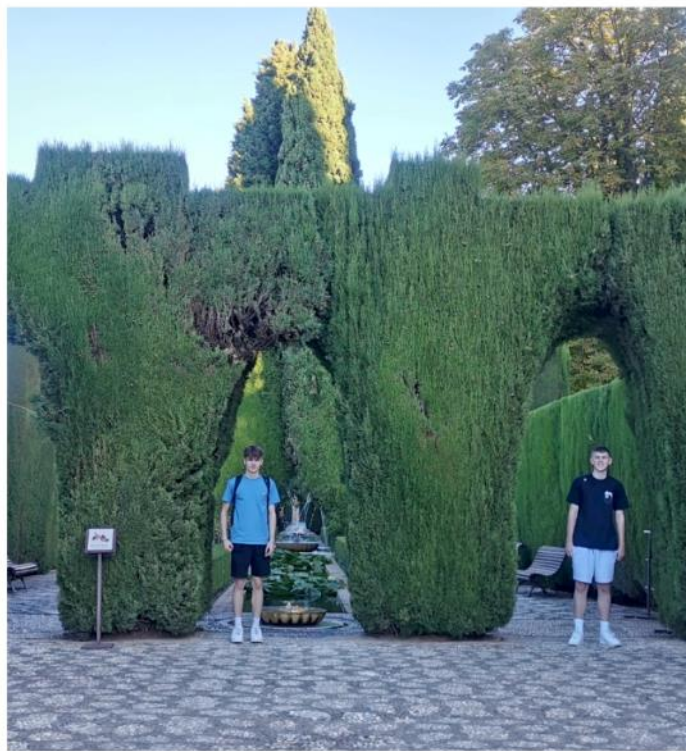


**Compton Verney**  
ART GALLERY & PARK



## Granada Trip

At the end of September Spanish students from Years 9, 10 and 11 flew to the south of Spain to spend a long weekend in Granada. We stayed in an old monastery with citrus trees in the courtyard, and spent an incredible morning exploring the Alhambra, one of the most famous Islamic palaces in the world. We also saw an intense flamenco show, and enjoyed all of the interactive experiments and exhibitions at the open air Science Park. In the evenings we ate one meal in the Arabic quarter, and another night we had a selection of Spanish tapas, all of which were delicious. The tapas bar was very close to the cathedral and we were lucky enough to watch a religious procession with music and statues go right past our tables! The trip was a fantastic opportunity to practise our Spanish and really experience Spanish culture and every day life. Qué guay! (*written by students*)



## Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip

The Year 11 Geographers went to Worcester on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October to look at inequalities across a transect of the city. They worked extremely well in small groups using various techniques to collect their data. Rachel from Bishop's Wood praised the Kineton students on their excellent conduct. Well done Year 11.

