

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has been very much about getting Years 11 and 13 fully prepared and focussed on their final examinations this summer. With the start date being its earliest ever (9th May), the season is now well underway. Final goodbyes were said to our Year 13 a fortnight ago and today we celebrated Year 11 in their last whole year group assembly. We wish all our students the very best in their examinations.

Our newly appointed 6th Form student leaders, Evie and Joe are extremely excited about their roles as Student Presidents. They recently presented a proposal to the senior team for an improved Student Council which will enable great opportunities for budding student leaders and be a force for school improvement. We were all so impressed with their maturity, commitment and brilliant ideas! I am very excited to see the outcome of their leadership.

Thinking forward again, I will be sharing the exciting plans with students for the move into our new building as the academic year comes to an end. We will finally be able to enter our new school at the end of August! It is very close to completion and looking great; I'm sure students will love their new learning environment. We will be full-steam ahead with packing. In addition, the school's summer calendar has some of the best activities in the year; for example Proms, Enrichment Week and Work Experience. A 'farewell-to-our-school' evening will take place on the last week of term; further information to follow soon.

Finally, on a more serious note, we would like to remind parents about the impact that social media is having on our young people's mental health. A problem that is a national concern, not specific to Kineton. However, here, we know that many of our students live significant distances apart which means that much interaction outside of school is online. Consequently, when they do meet face to face in school, staff are regularly dealing with ripples that lead to misunderstandings and potentially bullying between students. Many students are staying online late at night. As educators, parents and carers, we need to work together to ensure our children are ultimately safe and happy. Please read the information and advice within the newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 3rd June and wish you all a restful half term.

Ms Bridge



Mental Health and Social Media

Social media allows young people to build friendships, stay connected with friends and family, and express themselves in creative ways. However, it also brings with it constant pressure for young people to compare themselves with others, live their lives in public, and always be available. This can have a significant impact on mental health and on their ability to focus and socialise in a positive manner in school. It also effects situations where they do not have access to their phone such as inside school.

- Just over a third (35.0%) of children accepted a friend request online from someone they did not know and 8.5% had shared their location publicly, in the last year.
- An estimated 19.2% of children spoke to or exchanged messages with someone online in the last year who they had never met in person before.
- Almost 1 in 10 (9.5%) children aged 13 to 15 years received a sexual message in the last year (no significant difference compared with the year ending March 2020), with just over three-quarters of these (76.7%) receiving them more than once.
- 19.1% of children experienced an online bullying behaviour, in the last year nationally.
- Over half of children told their parent or guardian about the bullying they experienced in the last year, however, 18.1% who experienced an online bullying behaviour and 14.7% who experienced an in-person bullying behaviour did not tell anyone.

Telling someone at home is often the first response for many children and young people who experience cyberbullying, but parents and carers may feel ill-prepared to provide help, particularly if they are unaware of the types of activities their children are involved in online. There are a range of resources available which offer advice on how parents and carers can respond to cyberbullying. The following recommendations are taken from two resources: guidance from the Department for Education entitled Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying and the Anti-Bullying Alliance's factsheet.

Top tips for parents and carers to help protect their children and young people from cyberbullying

- Know what cyberbullying is, including who is likely to be involved, where it happens, and what impact it can have on those who experience it.
- Build a clear picture of what kind of activities your child is involved in online, including what applications or websites they visit, and familiarise yourself with the privacy and reporting procedures available.
- Look for signs that your child may be experiencing cyberbullying, such as being upset after using their phone or laptop; being secretive about their online activities; spending more or less time than usual online; becoming increasingly withdrawn, upset or angry; not wanting to go to school; avoiding social situations; difficulty sleeping; and lacking confidence or self-esteem.
- If you suspect your child is being cyberbullied, then it is important to remain calm, seek professional advice, and not retaliate.
- Attempt to find out as much as possible about the bullying, including where it happened, and who was involved.
- Gather evidence, such as through screenshots or message logs, and contact the relevant authority for help. If it is likely that other students are involved, then it is advisable to contact your child's school.
- Take the incident seriously and ensure that there is a successful resolution. If children and young people lose confidence that something will be done, then they are unlikely to report any future experiences of cyberbullying.

Notices:

- ◆ **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 27th to Friday 31st May - half term*
- ◆ *Monday 3rd June - students return to school (week 1)*
- ◆ *Tuesday 4th June - Year 9 report issued*
- ◆ *Friday 7th June - Year 8 PGL Parents Information Evening 6pm*
- ◆ *Friday 7th to Saturday 8th June - Bronze DofE expedition*
- ◆ *Friday 14th June - Year 8 report issued*
- ◆ *Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th June - Year 7 Bourton-on-the-Water trips*
- ◆ *Friday 21st June - Year 7 report issued*
- ◆ *Monday 24th to Thursday 27th June - Year 10 Geography Fieldtrips*
- ◆ *Thursday 25th April - Stowe Valley MAT Arts Festival at The Belgrade, Coventry*
- ◆ *Thursday 27th June - Year 12 Induction Day*
- ◆ *Friday 28th to Sunday 30th June - Silver DofE expedition*
- ◆ *Friday 28th June - Teacher training day (school closed to students)*
- ◆ *Wednesday 3rd to Sunday 7th July - Gold DofE expedition*
- ◆ *Thursday 4th July - Year 11 Prom*
- ◆ *Monday 8th to Friday 12th July - Enrichment Week*
- ◆ *Wednesday 10th July - Year 7 Transition Day*
- ◆ *Wednesday 10th July - Year 7 New Parents Evening*
- ◆ *Friday 12th July - Year 12 report issued*
- ◆ *Friday 12th July - Year 13 Prom*
- ◆ *Tuesday 16th July - Farewell Event (evening)*
- ◆ *Thursday 18th July - Year 10 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 18th July - school finishes at 12.30pm*



PTSA News

Family Quiz Night

On Friday 19th April, the PTSA held their second Family Quiz Night, compared by our very own quiz host with the most, Mr Bonfield. The hall was bustling with teams made up of students, families and staff, all competing for the coveted winners title and cash prize. Congratulations go to our mixed staff who claimed 1st spot!



