

Headteacher's message



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been an incredible start to the 2024-25 academic year; perhaps due to the fact, that we finally transitioned to our new school. After nearly 8 weeks of settling in, I'd like to commend the staff for their flexibility and determination in making the classrooms and corridors welcoming for our students. We were handed the keys to our new school on the Wednesday before the start of term and had well over 2,000 crates to unpack and much furniture to move around and into position. They've all done a fantastic job!

Despite the 'new building' snags, we are starting to make it our educational 'home'. The atmosphere and ethos we cherished in the old building is starting to shine through. In the last fortnight I've wondered how we all coped with the cramped corridors and classrooms for so long! There have been some really positive comments from students about our new surroundings as corridors and stairwells are more spacious and moving around feels safer and easier. The climate feels much more comfortable too; great conditions for learning! Of course, we are still revising and reviewing our systems. We will continue to do so through the next phase of the project. Demolition is due to begin early in the New Year, followed by the final landscaping.

One of my favourite events in our school year is the Year 6 Open Evening. The whole community comes together to present the school at its best for visitors: 2024 was no exception. We were so grateful to the students for making the whole evening such a welcoming experience for primary students and their parents. I was extremely proud of them all as we received many comments praising them for being such great ambassadors.

New term; new school; new House Leaders! They have been extremely busy getting our recently launched Houses: Avon, Castle, Fosse and Verney off to a very competitive start! Tug-of War; Halloween Bake-off and a creative writing competition have been popular as students are determined to win the annual House Shield. Do read the House Newsletter for more details about what they've been up to...

Year 11 and Year 13 students will be focussing on their mock exams in the next few weeks. They are an important opportunity for teachers to understand how well they've learned GCSE material as well as their exam skills. Retaining knowledge; knowing how to recall and apply it is the thrust of our 'Science of Learning' strategy this year. Mr Larner explains more on the website: [Science of Learning - Kineton High School](#) and in this newsletter. Good luck to all our students getting ready for their practice exams!

Finally, it's been the longest half term of the academic year. Well done to all our students; notably to Year 7 who have done a super job of navigating their new school and settling in! Have a safe and restful half term; we will look forward to seeing all our students back on Monday November 4th.

Ms Bridge

Notices:

Year 11 and 13 mock exams

Year 11 and 13 mock exams are quickly approaching following the half term. Please remember to make sure all students are equipped with all exam equipment (For year 11, this includes a Casio calculator fx-83GT CW, a set of compasses, pen and pencil, ruler, rubber, protractor). It's not easy writing exams using unfamiliar equipment. If you have any issues with purchasing exam equipment, you can contact Ms Young who may be able to help. The student exam timetable can be found on the school website under Information, [Year 11](#).

Scientific Calculators

You may not realise that there is a big difference between some of the scientific calculators available to purchase for school use. Some calculators don't have great functionality which can make typing answers into calculators more challenging and make it more likely for students to get incorrect answers. Calculators are used across multiple subjects including Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, and more. Our school recommends the Casio calculator fx-83GT CW. If you are struggling to purchase one of these calculators, please get in touch with Ms Young who may be able to help.

Safeline Online Parent Workshops

Safeline are offering online workshops for parents/carers on keeping your child safe online, risks of the online world, guidance around bullying and harassment and tips and strategies to help your child improve their mental health and self-esteem. For details please email ramandeepd@safeline.org.uk

Spring Term Calendar:

- ◆ *Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November - half term*
- ◆ *Tuesday 5th November - Sixth Form Open Evening 5-7pm*
- ◆ *Tuesday 5th to Friday 15th November - Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams*
- ◆ *Thursday 7th November - Year 8 Disco*
- ◆ *Thursday 14th November - Year 9 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 21st November - Year 10 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 21st November - Year 9 Parents Evening 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Tuesday 26th to Thursday 28th November - Geography A level trip*
- ◆ *Thursday 28th November - Year 8 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 28th November - Year 7 Disco*
- ◆ *Thursday 28th November - Sixth Form Winter Ball*
- ◆ *Friday 29th November - Teacher training day (school closed to students)*
- ◆ *Thursday 5th December - Year 7 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 5th December - Year 8 Parents Evening 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Wednesday 11th December - Parents Evening 'Online Safety' 4.30-6pm*
- ◆ *Thursday 12th December - Christmas Craft Fair 4.30-6.30pm*
- ◆ *Tuesday 17th December - Year 11 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 19th December - Year 13 report issued*
- ◆ *Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January - Christmas holiday*
- ◆ *Monday 6th January - Teacher training day (school closed to students)*



Message from Mr Larner

Science of Learning



Kineton has added a new Teaching and Learning initiative this year under the banner of The Science of Learning. We want students to be more self-regulated as learners; to understand how they learn and to be confident in planning their own independent revision leading up to assessments and end of Key Stage Examinations. As Examinations have got increasingly difficult over the last ten years, I have watched students deregulate and at times implode under the pressure of the intensively knowledge-based curriculum assessments. To that end we have launched a new programme that will better equip students for this rite of passage.