*Mrs Lovell, Head of Geography*



## Flexible Learning Day

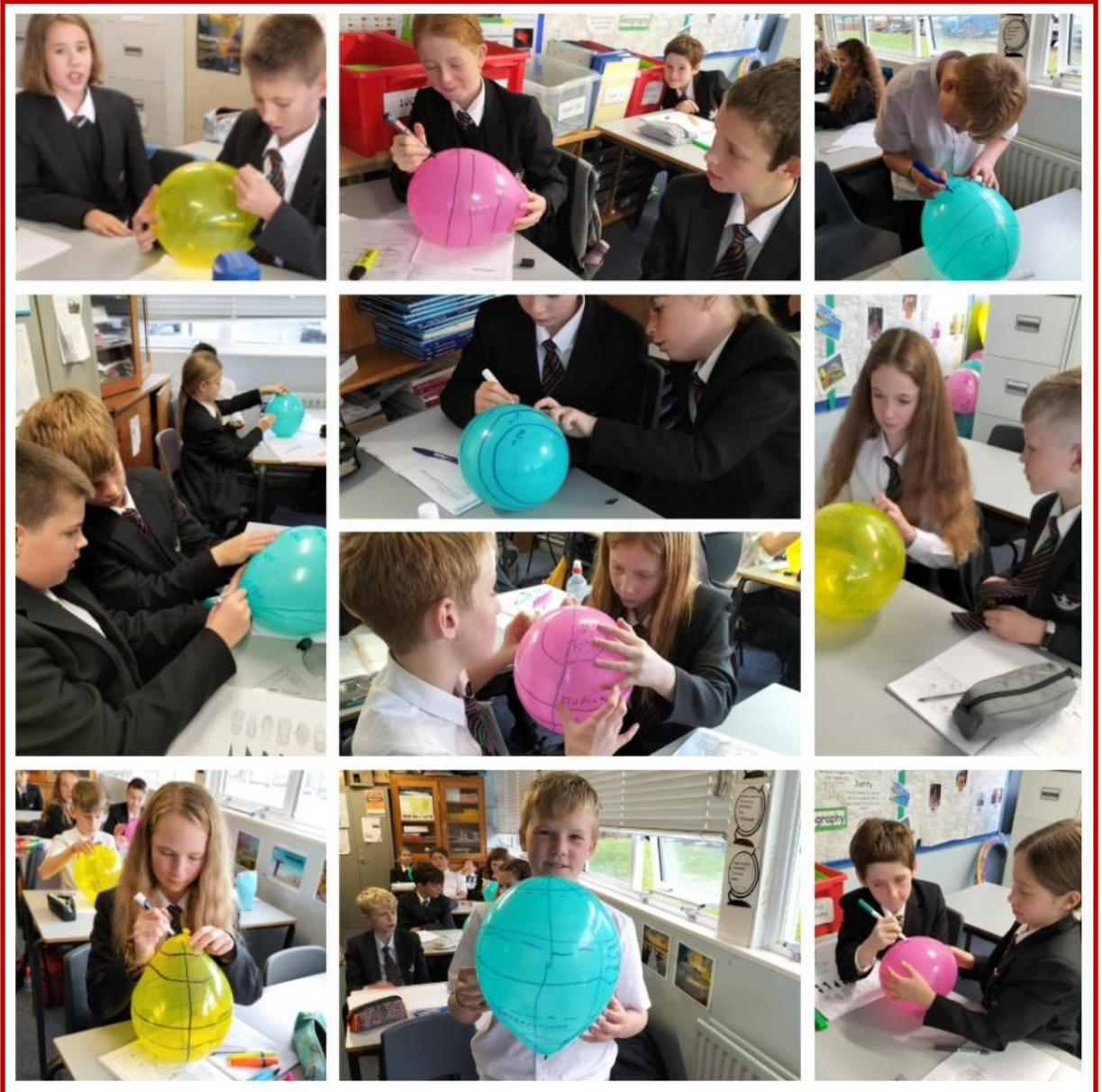
Wednesday 19th October was our first Flexible Learning Day of the academic year and gave students the opportunity to engage in learning outside of normal lessons and personal development activities. Each year group had a themed focus for the day:

- ◆ Year 7: Safety - guest speakers on road safety, basic first aid and water safety
- ◆ Year 8: Careers - a practical session from Zoolab; guest speakers from different industries
- ◆ Year 9: Enterprise - an enterprise/business challenge; sessions on skills and qualities
- ◆ Year 10: Life Skills - sessions on careers and finance; guest speakers on RSE and County Lines
- ◆ Year 11: Sixth Form - sessions in a range of subjects on offer in Sixth Form
- ◆ Year 12: Go Ape - an external trip involving team building challenges
- ◆ Year 13: Health and Wellbeing - sessions on interview skills, time management and wellbeing



## Year 7 Geography

Year 7 had a fantastic time learning about latitude and longitude using balloons this week with Mrs Lovell, Head of Geography.



Follow our Geography department in Instagram for news and information on what students are learning in school.

 [kinetonhighschool\\_geogdept](https://www.instagram.com/kinetonhighschool_geogdept)

## Sports News

### Football



On Wednesday 21st September our Year 8 boys football team played their first match against Shipston High School. They played really well and came away with a 2-2 draw.



Our Year 10 boys football team also played Shipton High School on Thursday 23rd September. The final score was 4-2 to Shipton.



Well done to our Year 10/11 girls football team who took part in the South Warwickshire Tournament on Monday 26th September and came 3rd overall.



Wednesday 28th September saw our Year 11 boys team play against Kenilworth School. They came away with a win on penalties after a 2-2 draw at full time.



## Sports News

### Football



Our Year 8 boys football team played again on Tuesday 18th October against Studley High School. The final score was 2-2.

### Hockey



On Tuesday 18th October our Year 10 girls hockey team played a friendly match against Shipston and came away with a win.

### Netball



On Wednesday 28th September our Year 11 girls netball team played in the South Warwickshire Tournament. They played really well in all matches.



Our Year 9 girls netball team also played in the South Warwickshire Tournament on Thursday 6th October. It was a fantastic effort from all players.

## School Notices:

### Congratulations

To Bethany P in Year 9 and Sasha B in Year 10 who have both been cast in Stratford Musical Theatre Company's junior production of "Matilda". They will be doing 3 performances over the weekend of 5th—7th November. They are working really hard in rehearsals and have both been incredibly dedicated, focussed and committed to their roles.

### Year 10 English Trip

There is a trip running to see *An Inspector Calls* on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham; we have 103 places for Year 10 students – the cost of the trip is £42. Letters have been sent out by email. The closing date for payment and permission slips is Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 .

## Forthcoming events:

### Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ *Monday 24th to Friday 28th October - Half Term*
- ◆ *Thursday 3rd November - Sixth Form Open Evening 5-7pm*
- ◆ *Thursday 10th November - Year 11 Parents Evening 4-7pm (in person)*
- ◆ *Friday 11th November - Year 9 Report 1 issued*
- ◆ *Sunday 13th November - Bronze DofE Training Day*
- ◆ *Monday 14th November to Friday 2nd December - Year 11 Mock Exams*
- ◆ *Tuesday 15th to Thursday 17th November - A Level Geography Residential*
- ◆ *Friday 18th November - Year 10 Report 1 issued*
- ◆ *Sunday 20th November - Gold DofE Training Day*
- ◆ *Thursday 24th November - Year 10 Parents Evening 4-7pm (in person)*
- ◆ *Friday 25th November - Teacher Training Day*
- ◆ *Tuesday 28th November - Year 8 Report 1 issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 1st December - Year 7 PTSA Disco 7-8.30pm*
- ◆ *Saturday 3rd December - Art Winter Craft Fair 10am-4pm*
- ◆ *Friday 9th December - Year 7 Report 1 issued*
- ◆ *Monday 12th to Friday 16th December - Charity Week*
- ◆ *Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January - Christmas and New Year Break*
- ◆ *Tuesday 3rd January - Teacher Training Day*
- ◆ *Wednesday 4th January - Term Starts*

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

## External Notices:

### Parent/Carer Workshops

Warwickshire Children and Family Support Service have a range of workshops and programmes for parents/carers on topics such as understanding your teenagers, sleeping and behaviour. Please click [here](#) for more information and to book. Further details on the support and services they offer can be found on their website [here](#).

### Winter Wellness

Warwickshire County Council have produced a guide for residents with support and information on staying safe and well this winter. Please click [here](#).

### MKMA Karate, Alcester

MKMA runs karate classes at the Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester on Thursday evenings (6pm-7pm) and Saturday mornings (10am to 11pm). The classes help children, and adults, learn self defence, develop self confidence and improve balance and flexibility. For further information please visit their website [here](#).

### Online Safety Course for Parents/Carers from Myleene Klass

Myleene Klass is a musician, TV presenter, blogger and parent and has been an advocate for internet safety since 2003. Myleene is keen to spread the word about a brand-new class she's hosting: The NOS Online safety Klass for Parents and Carers. Please visit the National Online Safety website [here](#) for more details and to book.

### Half Term Bike Courses

Warwickshire County Council are running Bike Courses during half term for children aged 12-16 years in Wellesbourne. For more information and to book a place please click [here](#).

### Youth Clubs, Stratford upon Avon

Escape Arts offer weekly youth clubs in Stratford upon Avon for Juniors (ages 8-12 years) and Seniors (ages 12-18 years). For further details please visit their website [here](#).

### Kineton TKD Club

Kineton TKD is a family orientated Taekwondo club that offers classes in martial arts for all ages and abilities to help improve mental and physical wellbeing. Please visit their website [here](#) for further information.





# Leave of Absence

## During Term Time 2022-23



### 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 [khsattendance@stowevalley.com](mailto:khsattendance@stowevalley.com). 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

<https://www.kinetonhighschool.org.uk/key-information/attendance-and-absence>

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 <https://www.kinetonhighschool.org.uk/about-us/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 School pupils recorded 31,196 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn term 2019.**