

# House Newsletter



Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

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!

*Miss G Boyle*

Assistant Headteacher

Behaviour and Ethos

Kineton High School

#TheKinetonWay

## Achieving Personal Best



## A message from Miss Campbell

Dear parents, carers, and students,

I've truly enjoyed my time so far as the first leader of Avon House. It has been a rewarding experience to witness our community come together, celebrating our unique talents, and supporting one another.

In Avon House, our core values of Perseverance, Resilience, and Collaboration guide everything we do. We celebrate each student as an individual, recognizing that while some may excel academically, others shine in different areas. By working together, we bring out each other's strengths and talents, helping everyone achieve their personal best and develop into well-rounded, resilient young people.

Our values go hand in hand with our school's ARK ethos, promoting a community where every student is encouraged to strive for personal excellence, support their peers, and develop a sense of belonging and pride.

What I truly love about KHS is our strong sense of community. I aspire for this spirit to resonate throughout Avon House, ensuring that every student's experience at Kineton is as enriching as possible. We aim to equip our students to tackle any obstacles they may face during their time at KHS and beyond.

It's clear that we achieve more when we work together, and I am committed to ensuring that every voice is heard, and no one is left behind.

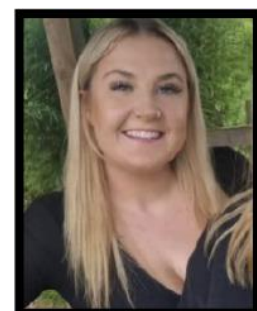
It has been fantastic to see the excitement surrounding our recent competitions and quizzes. We've seen an incredible variety of talents from our students, and it's brilliant to watch them try new things they might not have considered before. The friendly competition among students (and staff!) is also great to see.

The house leaders and I have worked together on a range of competitions designed to appeal to all students. Our main goal is to celebrate our differences and promote inclusivity, ensuring that everyone can participate.

Currently, Avon House is in second place for the House Cup, and I am excited to work with all of you as we aim for victory. Together, we can make this an unforgettable year!

Warm regards,

*Miss Campbell*





# A message from Miss Holmes

Dear parents, carers and students,

I'm delighted to be the first leader of Castle House! As we move forward with our fantastic new school, an exciting opportunity arose to rebrand our house system – an opportunity and challenge I'm thrilled to be part of.

Castle House is proudly named after Warwick Castle, which is such an iconic landmark and part of Warwickshire's history. When thinking about

the values I wanted to instil within my house, I thought about what Warwick Castle may symbolise for others, and the skills I wanted our students to develop. As such, the Castle House's values are resilience, independence and empathy. Just like Warwick Castle, I want our students to be able to bounce back from hardship and stand strong in the face of challenge; be able to stand tall, proud and do things for themselves along with showing kindness and support to all.

I love the community that has been built at Kineton High School and I am proud to be a part of it. Moving forward, I have lots of exciting ideas to develop projects for our students within the local area. My hope is that we are giving back and enriching the lives of our students, village and wider community.

I have been delighted to see the engagement in competitions, quizzes and the new house system so far. It's heart-warming to see students joining in, trying something new and having fun. The Castle House Halloween cupcake entries were super creative and inspiring. Castle House also won the creative writing competition, with an excellent piece from Ziyad in 10BR. I have also loved our mini competitions in assembly, including 'who can build the tallest tower' and our very own form tutors throwing the furthest paper aeroplane! 10KP are currently in the lead!

Moving forward, the other house leaders and I have lots of exciting ideas we would like to embed within our wonderful house system. We have planned a range of competitions designed to suit a range of different pupil interests. We want all our students to feel included and excited about being part of the Kineton High School community.

I cannot wait to continue working with you all, let's bring that fighting spirit to win the house cup!

*Miss Holmes*



# Castle House

## Achieving Personal Best



## A message from Miss Hill

Dear parents, carers and students,

I am excited to be the house leader of Fosse!

The Fosse Way is one of the oldest and most important Roman roads in Britain, the name adds a geographical and cultural relevance, deepening the connection between the school's identity and its local heritage. Roads like the Fosse Way symbolize journeys comparable to

to the journey of learning and personal growth that students undergo during their education at Kineton. The Fosse Way connected various Roman settlements and towns, promoting unity and community this directly links to the Fosse House values of teamwork, engagement and resilience and problem solving.

