

## Headteacher's message



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been an incredibly busy and successful term at Kineton High School; although perhaps the most intense term for teachers, it feels as though it's flown by! As it comes to a close, it's time to reflect a little on our achievements and events as a community.

I cannot emphasise the loss we have all felt at the passing of Mr Jag Purewal who was a much-loved member of the maths team. We were so impressed and proud of the way in which our students expressed their respect for their teacher but additionally, for the kindness they showed each other and staff during what was a very challenging week. Many members of staff commented on how proud they felt to work here. The students demonstrated admirably, our values of Respect and Kindness that together with Ambition, form the foundation of all our actions, policies and decision making.

There have been many sporting successes and our students continue to turn out in large numbers for extra-curricular sports in order to fight for their place on a school team or simply for fun! Thanks to Mr Pearce and the PE team, the fitness suite continues to be a lively space at lunchtimes. As does the Art department, where many students choose to spend lunchtimes catching up with their work or exploring talents and materials.

Year 11 are now only a term and a bit away from their final GCSE examinations. We have seen an impressively mature approach from the year group since the start of term; many have been pleased with their mock exam results and this will undoubtedly motivate them as they move into the final phase of preparation. Please do continue to encourage them to attend after school revision activities and support them in maintaining excellent attendance and organisation.

Similarly, Year 13, whilst planning next steps and UCAS applications, are set to achieve very good results next summer according to their second short reports. They will need to remain motivated and focussed. We are saying a fond and sad farewell to Miss Loveridge, who has supported and led our Sixth form so effectively over the last 4 years. I have no doubt that Mr Bonfield will ensure that our sixth formers continue to be well supported and challenged as he takes up post until the end of the year as the Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher.

Our personal development calendar continues to be packed with promoting the knowledge and skills required for life. A notable event last week involved a number of our students attending a TED Talk by Gina Martin, political activist who led the campaign to make 'upskirting' illegal in the UK. A fascinating opportunity to find out how she went about this and a lesson in the rights of the individual. Our next Flexible Learning Day will include activities related to Equality and diversity; Health and safety; Enterprise and Life Skills such as budgeting and banking.

Well done to all our students for this term. Notably, for those who've overcome challenges in striving to achieve their personal best. Thankyou too to the staff at school who are ready for a break and time with family and friends.

Finally, congratulations to our PTSA for a fantastic Year 7 Disco, the first of many events aimed at supporting us to make the school even better for our students. In addition, there is another well done to our Sixth Form for organising the Charity Week activities; a wonderful way in which to end the term and take us into the Christmas break.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Stay safe over the break and we will look forward to seeing all our students on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

*Ms Bridge*

## Message from Ms Loveridge

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic first term we have had in the Sixth Form; we have welcomed our new Year 12 intake who have settled in to their new routines and expectations well. For many students the increase in expectation and work load from GCSE has come as a bit of a surprise, however the majority of students are approaching this with maturity and resilience. We have also welcomed back our Year 13 students who have tackled the many large deadlines and tasks that faced them this term with gusto and positivity; UCAS submissions; EPQ assessments and mock exams are now behind them. They have very much done themselves (and us) proud.



We all had a wonderful time at our Winterball in November at Charlecote Pheasant; this mixer event organised by our fabulous Social Committee allows Year 12 and 13 students to come together socially and get to know each other better; it is safe to say it was a resounding success and everyone looked amazing in their suits and gowns!

Year 12 were also able to work together more closely as a team on their team building trip to Go Ape in October. This was fundamentally a forest floor activity day; however, it is good preparation for the high tree top adventure trip in Year 13!

Finally, our annual Charity Week! As I write this, the various activities planned and run by the Sixth Form are now underway and are providing our school community with a very much needed lift at the end of a very challenging term. As you are aware, we unfortunately received devastating news about the loss of Mr Purewal earlier this half term; he taught many of our Sixth Form students and was liked and respected by all. We will be donating all funds raised through our charity events this week to Cancer Research UK, a charity nominated by Mr Purewal's family, and we hope to raise as much as possible in memory of him.