Gold DofE Awards

Huge congratulations to a number of our students past and present - Neve L, Will B, Lewis M and Josh P all attend Buckingham Palace on Friday 10th May to receive their Gold Awards. This was a great experience for them.

A few words from them:

"We had a lovely day at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award for Josh, Lewis, Neve and Will, all 4 completed the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. The sun shone and we had a lovely walk through Hyde Park to get to the palace. There were speeches by the Duke and also by Vick Hope, a Radio 1 DJ and ambassador for Amnesty International. We visited the tea tent for cupcakes and listened to a speech by Billy Monger, a racing driver who was critically injured in Formula 4 and recently took part in Celebrity Race Across the World."

They were followed by Kathryn B who attended the next week, and also O'Shay S.

We are all incredibly proud of their achievement and it has been a joy to watch them develop through the award.



DofE Expeditions

The resilience of our students has been put to the test recently by the weather on our expeditions. During the Easter holidays 6 year 12 students travelled to the Brecon beacons to complete their Gold practice expedition. The weather didn't let us down and it rained again, campsites were flooded, conditions underfoot were awful but they stuck at it and actually the sun came out for the final day.



They are now all prepared for the

Qualifying expedition in July, routes are planned, expedition aim has been decided on and they just need to make the final decisions on what to eat. This is taking place in the Lake District and will see them traverse many hills heading from Seathwaite in the South West area, up to Pooley Bridge in the North East area.

Our battle with the weather continued with the Bronze Practice expedition. Yet again rain and lots of it. Despite that, all groups were enthusiastic from the start, their navigational skills were pretty good and most kept to time and planned route. There were occasions when they found it difficult to locate the right foot-path but all did fantastically well and reached their destination in good time on the Saturday. Despite the rain they all seemed to enjoy the evening to relax, talk to each other and spend time exploring the woods, and best of all not a mobile phone in sight. The rain continued over night at times being torrential so not all got a great nights sleep, but they just buckled down and got on with it. I am not sure many breakfasts were cooked that morning and there really is nothing worse than packing up a wet tent and putting it in your rucksack. Some groups found the navigation a little more challenging on the 2nd day but with a little assistance at times they made it to the finish.



Mock Trial Competition

On Saturday 23rd March we sent a team of experts in law to Coventry Magistrates Court to hear the case of the King V Jo Goodwin. Jo Goodwin was charged on the 27th January, with assaulting Chris Wheeler (taxi driver) causing them actual bodily harm contrary to section 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Six students took on the role of magistrates to decide whether Goodwin was guilty or not guilty.

Round 1 – KHS Prosecution lawyers opened the trial with the opening speech; they went up against a defence team from KES. The trial was smoothly executed under the careful guidance of our legal adviser. Our prosecution witnesses took to the stand to face the examination-in-chief and the cross examination. The verdict? Not guilty! Jo Goodwin was released without charge.

Round 2 – KHS defence lawyers went against a prosecution team from Shotton and delivered the closing speech. Our usher, Esme, ably led the witnesses to the stand to ask them to repeat the affirmation before giving their testimony. Our defence witnesses were in the witness box in this round including our own Jo Goodwin who on this occasion was found guilty! Sentencing was postponed to a later date!

Our Court reporter and court artist beavered away during our trials to make an accurate recording of all the action in the Courtroom. We are immensely proud of all of the students who took part in this mock trial organised by 'Young Citizens'. They prepared over many weeks prior to the competition showing great commitment and dedication. They were able to think critically in the moment and showed great confidence in public speaking. Above all, they worked really well as a team and supported each other in moments of great pressure, showing true grit and resilience. Congratulations go to Esme in year 7 who won the award for Best Supporting Role.

Our legal team are now demonstrating that their skills are transferable by using them in the classroom. However, word around town suggests that they will be back at the Courthouse for next year's trial!



Year 9 World Food Projects

Year 9 Food students have recently completed World Food Projects.

They had to choose a country to research and then produce a 3-course meal to present with their project. The dishes tasted fantastic and there was such a variety – well done Year 9!

Ms Jordan, Head of DT

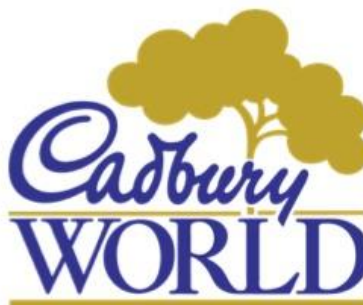


Year 9 Cadbury World Trip

On Wednesday 17th April Geography students in Year 9 visited Cadbury World to explore the ideas of globalisation, multinational companies and fairtrade.

The trip involved a tour of the factory, a presentation from the Education team and a ride on the 4D Crunchie rollercoaster!

Mrs Lovell, Head of Geography



GCSE Drama Trip

Year 10 & 11 Drama students thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Birmingham Hippodrome to see a production of Blood Brothers on Thursday 2nd May.

Mrs Frost, Head of Drama



Year 12 Keble College Trip

On Tuesday 30th April some of our Year 12 students spent the day exploring Keble College in preparation for their early applications.

Mr Bonfield, Head of Sixth Form



Sports News

Rugby



Congratulations to our Year 7/8 boys Rugby team who played against Shipston on Tuesday 19th March and won 4-1.

Tennis



On Thursday 16th May, students in Year 7 and 8 took part in an all day Tennis tournament and came 2nd overall—well done all!





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.