

Headteacher's message



Dear Parents/Carers,

The academic year is over a third completed unbelievably; this term has flown by. I joined Ms Stallwood and Year 7; along with Reverend Barry Jackson at the Carol Service last Friday afternoon. It was such a treat and marked the start of the Christmas season brilliantly!

There is much to celebrate as we move into our final 'Christmas Week'. This week traditionally sees Kineton High School epitomising its value of Kindness. Our students and staff are involved in raising money for our selected Charities and much of the week's activities are carefully planned by the sixth form students throughout the term. It's an incredible joint effort, involving every member of our community. Thank you to all our parents and carers for their amazing support too.

Perhaps the most exciting and significant event for the history of our school was the handover of our purpose-built Sports Block at the end of November. Life for the team and lessons for the students are now much enhanced and our community lettings have taken off also.

We had an announcement this month from the DFE and Wates Teams regarding the main block... despite some challenges with utility connections, the build is on track to be handed over during the Easter 2024 break! We will be focusing on preparing ourselves and our students for the transition and doing the inevitable clear-out!

There will be opportunity for alumni across our community to support the move and celebrate the time spent in our current building. This will also consist of an evening where we will be able to say goodbye to the building and nostalgically remember time spent here!

This term has also seen the school being involved in a ground-breaking collaboration with Compton Verney Art Gallery. We have been loaned a painting from its Naples exhibition; 'Vesuvius Erupting at Night' by Pierre-Jacques Volaire. It is now safely returned to the gallery so we will be sharing some of the projects that our students did in a future update.

As ever, they have been doing other great things this term; I have been impressed and proud of our sports teams and students' dedication to their after-school clubs. Really well done to our Year 11 Football team who won the league after a hard-fought match against Studley.

Rehearsals for the whole school production 'Annie Jr' are well underway and Ms Frost expects it to be a fantastic performance in January.

We say a final goodbye to Mr Leahy, after 21 years, and Ms Wiles who've shared an Assistant Headteacher role and look forward to welcoming Ms Young who'll be joining us in the New Year as the Assistant Headteacher for Student Achievement. Thank you to Mr Leahy for his long standing and continued dedication to the school.

I wish all our community a peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2024. Have a wonderful break and we'll see all our students back in school on January 9th 2024.

Ms Bridge



Notices:

- ◆ **The latest safeguarding bulletin:** has been sent out and can be found on our website here: <https://www.kinetonhighschool.org.uk/safeguarding> along with other useful information.
- ◆ **The school menu:** for next term can be found on our website here: <https://www.kinetonhighschool.org.uk/key-information/school-menu> Please be reminded that in order to serve your child, accounts on ParentPay must be in credit.

Spring Term Calendar:

- ◆ *Monday 25th December to Friday 5th January - Christmas and New Year break*
- ◆ *Monday 8th January - Teacher training day (school closed to students)*
- ◆ *Tuesday 9th January - start of term for all pupils*
- ◆ *Thursday 11th January - Year 11 Parents Evening 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Friday 12th to Sunday 14th January - Berlin trip*
- ◆ *Monday 15th to Friday 26th January - Year 13 Mock Exams*
- ◆ *Thursday 25th January - Year 8 Parents Evening (now in person)*
- ◆ *Wednesday 31st January and Thursday 1st February - Annie Jr performances*
- ◆ *Thursday 1st February - Careers Fair (school day event for students)*
- ◆ *Tuesday 6th February - Year 12 Birmingham trip*
- ◆ *Thursday 8th to Tuesday 27th February (excl half term) and Friday 1st March - Year 11 Mock Exams*
- ◆ *Thursday 8th February - Year 8 Options Evening (virtual) 6pm*
- ◆ *Saturday 10th to Saturday 17th February - Ski trip*
- ◆ *Friday 16th to Monday 19th February - Italy trip*
- ◆ *Monday 12th to Friday 16th February - half term*
- ◆ *Thursday 22nd February - Year 9 Parents Evening 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Wednesday 6th March - Flexible learning day*
- ◆ *Thursday 7th March - Year 13 Parents Evening 4-6pm*
- ◆ *Wednesday 13th March - Year 12 Worcester University trip*
- ◆ *Thursday 14th March - Year 9 Options Evening (now in person)*
- ◆ *Monday 18th March - Year 11 Information Evening*
- ◆ *Friday 22nd March - school closed to students*
- ◆ *Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April - Easter break*
- ◆ *Monday 8th March - school closed to students*
- ◆ *Tuesday 9th March - start of term for all pupils*