The attributes of problem-solving, teamwork, and resilience would allow students to consolidate their understanding and practice of the ARK values. During this half term students have focused upon the core value of Fosse house which is engagement - this has had a positive impact on students' motivation and achievement by striving to achieve their personal best.

During form time and assemblies, students have taken part in a range of inter-house activities such as, a weekly house quiz; house mascot competition; paper aeroplanes and cricket juggling. Students have also had the opportunity to take part in numerous house competitions this half term including longest frisbee throw; tug of war; creative writing; darts; netball shooting and Halloween cupcakes. I look forward to engaging students in a wide range of activities next term.

Congratulations to Oscar 10TB for winning the netball shooting competition!



Congratulations to 7JST who won the pumpkin carving contest.

We are currently in the lead with the most house points so far this year. Hopefully we can retain this lead to win the house cup at the end of the year!

*Miss Hill*

## Achieving Personal Best



## A message from Mr Wallis

Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

It has been my absolute pleasure to lead Verney House over the first half term of this year. We have had an excellent start to the new revamped House Competition and have already seen lots of successes.

Verney House is named after the wonderful Compton Verney house and estate just up the road and we mirror their values of Collaboration, Inclusivity, Boldness and Fun, values which support our own school values of ARK.



As a House we are currently languishing in last place in the House Point competition but are top of the podium when it comes to the weekly quiz. As it stands Verney are leading the way thanks to excellent, and consistently high, contributions from all forms. I want to particularly mention 10JK, 9FW and 11HG forms though who are our house top 3.

Avon	Verney	Fosse	Castle
663	733.5	627	436

Verney students have also consistently contributed well to all house activities this year so far, winning the House Tug of War and also the House Darts competitions and having the most entries into the House Mascot Competition. What we lack in HPs we make up for in attendance and participation!

Every 2 weeks I really enjoy leading Verney assemblies in the hall. We complete a mini game or challenge every time seeing students and staff compete in a giant darts match, a higher or lower card game and a domino blowing challenge. Special mention to 11HG for winning Higher or Lower, 11HG (Freddie) for beating Mr Keevill at giant darts and 10JK (Ollie) for winning the domino blowing challenge.

I am really looking forward to the upcoming competitions and assemblies.

Verney, Verney, Verney.

*Mr Wallis*





# Congratulations!



Bradley - 11SEL  
Furthest Frisbee  
Winner!



Oscar - 10TB  
Netball winner!



Who can build the tallest  
tower?  
Mr Pearce's form (9KP)  
winners!



Austin - 10JK  
3 Dart challenge  
winner!



Erin - 8DJO  
Verney Mascot winner!



7ST - winners of Fosse Houses'  
pumpkin carving competition!

# Achieving Personal Best

# Competition Winners



## Congratulations!

### 'No Such Thing as Ghosts'

Written by Ziyad 10BR

As I trudge down the dimly lit path, with harsh, foreboding mountains looming up like ghostly shadows on either side of me, I can't help but feel a twinge of uncertainty. The air around me is frigid with winter's chilling embrace – and once again, I question if it's only the bitter weather that is making me shiver with a horrible sense of anticipation.

Stupid ghost stories, I think to myself. *You're going soft – stop thinking about it.*

So, I stop thinking about it – or at least, I try. Every tiny noise is making me twitch: the crunch of my footsteps on the gravel, the screech of an owl out on its nightly hunt, the sudden sound of an animal's flighty footsteps, inaudible in the day but ever so loud at night. What a perfect place and time to get lost...

When I first realised I was nowhere near where I should be, I had started walking in the vague direction of home – now I'm well and truly lost. The path feels as though it's fading into nothing more than a cold mass of iced-over mud, while the shadowy silhouettes of the hills around me just seem to stretch further and further into the distance. There is no chance of getting any closer to home now. I should have just stayed where I was.

But there's nothing I can do now – my only option is to keep walking in the hope of finding shelter; I can't stay here in the freezing open air all night...