Teachers have received training from research provided by Ross McGill in 'The Revision Revolution' (2022) that will support them with designing lessons more with making knowledge stick in mind. Teachers will also be guiding students on how to revise for that particular subject. The three main revision strategies we will be pushing are:

1. Flashcards – Using the Leitner method
2. Mind maps or Brain dumps
3. Constant self-quizzing through programmes such as Educake, Corbett Maths or through revision resources created such as flashcards.

Parents can be a massive support network for their children as they prepare for these tests. Look out for what assessments or exams are coming up on Classcharts (through homework or announcements) or on the Y11 part of the website for mock and exam timetables. Guide students through the planning progress (cramming simply doesn't work anymore with these new complex exams!), and help students create independent revision tools through the methods above.

Our aim is that more prepared and autonomous learners will be happier children.

Message from Ms Boyle



As Assistant Headteacher overseeing Behaviour and Ethos, I am excited to introduce our brand-new House system at Kineton High School! This year, we proudly welcome four new house names and four new house leaders: Fosse- Miss Hill, Castle-Miss Holmes, Verney-Mr Wallis, and Avon-Miss Campbell, each representing the strength and unity of our school community. The new House system is designed to foster a sense of belonging, teamwork, and friendly competition among all students. Throughout the year, we'll be hosting a series of exciting House competitions that will challenge your child's skills, celebrate their achievements, and bring us all closer together as a school community. I encourage everyone to get involved, show your House spirit, and help make this an unforgettable year at Kineton High School. Let's make our Houses proud!

It has been so wonderful to welcome our students back after the summer break. Seeing everyone settle back into school life so quickly and smoothly has been fantastic, and I am incredibly proud of how well they have returned with such positive attitudes and a renewed sense of purpose. Their enthusiasm for learning and participation has already set a brilliant tone for the year ahead. Here's to a great year filled with growth, achievement, and House spirit!

Message from Mr Daly

As we come to the end of the first half term, school attendance has been excellent with all year groups achieving rates well above the national average. This is a fantastic reflection of the commitment students, and their families have shown towards education. Maintaining high levels of attendance is key to ensuring that students are making the most of their learning opportunities, and this strong start sets a positive tone for the rest of the year. By continuing this momentum, we can ensure that students are fully engaged in their studies and in the best position to achieve their academic goals. Well done to all! Following the introduction of the latest guidance from the DFE, working together to improve school attendance August 2024, we would like to bring to your attention how Kineton High School will support students and families. Outlined below are our support procedures and our attendance roadmap.

ATTENDANCE ROADMAP

In line with the DFE statutory guidance we offer a supportive attendance process based on relational, needs-led, stepped approach. Our schools will offer a welcoming ethos with high expectations for all.



We will assess data to identify absence trends and use prevention discussions/meetings with families to listen, understand and support to remove barriers. Where needed we will formalise support to nurture improvement and only as a last resort we will consider intensifying support &/or enforce legal action.

EARLY ABSENCE SUPPORT

We move to this step if the child's absence is near to the national threshold for absence (10 sessions absence) to prevent further absence occurring and reaching the national threshold. Discussions and meetings will be offered to identify if early support or reasonable adjustments are needed. This will be done by using connection discussions (student/parent) and connection meetings. An early help assessment could be initiated as a further form of intervention to support attendance improving.

WARNINGS-CONCERNS REMAIN

Where step 2 or 3 support has been unsuccessful or attendance has declined, a 'formal warning' letter or 'notice to improve' letter will be issued to reinforce the need for immediate improvement in attendance. A family court order such as an Education Supervision Order will also be considered as an alternative to prosecution.

LEGAL ACTIONS-NO IMPROVEMENT

Legal Action (Fixed Penalty Notice) MAY be requested by the Local Authority if unauthorised term time absence is taken or your child's overall absence continues to occur and reaches or exceeds the National threshold for absence, despite STEPS 1-4 being attempted. Statutory guidance states a referral to Children's social Care for Children with severe absence (Less than 50%) should be considered to obtain 'intense support'.