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

Message from Governors

The Governing Board has met twice this term to hear from the Senior Leadership Team and discuss a range of topics, including the progress and results achieved by students, safeguarding, SEND, and updates on the new build. The school promotes inclusion of all students to achieve their full potential, and we made SEND a key focus of our November meeting. The school's SEND Coordinator, Amanda Woodward, gave governors a report on the current SEND provision in the school and her plans for strengthening this important area of the school's activity.

To assist our knowledge of the school, individual governors are linked to specialist areas. We have link governors for Safeguarding, Disadvantaged students, SEND, Careers and Wellbeing, all of whom meet at least termly with members of the Leadership Team.

Introduction to... Nancy Buckley, Parent Governor



Nancy Buckley has been a parent governor since Spring 2023 and is mum of two pupils at KHS in Year 11 and Year 7. Her working life is also centred around education in her role as Vice Principal at Stratford-Upon-Avon College and Solihull College and University Centre. She has a background in international sales and brings a commercial acumen to the school through her added role of Careers Link Governor. She is really passionate about careers education and engages closely with employers across Warwickshire to create opportunities for her college students to gain work experience, apprenticeships or industry-designed study programs and eventually great careers. Nancy enjoys running in her spare time as well as watching live music, reading and walking in the countryside.

We would like to wish students and their families an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Mr David Savory
Chair of Governors

Christmas Message

From our Sixth Form Head Students

Christmas at Kineton is like no other!

We really value the opportunities we are given to celebrate with some fantastic events. The highlight is our annual Charity Week, which takes place in the last week of term. We raise money for local and national charities to help others during the Christmas period. This is entirely run by the Sixth Form who put on lunchtime events for lower school students, recreating Kineton's own version of popular tv shows such as Taskmaster and Strictly Come Dancing, with teachers as the contestants. This allows everyone to see the fun side of teachers away from the classroom, helping to entertain and bring excitement to this festive period.

The best part of the week is the Charity Show, which is a panto style performance, written, directed and starring Sixth Form students. It is performed on the last day of term, sending everyone off to their Christmas break with the Christmas Spirit at heart!

The school also runs a fabulous Christmas Craft Fair with gifts handmade by students, raising even more money for charities and getting everyone involved.

At Kineton we are experiencing some exciting changes with our new school build, so having this annual event makes everything seem familiar and builds enthusiasm for what next year will look like!

Every year Christmas at Kineton is such a wonderful time and we cannot wait to celebrate again this year!

Merry Christmas from everyone at Kineton!

Jess M and Kiya H



Sixth Form News

What a fabulous term we've had in Sixth Form. Back at the beginning of September we welcomed our new year 12 cohort. They have taken to sixth form life like ducks to water, working hard in the supervised study rooms and contributing to the school community. They are helping out in lower school lessons as prefects, supporting younger students with their reading in registration, and getting involved with our charity, social and equality committees.

We started the term with almost all the year 13 EPQ students submitting their projects, delivering some outstanding presentations and educating Mr Bonfield and Ms Moore on a wide variety of topics in the process. We then ran a very successful Sixth Form open evening where we had the most visitors we've ever had and all the students who helped out on the night did us proud with their hard work and enthusiasm for the school. This was followed by many year 13 students sending off their university applications to UCAS. We have now submitted all applications for those students who want to progress to university next year. The offers of places have been flooding in and year 13 students are very excited about their post-18 prospects.

This was followed by a fantastic Flexible Learning Day during which year 12 engaged in a day learning about Charities and Community Action, resulting in a vote to choose our Christmas charities for this year. Year 13 had a whole day of work and life skills including; Interview Skills, Time Management and Managing Stress, as well as a workshop run by a representative from Amazing Apprenticeships on 'how to apply and what an 'assessment centre' looks like, for those considering an apprenticeship for their post-18 options.

This was very quickly followed by our fabulous annual Winter Ball at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel, where the year 12 and Year 13 students can dust off their glad rags and join forces for a fun night out of feasting and dancing to kick off the Christmas season, and even catch a glimpse of the sixth form staff on the dance floor. Thank you to our amazing social committee for all their hard work with this.

We end the term with the best week of the year-our annual Charity Week. The whole sixth form get involved, raising money for local and national charities. Our chosen charities this year are Macmillan Cancer Support and Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. Lunchtime events this year include Dance Battle, Task Master, Rap Battle and Would I Lie to You? We finish the week with our fantastic panto style show, which this year is Grinch themed. Thank you to all the students and staff in our sixth form community for their hard work with this and especially to our amazing charity committee and leadership team, who have worked so hard writing, directing, choreographing, staging, prop making and running the technical side of things to create an amazing show. We'll let you know how much money we raise in the new year.

Mr Bonfield and Ms Moore
Sixth Form



New Sports Block

On Monday 27th November, our brand new, purpose- built sports block was handed over to the school.

Our PE team, led by Mr Pearce swiftly prepared the areas for teaching. Year 8 were the first to enter the building on Tuesday morning for their core PE class. They were suitably impressed with the facilities that include a multi-purpose activity/ dance studio; a sports hall, designed for many different sports; a fitness studio and classroom. Everyone is delighted with the new block and are now eagerly anticipating the completion of our new school building!

Thank you to the Wates and DFE teams for working so hard to get it finished for us to be in before Christmas despite some of the challenges that they've faced. We are delighted that the building is also available for community use. Please contact the school or use this link if you're interested in hiring our facilities: [Kineton High School venue for hire in Kineton - SchoolHire](#)



Year 7

Year 7 have had another successful half term and have really settled into their learning, as well as embedding our school values of Ambition, Respect and Kindness.

Two highlights of this half term have been the PTSA disco which took place in November and the Carol Service on Friday 14th December at St Peter's Church.

Miss Stallwood, Head of Year 7



Year 10

In the first term of Year 10, students have demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication and hard work as they embarked on their GCSE journey. The challenges of tackling new and advanced subjects have not deterred them; instead, they have risen to the occasion, immersing themselves in subjects like Mathematics, English Literature, and the Sciences. The commitment to mastering these foundational subjects sets a solid groundwork for their academic pursuits and is a testament to their resilience in adapting to the increased rigor of the GCSE curriculum.



Moreover, the students of Year 10 have not only excelled academically but have also showcased their creativity and teamwork in organising the Christmas Craft Fair. This event serves as a remarkable example of their multifaceted talents, as they have tirelessly worked on handmade crafts, decorations, and festive displays. The Craft Fair not only provided an opportunity for students to showcase their artistic skills but also fostered a sense of community within the school. The dedication displayed in organising and participating in such extracurricular activities reflects the holistic approach Year 10 has taken towards their education, reinforcing the idea that success is not only measured in exam results but also in the development of well-rounded individuals.

Austin W also provided a great drum solo during our rewards assembly. Congratulations to all award winners, particularly our values winners:

- ◆ Ava P - Ambition
- ◆ Harry W - Respect
- ◆ Millie A - Kindness
- ◆ Eddison H - Achieving Personal Best

I would like to thank all the form tutors for their hard work this term and wish students, parents and Carers a very Merry Christmas.

Mr Daly
Head of Year 10



Attendance Competition

Kineton High School recently concluded its attendance competition for Game Week 2, where students from different year groups competed to achieve the highest attendance. In Year 7, CKA emerged victorious by defeating SWA, while CTH triumphed over IR, and DJO secured a win against EJO. For Year 8, AMC outperformed JPE, KP defeated FW, and LMA claimed victory over MLP.

Moving on to Year 9, BRI celebrated success against HP, CRT emerged victorious against JK, and TB beat SCA. In Year 10, SEL surpassed CLM, BR defeated CP, and GB outshone PDW. Year 11 saw AEA beating JMA, HG triumphing over LDV, PAW securing a win against ENW, and SFO defeating VJ. In the 6th Form competition, NLO emerged victorious over HVF, JRS beat GE, and SRE secured a win against JBE. The winners from each year group will be rewarded with a pizza lunch as a recognition of their outstanding attendance.