After what feels like hours, I spot something in the distance. I can't quite make out what the shape is, but it looks like the silhouette of a house – instinctively, I make my way towards it, my sullen footsteps breaking into a run as the building gets closer and closer. It must be some sort of salvation... a house means somebody to talk to, to ask where I am, to help me get back home.

Yet as I approach the building, I see that it isn't a house at all. It's raised above the ground on a long stone platform which I climb onto – on the other side of the platform are two parallel ribbons of steel, stretching away onto the horizon and glinting like a sharpened knife under the moonlight: a railway line. Hanging above me is a clock, choked with rust and barely summoning the energy to drag its hands around its dull white face, although it's still ticking, marking each passing second with its drab call. This building must be a railway station... in which case somebody must be arriving in the morning. At least I can take shelter here overnight-

What was that? Did I just hear something – a shrill, howling wail, echoing against the mountains? I must be going insane. No – there it is again, and that time I definitely heard it, piercing the cold midnight air and shattering the silence that had descended over the valley.

## Achieving Personal Best

I can feel my legs twitching and cowering beneath me, longing to bolt back to the safety of the valley. I start backing away towards the station building, as quietly as I dare, painfully aware of my heavy breathing and my thudding heart threatening to beat out of my chest. Something's telling me this isn't right.

I hear the wail for a third time, this time louder than before. My heart starts thrashing against my ribs in a desperate attempt to escape, but I'm stock still, frozen to the spot as more and more noises become audible and getting closer and closer – the unmistakable clattering of steel wheels on steel rails, the sharp, rhythmic bark of a *steam engine*.

Almost before I realise it, it's there in front of me, a glowing white beast of the past – whistle wailing as desperately as a banshee, it roars closer hissing hoarsely like a monstrous wild creature, swaying and lurching from side to side as its wheels pound the rails and bear down on the platform. For a split second, I catch sight of two figures inside the cab of the engine, faces pale and haunted, staring straight ahead. A dizzying sickness rises in my throat as the train rockets past, and I instinctively cover my ears in response to the cacophony of noise that it produces – coughing and spluttering in the wake of its smoke, I crack one eye open again just in time to glimpse the spectral image thunder out of sight, shrieking for all it was worth like a lost soul. The whistle howls like a wolf in pain through the valley one last time, before the noise dies away as swiftly as it had come.

This is the final straw. My legs finally burst into life and almost tear themselves from my body – slamming my back against the hard brick wall of the station building, pain shoots up my spine as I spin around and fumble with shaking fingers at the door handle. After a couple of agonising seconds, it swings open and I tumble inside the building with all the speed of a frightened animal running from its predator. Banging the door shut behind me, I back into the corner of the room, trying in vain to gather my thoughts and control my shaky breathing – although nothing works. I'm a cowering, shivering wreck. All thoughts of rest vanish in that moment. Slowly sinking to the floor, I cannot even begin to comprehend what I have just seen. There *must* be an explanation... but what could it be? As I sit on the hard wooden floor of the building, with harsh, foreboding walls looming up like ghostly shadows on either side of me, I can't help but feel an awful sense of trepidation.

Suddenly, my heart lurches as the same ear-splitting wail shatters the silence of the valley once more. The hoarse bark of the sceptre returns again, getting louder and louder.

The train's reversing.

Back towards me.



## Achieving Personal Best



# Halloween Cupcake Competition Winners



*Congratulations!*

Chloe  
8CTH  
AVON



Beatrice  
8SA  
CASTLE



Clementine  
7JST  
FOSSE



**Achieving Personal Best**

# This Term's Competitions



## Kick ups!

How many kick ups can you do?

More information to follow in assembly.



## Design your own exhibit!

Design your own museum exhibit based on an event in history of your choosing!

More information to follow in assembly.



## Best Dressed Tutor Room Door!

Which tutor group can design and decorate a Christmas themed tutor room door?

More information to follow in assembly.



## Christmas Gingerbread Competition!

Who can decorate the best Christmas themed gingerbread house or Yule Log?

More information to follow in assembly.



Enter for a chance to win awesome prizes!



Baking set for cupcake winners!



Art set for mascot winners!

# Achieving Personal Best