I will sign off this update from me with a very big thank you and goodbye. I am leaving Kineton at the end of this term as I move to a Director of Sixth role across a trust of schools closer to home. I have had the pleasure of working with many of you and your children for many years, teaching and supporting older siblings and current students, and I will miss them all greatly.

The role of Head of Sixth Form for the rest of this academic year will be taken by Mr Bonfield, who I am sure will lead them to fantastic success.

Thank you, for all of the support and memories. I hope you and yours have a lovely Christmas and a successful future full of laughter and joy.

Best wishes,

*Ms Loveridge*

## Message from Mr Larner

Dear Parents/Carers,

### T&L Update Autumn Term 2022

There is a real push towards stretching and challenging all learners at Kineton High School this academic year. We encourage every child to operate in their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development). This means all students should be well out of their comfort zone in lessons, but not too far out that the learning becomes incomprehensible. The teacher training day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January will continue this theme, with training on advanced scaffolding and how to challenge every child through a personalised learning approach.



### A reminder of the 6 Learning Principles at Kineton School:

The learning across the school is driven by six core learning principles which feature across lessons and are on the website. They can be described as follows:

- ◇ **Revise in 5** – Opportunities to retrieve knowledge allowing students to know and remember more.
- ◇ **Cold calling** – Teachers skilfully direct questions to students encouraging participation and engagement.
- ◇ **Silent study** – Time for independent learning where students can consider concepts in a deeper more focussed way.
- ◇ **Clear instruction** – There is no talking when the teacher is talking to ensure clarity of learning.
- ◇ **Scaffold and Challenge for all** – All students are challenged to learn in their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development).
- ◇ **Guided reading** – All lessons promote literacy and support the subject content through scaffolded reading.

Further information can be found on our website here: [Teaching and Learning - Kineton High School](#)

### Kineton High School Curriculum Maps

On the website we have provided a lesson-by-lesson document which shows where students should be across their subjects at any point within the year. Beyond this though each subject has a curriculum journey map which is there to show how students will evolve from starting a subject in Year 7 or Year 9, to what mastering the subject looks like at Y13 and beyond. These curriculum maps will give parents a good opportunity and structure to discuss the course students are learning, which topics they have recently studied and what is coming up in the future. It is also as a good guide towards reviewing options at Year 8 and Year 9. If parents talk these through with the children, they should be able to pick out some of the key things they have learnt so far this year in each subject, whilst having an understanding of what is to come as part of the bigger picture.

An addition to this is the homework policy for each department which is broadly split between consolidatory and exploratory learning. These departmental approaches and the main policy can also be found in the curriculum area of the website here: [Subjects - Kineton High School](#)

*Mr Larner*



## Head of Year Messages

### Year 7

As the first term draws to a close, and the festive season approaches, I would like to thank you all for your help and support overseeing the challenging task of your child's transition from Primary School to Secondary School. It is an absolute pleasure to work with you and your children at the start of this 5 year journey. I hope I have laid our Ethos and Values foundations for all upon which we can all build upon: Ambition, Respect and Kindness and being always the best version of ourselves. I know there is still much to do to continue to help shape students into the curious, ambitious learners of the future, whilst upholding the core values we promote.

As a community it is important to remember we must all support each other, and to know where the support is, should we need it. In this difficult time, following the news of our recent loss, it is fitting to remember just how important our kindness to others is; how this simple value can shape a classroom environment, a school environment, and a whole community.

This week, in form time and during Character and Culture, we continue to explore the topics of mental health. Our focus this week is on "The Power of Words" and I attach the resource we will be delivering to Year 7. With your help, I would like to use this opportunity for us all to talk with Year 7 students about this topic to show how we are all working and supporting them together. I continue to be mindful of social media groups, especially WhatsApp, which continues to worry me in relation to the words our young children are using to interact with each other. Additionally, personal comments about members of staff are being made, along with racist and homophobic language. I am sure we all agree, this is not the environment we want our children to be a part of, albeit actively or simply reading it as part of a group. As issues are reported, they will be taken seriously in school and sanctions applied as appropriate.

Together we can help educate our young children to create and sustain positive environments in both the physical and virtual worlds. From this we can ensure we continue to build positive mental health.

I wish you all a peaceful and healthy festive season with family and friends. I am extremely grateful for your support this term and am blessed to be working with you.