1 IDENTIFY, ASSESS AND PREVENT

Our daily actions and processes aim to promote relationship building with children and families to prevent absence. We will monitor daily absences and track data trends or absence patterns to inform our conversations with you (and your child where age allows). The trigger for conversations is where absences are at risk of reaching the new national threshold of 10 sessions (this is either 10 half days absent or 5 full days absent) within a 10 week rolling period.

Other daily actions involve promoting attendance positively using praise and incentives, swift daily absence follow up, emails and letter communication to raise your awareness of emerging concerns and doing home visits to meet our safeguarding duties as required.

3 FORMALISED SUPPORT

Where absences continues and initial support needs to be increased, an attendance contract (AC) will be offered to formalise support. This is a 3-6 month nurturing plan of support to help improve attendance and prevent further absences. Achievable and individual targets will be set and reviewed regularly. For long term and complex absences, medical information or evidence may be requested to support the school in planning the accurate support for the child and family at this time.



If you have any questions regarding attendance, please don't hesitate to contact our attendance team. Our attendance team are as follows:

James Daly - Attendance Champion

Daly.j@stovevalley.com

Rebecca Errington - Senior Attendance Lead

Clare Thorbergson-Hunt – Attendance Officer

khsattendance@stovevalley.com

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE SUPPORT PROCEDURES'



STEP 1 IDENTIFY, ASSESS AND MONITOR EACH ABSENCE EVENT	
1	<p>Track daily absences of all students. Follow the daily absence process for explained or unexplained absence. Parent/carer contact daily whether via text/phonecall/email/postcard or letter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tutor connection chat; Tutor will discuss absences with student on return to identify any informal support. Step 1 connection letter sent as a reminder when 4 sessions absence occurs (eg. 2 full days) Tutor level connection rewards (for those with 100% attendance but also for improved attendance) Connection postcards sent home for positive reinforcement of attendance
STEP 2 ABSENCE SUPPORT 6+ SESSIONS OF ABSENCE	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 2 connection letter sent. Actions can include; Motivational interview, internal target set, HOY connection meeting or contact, attendance lead connection meeting or contact, Medical evidence discussion if applicable. Early help pathway to be considered Student connection plans considered Barriers to attendance will be discussed and support put in place to remove these Referrals to external agencies as needed Praise postcards used if attendance improves following intervention.
STEP 3 FORMALISED SUPPORT 10+ SESSIONS OF ABSENCE	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 3 connection letter sent. Actions at this stage can include; Formal Attendance contracts, Attendance lead panel meetings, Case manager assigned by school to support overcoming barriers to attendance, internal target, casework support from Warwickshire Attendance service Barriers to attendance will be discussed and support put in place to remove these barriers Referral to external agencies as needed Praise postcards used if attendance improves following intervention Medical evidence may be requested in cases that are complex or for prolonged absences <p>EVERY student who is severely absent (50%) and below will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have an individual plan to support their attendance Be assigned a case manager who oversees their re-integration to school. There will be weekly contact with the family and the child. The case manager will work through a toolkit to support the child and family overcome any barriers to attendance. A referral to Children's social care (or other relevant agencies) will be considered on a case by case basis for all children on 50% attendance and below
STEP 4 WARNINGS (CONCERNS REMAIN FOLLOWING STEP 3 INTERVENTION)	
4	<p>Where step 2 or 3 support has been unsuccessful or attendance has declined, a 'formal warning' letter or 'notice to improve' letter will be issued to reinforce the need for immediate improvement in attendance. A family court order such as an Education Supervision Order will also be considered as an alternative to prosecution.</p>
STEP 5 LEGAL ACTION (NO IMPROVEMENT FOLLOWING STEP 4)	
5	<p>Where all other avenues of support in steps 1-4 have been unsuccessful referrals will be made to the LA for consideration of a Fixed Penalty notice or prosecution under (S444) A referral to children's social care for intense multi agency support will also take place</p>

Message from Mrs Simpson

Year 11 have made an excellent start to the year and it's pleasing to see that they're focused on their upcoming mocks in November. Their real GCSEs will start at the beginning of May, with some practical subjects starting before that. These are the first set of mocks going into the Sports Hall so we have been carefully planning the logistics being in the new build.

Form time looks very different in Year 11. A lot of students attend Period 0/morning intervention sessions with key teachers. In addition, tutor times are also spent revising, completing independent study and completing past papers. We are also looking at The Science of Learning together, which is designed to look at practical learning tips based on research. Students have a Form Focus every fortnight which is around different ways of revising. There is a clear focus on students' mental and physical health in Year 11 and how a Growth Mindset can positively impact on their exams and beyond.

In only one half term, students have enjoyed trips such as the Drama trip to see The History Boys and Geography field trips. We also have trips further afield this academic year for Year 11... and Prom planning is also going well!