The outstanding commitment and dedication of individuals shone brightly during game week 2, as Willow B, Behesta S, Lily-Mae R, Nye M, Isobel W, and Evie H emerged as the champions of perfect attendance. Their unwavering presence demonstrated a commendable level of reliability and enthusiasm. In recognition of their achievement, each individual was rewarded with a £10 Amazon voucher.

Mr Daly

Breakfast with Frank

A select group of students gathered for an unconventional breakfast session with an unexpected guest, none other than Frank, the amiable Yellow Labrador. Frank, with his gentle demeanour and wagging tail, added an extra layer of comfort to the gathering. As the students savoured their breakfast, they found solace in the calming presence of their four-legged companion. It was a brief respite before the hustle and bustle of the day, a moment to enjoy the simple pleasures of good company and the soothing influence of Frank. Students eventually parted ways, energised and ready to face the challenges of their impending lessons, leaving behind a sense of camaraderie and fond memories of an unexpected breakfast with Frank.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This is a reasonably quiet time of year for the scheme. However training is underway with both the Gold and Bronze groups completing a training day on Sunday 12th November. This included learning about maps, how to plan a route, completing a route card and some cooking safety. In addition the Gold students cooked some sample food on the Trangias for all to try. This included sausage and mash, a curry, pasta and stir fry.



But we have many completed awards to celebrate since the summer. William B, Josh P, O'Shay S and Lewis M have completed all sections of the Gold award and will get their trip to Buckingham Palace.



The following have all completed their Silver award: Oliver C, Isobel W, Emily M, Hannah W, Isaac B, Josh B, Lizzie A and Catalina K.



Bronze awards have been completed by: Ted G, Rosie P, Isla D, Raman B, Archie H, Georgie F, Isobelle C, Megan J, Hope R, Sophie M, Austin W, Emily N, Vlad V, Kara U, Katie B, Sam H-W, Martha W, Charlotte E, Evie M and Harriet B.

We have many more who are almost done with completing sections and getting them signed off. If anyone still needs help do come to Sc1 and have a chat.

January sees the next stage of Gold training with a long weekend in the Dark Peak where they will be trained in remote area navigation and night navigation.

Mrs Briggs, DofE Coordinator



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD



A level Geography Trip

Year 12 and 13 Geography students went on their A Level residential to FSC Preston Montford last week to study regeneration, coasts and processes within the hydrological cycle. They used a variety of fieldwork skills ranging from measuring and comparing beach profiles to collating evidence for whether regeneration is needed in Shrewsbury town centre. The students worked really hard over the three days and were a pleasure to take away.

Mrs Lovell and Ms Foster



Sports News

Cross Country



On Saturday 4th November 11 students represented South Warwickshire Schools at the Warwickshire School Cross Country Event in Stratford. Well done to all who took part and congratulations to Richie and Sam who have qualified to represent Warwickshire in the next stage.

Football



Well done to our Year 9 and 10 girl's Football teams who played in a tournament on Tuesday 7th November. Year 9 came 5th and Year 10 6th place.



Congratulations to our Year 8 boys Football team who beat Southam 3-1 in the 2nd round of the cup on Wednesday 8th November.



Our Year 9 boys team played Alcester Academy on Wednesday 15th November and came away with a 4-1 win! Well done to everyone that played.

Sports News

Football



Huge congratulations to our Year 11 boys Football team who beat Studley High School 3-2 on 29th November, making them winners of the Central and South Warwickshire Division 2 League!

Netball



Well done to our Year 9 and 11 teams who played against Shipston on Thursday 14th December, in our new Sports Hall. Year 9 won 11-3 and Year 11 lost 10-15.

Hockey



Our boys and girls Hockey teams played against Shipston on Wednesday 25th October against Shipston. The boys won 4-2 and the girls lost 3-6.



Well done to our KS4 Hockey team who took part in the South Warwickshire Tournament at Stratford on Tuesday 14th November.





Leave of Absence

During Term Time 2023-24



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. 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 2023-24



The Supreme Court clarified has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). 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.

The regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

Head teachers **shall not grant any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** 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. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is their responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

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.

Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. 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 93,366 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2021-22.