*Mr Ford*



### Year 8

Year 8 have had an amazing start to the year. With planning Futsal House Competitions to running a House Captains tuckshop. With lots more being organised for 2023 watch this space. They have raised £288 pounds with 25% being donated to Mr Purwels charity Cancer Research UK.

I would like to take this opportunity to say Merry Christmas to all my students and parents. I am looking forward to what 2023 will bring for our amazing year 8 students.

Merry Christmas!

*Miss Boyle*



## Head of Year Messages

### Year 9

As we come to the end of a very long term its time to reflect on what has been an excellent term for students in Year 9. Students have achieved over 15,500 positive points this term, with over half being awarded for effort in lessons. These points also go towards their house total in the House Cup competition, last year won by Ainslie. This year Adlington are currently in the lead!



In assembly I have had the pleasure of handing out certificates to students who have demonstrated our Kineton Values to a very high level. Teachers nominated students who have shown Ambition, Respect, Kindness and Achieving Personal Best. Jamie and Holly received awards for Ambition, Seb and Karal for Respect, Connor and Ana for Kindness and also Vlad and Ella-Mae for Achieving Personal Best. Well done to those students.

Finally students can look forward to our Cornwall Adventure in July 2023, our Year 9 residential featuring water sports down in Cornwall, details are being sent home this week. May I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Attendance

Kineton High School is leading the way currently in attendance across the secondary schools in the Stowe Valley Trust and also above the county and national average. Students can be assured that excellent attendance (above 97%) will give them the best possible chance of achieving 5+ GCSE grades 5-9 including English and Maths than those with attendance below 90%.

To encourage excellent attendance, we will be running competitions both individually and as groups of students throughout the year. Currently we are running the 10 days till Christmas with winners in each year group being drawn on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Winners in each Year will receive a £20 Amazon voucher and runners up will receive queue jump passes and chocolate. There will be many more competitions throughout the year.

Currently, Years 7, 8 and 12 have the highest attendance.

Hopefully the New Year will be a healthy one!

If you have any questions regarding attendance you can contact Mr Daly [daly.j@stowevalley.com](mailto:daly.j@stowevalley.com) or [KHSattendance@stowevalley.com](mailto:KHSattendance@stowevalley.com)

*Mr Daly*

## Head of Year Messages

### Year 10

It has been a great term for Year 10. Congratulations to 10/SC and 10/NH who are joint first in our house points competition - with both groups earning 2356 points! It has been good to see the students working hard to prepare for their GCSE English Lit exam at the end of the year, with excellent effort and conduct in the mock exam.



From January, Year 10 will be led by a new Head of Year - the brilliant Miss Stallwood. It has been an absolute privilege working with this year group and I am very proud of them. I'd like to wish all Year 10 students great success in their GCSEs and beyond!

*Mr Bonfield*

### Year 11

Year 11 has been very busy this term with a particular focus on their mock exams. Students had 3 gruelling weeks of exams and they did really well with the logistics, particularly with the new lining up system with the sports hall being so far away now! Staff were really proud of how they stepped up to this. Mock results will be coming out to parents, as well as the Year 11 annual reports, in mid-January.



Over half of Year 11 were also given the opportunity to have an interview with an external person. This was such a brilliant opportunity for them (thanks, Ms Loveridge!) and they really rose to the occasion. The interview feedback was excellent and they really shone in what was a very unfamiliar situation for most of them. Well done to everyone who took part!

As featured elsewhere in the newsletter, we are so proud of Emily Hunt who is the new Warwickshire Young Poet Laureate. She is so knowledgeable about poetry and hearing her talk about it is truly inspiring. Well done to Emily and we hope you enjoy your new role.

We have revamped Year 11 rewards system this year by introducing a 'Prom Passport'. Six students already have won £5 off their 'rewards' package so far this academic year with more rewards being drawn just before term ends. We have a very passionate (and very large!) 'end of year celebrations' committee who are working hard to research all our options ready to take to students for a vote in January. Watch this space!

Up-to-date news and information for Year 11 is available on the website (Information – Year 11 2022/23) and we are also sending out regular communication to parents via email.

*Mrs Simpson*



## Warwickshire Young Poet Laureate

We are absolutely delighted to share the news that Emily H in Year 11 has been awarded the title of Warwickshire Young Poet Laureate 2022/23.

The Laureateship is open to anyone aged 13-17 years who lives and is educated in Warwickshire and is a unique opportunity for the successful candidate to develop their writing skills and take part in events under the mentorship of a professional poet. Applications were submitted by the beginning of October and shortlisted candidates were invited to take part in a selection day on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November at Rugby Library. During the day they took part in a workshop with a professional poet, an interview with the judges and performed their poems in front of a public audience.

Emily read out 3 poems; Edgehill, Dismantling the Library and Removing caterpillars from my Grandfather's cabbages and in her interview spoke about accessibility and promoting poetry to a diverse range of people which together won her the coveted title.

We are extremely proud of Emily's amazing achievement and the passion she shows for poetry – congratulations Emily on your well-deserved success.



### Removing caterpillars from my Grandfather's cabbages

I detach them gently  
green, hungry, velveteen -  
they have only my heart now to eat

he said to burst them with my thumb  
feel their trapped bodies split, rich juices spill  
tarnishing fingertips

or throw them for the fish, see them writhe  
break the surface, curl themselves into ammonite fists  
pulsing as they slowly sink

but I imagine their wings, useless and creased underneath  
I picture the day they rupture, break free  
unfurl their origami folds, fly away

and I don't want this dominion over death -  
to condemn these unfledged hopes  
to an end.



## Year 11 Mock Interviews

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November we hosted our first mock interview day for many of our Year 11 students and some Year 13 students. We were delighted to welcome several employers and employees into school from a number of sectors and businesses including Aston Martin, JLR, NFU, Compton Verney, Coventry Building Society, Primary Education, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Xeu Sports, Tony G, Tool Connection, Wyvern Business Systems and many many more.

What was most lovely was to see so many parents and alumni involved in the event, our students found the experience a positive and useful one and we are sure this will become an annual fixture that will grow year on year. We would like to thank all guests and students involved in the event.





## Christingle Workshop

At the beginning of December students were invited to take part in a Christingle workshop at lunchtime where they made Christingles and talked about what they meant to Christians who often make them and light them during Advent. They also found out that they originated in Germany and were first used in Lincoln Cathedral in England.

*Mrs McGrattan*



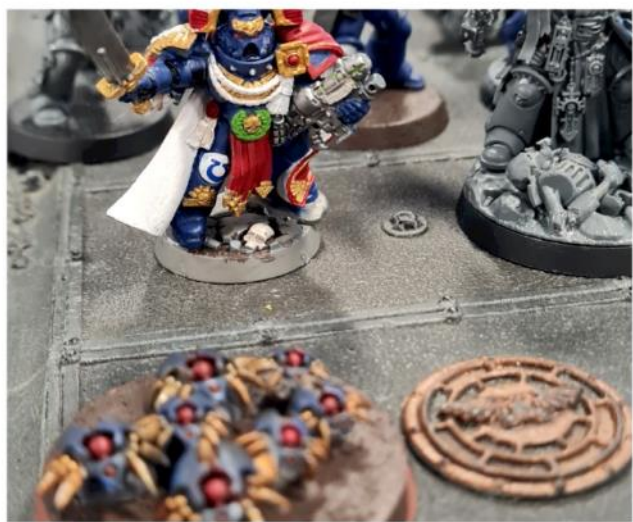
## Warhammer

In the grim darkness of the far future there is only war! Or apparently not if you get to listen to the jovial chatter from the war hammer gang as they paint their soldiers and other war mongering things! I say things simply because I don't know what they are and when I ask I get a raised eyebrow, a subtle shake of the head and a "oh sir".

What I do know is that the club is growing in numbers and they are enjoying themselves immensely. Our resident sixth former Habbi, is looking after the club and is putting together a formidable army of miniatures all carefully painted by the club.

They have used their time well and split the time between building, painting and playing. New members are welcome on Wednesday after school in R20 or E2

*Mr Wicks*



## New School Site Visit

On 14<sup>th</sup> October the Year 11 Functional Skills group went on a visit to the Wate's construction site to see the progress of the new school complex. They undertook this visit as part of their project on Careers in Construction. Tim Russell, the site manager and Dale Powell, the social value manager kindly gave up their time to tell them about the opportunities available in the construction industry. They were then given a tour of the site to see some of the processes involved in building a new school. Everyone found the visit interesting and informative and it gave a real-life perspective to their studies.



*Ms Boyd*

## In other news...

### Queen's Green Canopy

In memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II, The Geography department offered students across the school the opportunity to donate a tree towards the Queens' Green Canopy project. The trees will be planted across the UK in deprived areas and in schools. We felt it was a good way for the students to celebrate the queen, and to also do something to help conserve the environment.

*Mrs Lovell, Head of Geography*



### Student Council

Our student council is made up of representatives from each form across all year groups and is led by our Sixth Form Council Leaders. The council meet half termly and discuss various agenda items that are prevalent to student life, teaching and learning and school improvement. See below to see what our student council said and what we have done as a school in response:

**You said:** we need to be able to email our teachers on the new IT system

**We did:** we have clarified with students the new teacher email addresses and this system now works well

**You said:** we need more indoor social spaces at lunch time during the winter

**We did:** we have now opened the gym at lunch time for all year groups at lunch time

**You said:** we would like a rewards system where we can 'cash in' our class charts points

**We did:** students can now 'purchase' and queue jump for the canteen with their class chart points.

We are also evolving a student shop where students will be able to purchase items such as stationary etc with their class charts points. Watch this space!



## Sports News

### Football



On Tuesday 8th November our Year 10 football team played against Studley High School. The final score was 2-1 to Studley.



Our Year 11 football team played Southam College on Wednesday 9th November and came away with a 1-1 draw.



Well done to our Year 8 football team who won 6-1 against Alcester Academy on Wednesday 9th November.



Wednesday 28th September saw our Year 7 team play Alcester Academy. The final score was 1-1.

## Sports News

### Football



Our Year 9 football team played Myton School on Wednesday 23rd November and came away with a 5-5 draw.

### Netball



On Wednesday 30th November our Year 9 and 10 netball teams played some friendly matches against Stratford School and Shipston High.

### Hockey



On Tuesday 15th November our Year 7 and 8 mixed Hockey teams played friendly matches against Shipston. Year 7 won 2-1 and Year 8 drew 6-6.



Our Year 9/10 Hockey team played really well in the U15 South Warwickshire Tournament on Wednesday 7th December.



## School Notices:

### Stratford Foodbank

If families need emergency food support once school is closed, they can use the Help through Hardship phone line: 0808 208 2138, who will be able to raise a voucher, that can be used at Stratford Foodbank.

## Forthcoming events:

### Dates from calendar/trips:

- ◆ *Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January - Christmas and New Year Break*
- ◆ *Tuesday 3rd January - Teacher Training Day*
- ◆ *Wednesday 4th January - term Starts*
- ◆ *Thursday 5th January - Year 7 Virtual Parents Evening 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Friday 6th January - Year 13 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 12th January - Year 11 report issued*
- ◆ *Tuesday 17th January - Year 12 report issued*
- ◆ *Wednesday 18th January - Year 7 Art and DT trip to Tate Museum*
- ◆ *Thursday 19th January - Year 13 Parents Evening (in person) 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Friday 27th to Sunday 29th January - Gold DofE training expedition*
- ◆ *Monday 30th to Tuesday 31st January - Year 8 English and Maths Exams*
- ◆ *Monday 30th January - Year 11 Virtual Intervention Evening*
- ◆ *Wednesday 1st to Thursday 2nd February - Year 9 English and Maths Exams*
- ◆ *Wednesday 8th February - year 12 Geography trip*
- ◆ *Thursday 9th February - Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening*
- ◆ *Tuesday 14th February - Flexible Learning Day*
- ◆ *Tuesday 14th February - Silver DofE Training Day*
- ◆ *Thursday 16th to Tuesday 21st February - Year 11 and 12 New York trip*
- ◆ *Monday 20th to Friday 24th February - half term*

**Do follow us on Twitter and Facebook for ongoing news and 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.**