Students have had a very full-on half term and hopefully they will be able to do some resting as well as revising for their mocks. The next half term is going to be a challenging one, but it will definitely support their learning if they can show their teachers what they can do at this point.

Message from Ms Stallwood

What a start from year 8! I am so thrilled to be taking the year 8's through another year at Kineton High School. We have had an exciting start to the year, moving into the new school building and embracing our new houses (Avon, Castle, Verney and Fosse). Lots of year 8 pupils have competed in numerous house competitions like best Halloween Cupcakes or drawing their house mascot. We even had a winner and a runner up in the best Halloween Cupcakes, well done Chloe and Bea!

Year 8 have also had some competitive sports fixtures, including a win in Netball against Shipston. We are looking forward to starting our football fixtures and more after half term. Please remind students to attend the extra-curricular clubs.

Year 8 have also had their first flexible learning day this year where they looked at British Values and diversity. We also have some exciting opportunities coming up next half term, including the school Disco, which I know lots of the children are looking forward to attending! Just a reminder, if your child would like to attend the disco, please ensure you have filled out the Microsoft Form, sent out earlier this term.

Overall, year 8 have continued to demonstrate our KHS Values of Ambition, Respect and Kindness (ARK), earning themselves lots of positive points. We currently have 74 pupils with 100% positive record this half term! Please ensure you are accessing Class Charts as parents/ guardians as lots of information is posted through Class Charts. If you have any issues logging on, please contact myself or your child's form tutor.

I am so proud of everything year 8 have achieved so far this year and can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds!

Please email me if you have any questions – stallwood.c@StoweValley.com



Message from Ms de Vos

Year 7 students have had a fantastic first term at KHS! I am so proud of all they have achieved so far – there has been so much change and new information for students to take in over the past 8 weeks and Year 7 have shown resilience, determination and maturity in the way they have risen to this challenge. Year 7 have achieved over 20,000 house points in their first half term – a huge achievement and something they should be very proud of! They are establishing themselves as a confident and ambitious year group, which has been evident in their involvement with our extra-curricular offer and house competitions this term. Highlights have included the Halloween themed creative writing and cupcake competitions, the darts competition (which teachers got involved in too!) and tug of war at the start of term. Students have also thrown themselves into extra-curricular, including the whole school production, football, Warhammer, and even setting up their own clubs!

It has been a pleasure watching Year 7 students succeed and overcome challenges in their first term – making new friends, learning new topics and growing in independence. In their end of term reflections, students highlighted flexible learning day, extra-curricular clubs, developing skills in new subjects and creating their ILT projects as their favourite parts of this term.

Year 7 – I hope you have a wonderful and restful half term break. Take some time to reflect and congratulate yourselves on your achievements so far! I look forward to seeing lots of you at the Día de Muertos film night this evening - thank you to the Spanish department for organising and hosting this fabulous event!



Kineton High School

WELCOME YEAR 7

It has been fantastic to welcome our new Year 7 students to Kineton High School today. They have really enjoyed their first day and been brilliant at navigating their way around our brand-new school. It has been a pleasure meeting them all and seeing lots of smiling faces. We look forward to sharing their school journey and seeing the amazing things they will achieve.

Ms Bridge, Headteacher



Sports News

Football



Congratulations to our Year 9 boys Football team who won 3-2 against Stratford School on Thursday 26th September.



Well done to our Year 10 boys team who played Myton School on Thursday 19th September.

Hockey



Our mixed Year 9, 10 and 11 Hockey team played their first match on Tuesday 22nd March and won—congratulations!

Rugby



Well done to our Year 7 boys Rugby team who played in a tournament at Alcester Grammar on Wednesday 9th October and won all 5 matches!





Leave of Absence

During Term Time 2024-25



Student Absence Procedure

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school for any reason, planned or emergency (part day, full day or multiple days) please report the absence via the Class-Charts app. You can attach evidence to support your child's absence such as appointment letters or copies of medication. Alternatively, please call the absence line on 01926 645611 **before 8.50am**, stating their name and form, your name and reason.

This must be done for each day they will be absent.

For holiday requests, music exams, external sporting activities, religious observation dates and any other reasons or circumstances where your child will be absent from school (not relating to illness) please complete a [leave of absence form](#) and email it to khsattendance@stowevalley.com

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.

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 2024-25



The Supreme Court clarified has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wight 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 law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence 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. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

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 is expected 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. 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.

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'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 1 September 2024. Therefore Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken after this date will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

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 – 4 in total).

First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.

Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice) A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority