

Christmas Card

We are delighted to report that this year's Stowe Valley MAT Christmas Card was designed by one of our Year 8 students, Erin Carter.



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Festive Greetings!

On reflection, it has been a momentous term as we finally moved into our new school building. It has been incredibly well received by our students and staff in feedback. This has been evident in classrooms and in the way students are able to circulate and socialise much more easily and calmly. The snagging period is coming to a close and we are fine tuning routines and getting displays and signage up on the walls.

The final week of term has arrived and Kineton High School is traditionally seasonal. It is perhaps one of the most special times of the year at the school as our community demonstrates our ARK values with gusto! The festive period is notably a time of giving, celebration and is incredibly busy. Our new dining area provided the location for our Christmas Fair last week which raised over £2,600 for Katherine House Hospice. This was an incredible amount and illustrated what our students, staff and wider community can achieve together. This wouldn't be possible without the generous donations made by our families and students. Thank you to all parents and families who also came along to support. Of course, we are grateful to Father Christmas too, who managed to drop in with a couple of his elves!



We had some fabulous entries for our House Christmas Door Competition!

The Sixth Form have been rehearsing hard on their show for this year's Charity week which is always a finale at the end of a tiring term. The events and excitement keep everyone going and of course, all the funds go directly to the chosen Charities for this year: The British Heart Foundation and a local Charity, The Lily Mae Foundation.

Of course, the term has not just been about the last week! The Autumn term is such an important one for establishing end points for the year in terms of learning skills and knowledge. Teachers continue to focus on adapting lessons to ensure all learners are suitably challenged; we have had some positive feedback on this from external visitors during 'self-evaluation' days. Mr Larner has launched our 'Science of Learning' strategy which aims to encourage our students to be more independent and understand how to remember and recall more effectively.

The ongoing dangers of students' online activities continue to keep us on high alert. Mr Few's Safeguarding Bulletin gives further information on how parents can support their children. Our Online safety event for parents at the start of the month proved to be extremely useful. We are reviewing our mobile phone policy in school and exploring the connections between mental health and social media use in our youngsters.

At our Christmas carol service last week, Reverend Jackson reminded our Year 7 to take a moment from the bustle to reflect and remember that this period is ultimately about love and respect for those close to us but also those who might not be as fortunate.

I hope that all our students get a good rest; have fun and stay safe over the break and wish all our community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ms Bridge

Students busy setting up for the Christmas Fayre.



KINETON HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL SURVEY

- 99% of staff feel that behaviour is at least good
- 100% of staff are proud to work at Kineton
- 90% of parents say their child feel safe at Kineton
- 94% of students say they feel safe at the school
- 92% of students say that teachers listen to them
- 87% of students enjoy learning at this school
- 82% of parents say the school deals with concerns well
(28% have never had a concern)



Feedback

In October, schools across the Trust invited students, staff and parents to participate in surveys about their respective schools. This feedback is so important in finding out what we are doing well; the impact of our strategies, as well as what we need to do to improve further. I was delighted at the overall positivity within the responses, however, fully appreciate there is more we can do to address certain aspects of school life.

What makes our community proud of the school?

- Our ARK values
- The new building
- Friendships
- Sport
- Teachers and staff
- Strong sense of community
- Ethos and values
- Improving results
- The Students
- Professional development

What do we need to work on according to our students?

Ensure all our students feel they have a trusted adult.

A minority of students felt they weren't sure who they could speak to; we will work with them in form time and assemblies to find out more and explain what this means and why it is important.

Communicate clearly how bullying is dealt with and what constitutes bullying.

We have shared again how students can report bullying and how it is handled in school. Further work will be done across the school to ensure that students understand that bullying is not tolerated and encourage them to report unkind behaviours.

Ensure all areas of the site feel safe.

We will be relaunching our Student Voice Platform in the New Year which has a map of the new school that students can report into.

Address perceived inconsistencies in application of behaviour policy.

A student friendly version of the behaviour policy will be shared to help them understand the way in which the policy is implemented.

What did our parents and carers say?

17% of parents and carers responded

Strengths

- Good range of clubs
- My child does well
- My child feels safe
- Happy children
- High Expectations

What can we do better?

- Communication:
 - How children are doing and what they are studying
 - In general, sometimes too much or too little
- Meet the needs of some SEN students
- Canteen queues and food
- Perception of inconsistent application of rules for some

We have read the comments and summaries of the surveys and have started to address these. Thank you to all our parents and carers who took the time to complete the survey.

Ms Bridge, Headteacher





Notices:

Careers News

Well done to all Year 10 students who are working towards securing work experience placements in July. Particular mentions go to Eddie A (going to Norbar Torque Tools in Banbury) and Mia G (going to Little Greggs Pre-School in Stratford Upon Avon) for returning their completed paperwork and gaining 20 House Points each for their respective houses.

Our new Careers Coordinator, Dawn Stock, started with us on 9th December and is working with students and staff on next destinations, work experience and our annual Careers Fair in February. If you have any questions please email stock.d@stowevalley.com

Spring Term Calendar:

- ◆ *Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January - Christmas holiday*
- ◆ *Monday 6th January - Teacher training day (school closed to students)*
- ◆ *Thursday 9th January - Year 12 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 9th January - Year 12 and 13 Parents Evening 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Monday 13th to Friday 24th January - Year 13 Mock exams*
- ◆ *Thursday 23rd January - Year 11 Parents evening 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Friday 24th to Sunday 26th January - Gold DofE training event*
- ◆ *Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th January - A Midsummer Night's Dream 6-7pm*
- ◆ *Tuesday 4th February - Careers Fair (school day event for students)*
- ◆ *Thursday 13th February - Year 9 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 13th February - Year 8 Options evening 6pm (virtual)*
- ◆ *Thursday 13th to Sunday 16th February - Iceland trip*
- ◆ *Thursday 13th to Sunday 16th February - New York trip*
- ◆ *Monday 17th to Saturday 22nd February - Ski trip*
- ◆ *Monday 17th to Friday 21st February - half term*
- ◆ *Tuesday 4th March - Year 13 report issued*
- ◆ *Wednesday 5th March - Silver DofE training day*
- ◆ *Tuesday 11th March - Year 11 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 20th March - Year 10 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 20th March - Year 9 Options evening 6-7.30pm*
- ◆ *Monday 24th March - Year 11 information evening 6-7pm*
- ◆ *Thursday 3rd April - Year 7 report issued*
- ◆ *Friday 4th April - PTSA Family Quiz night (date to be confirmed)*
- ◆ *Thursday 10th April - Year 11 report issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 10th April - Year 7 Parents evening 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Monday 14th to Friday 25th April - Easter holiday*



Christmas Message

From our Sixth Form Student Presidents

Happy holidays all!

Christmas at Kineton is widely regarded by both students and staff as the busiest and best time of the year. Charity week is a privilege to be part of as a sixth former, and a fun end of term for students in the lower school. Charity week feels unique to Kineton, and in my opinion, is unrivalled by any other whole school events hosted by any other local school – few certainly connect years 7 to 13 in such an entertaining and memorable way. Crucially, the holiday season reinforces the strong sense of community we have at Kineton, and it helps usher forth the new year with optimism and a smile on students' faces.

I wish you all the best Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Collins



Christmas at Kineton has always felt like a home from home kind of experience for many of the students here. From the dazzling Christmas tree in the main canteen to the glittering tinsel that meanders across the balconies. This year, students and staff have been involved in a number of Christmas activities such as the "best dressed door", where students and teachers turn their classroom doors into Christmas themed works of art. The Kineton Christmas craft fayre is always a favourite amongst all year groups, students love being able to engage with their creative side for this event, plus feel that they are contributing to the local community by helping raise money for charity. As a year 13 student this will be my last Christmas as a student at Kineton, the fun and opportunities that I have been lucky enough to experience for the last 7 years has been thrilling and it is something special that I will miss. Even though this is the case, Christmas at Kineton will always be referred to with words like 'fabulous' or 'exciting'. And with that, our Kineton community hopes you have a Christmas full of words of compassion and kindness.

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you!

Evie Hunt



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 into our new building with our fantastic new sixth form area and facilities. Year 12 are already contributing to our school community, 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 the year 13 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) students submitting their projects, delivering some outstanding presentations and educating Mr Bonfield and Ms Moore on a wide variety of topics. Year 12 have also made a very strong start to their EPQ, building on a set of strong EPQ results achieved in the summer.

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.

We then ran a very successful Sixth Form open evening. All the students who helped out on the night did us proud with their hard work and enthusiasm for the school, especially our student presidents for their fantastic speeches.

This was followed by many year 13 students sending off their university applications to UCAS. We have now submitted nearly 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 very quickly followed by our fabulous annual Winter Ball at Walton Hall 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. 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 The British Heart Foundation and the Lily Mae Foundation. Thank you to all the students and staff for their hard work, especially 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 end of term show. We'll let you know how much money we raise in the new year.



Mr Bonfield



Ms Moore

Message from Mr Larner

Homework: Independent Learning Tasks—Learning for Life

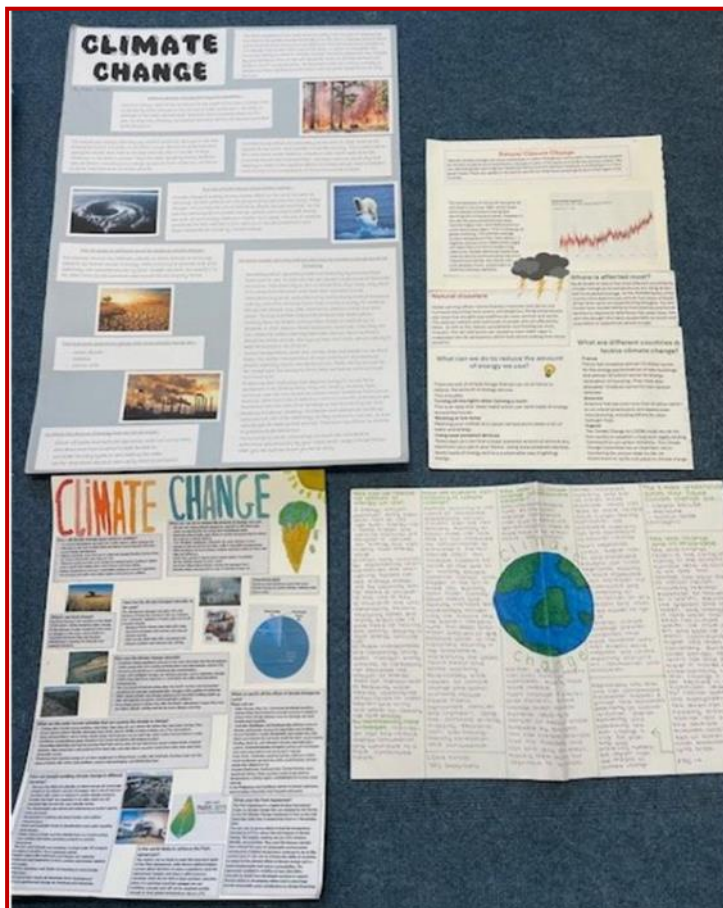


It can be quite a step up for students when they arrive at Kineton High School and are introduced to our large independent homework projects, more commonly known as ILTs.

As a Geography teacher, I've found the quality of the ILTs in my Y8 and Y9 classes this year has been beyond my expectations. The Year 8s have been working to carefully craft a Biome within a Box as a resource tool to teach younger students about another large ecosystem somewhere in the world (often tropical rainforests capture the most interest!). Whereas my Year 9s have been making A3 or often A2 posters on the issues around climate change; who it will affect the most and how the global human society can try to tackle this issue. The boxes and posters have been fantastic and seem to have fostered the curiosity and wonder we envisage with these tasks. There are many other softer skills that go alongside this, my University Tutor once asked the undergraduates to craft a poster on a charity working in another country across the world, and the young adults were quite stumped as it was such an unusual assessment !

Other soft skills that come alongside these projects may include digital literacy, research, wider reading, organisation, time management. Indeed, both ecosystems and climate change comes back into the Geography curriculum in Year 11 and these projects prepare the students admirably.

At Kineton, we are working hard to ensure the ILTs are chunked and well structured so that students know exactly what to do, and that there is that clear work life balance for students as they embark on the various ILTs across the school year. Ultimately, we want the students to be proud of their work, and I have seen some absolutely superb projects this year in my own classes but across Geography and in the other subjects that run them such DT.



If you have any queries around ILTs please do get in touch: larner.j@stowevalley.com



What an amazing start to the year!

Year 8 have returned to Kineton High School after the summer break with enthusiasm and ambition. There was a lot of excitement around the new school, seeing friends again and being back part of the Kineton Community. Once again, the Year 8's have made me incredibly proud.

Already this term the year 8 students have been awarded over 28000 positive points with a week to go!



HOY 8 (Miss Stallwood)



8DJO Form Room (Miss Jones)



8CKA Form Room (Miss Virtue)



Highlights from the first term include:

- Year 8 Disco!
- Numerous sports fixtures in Football, Netball, Basketball, Badminton and more.
- Poppy Cook and Lucy Watson with their amazing speeches at Open Evening.
- Christmas Craft fair
- An amazing Parents Evening.
- Erin Carter winning the Trust Christmas Card Design.
- Christmas Door Competition and other various house competitions.

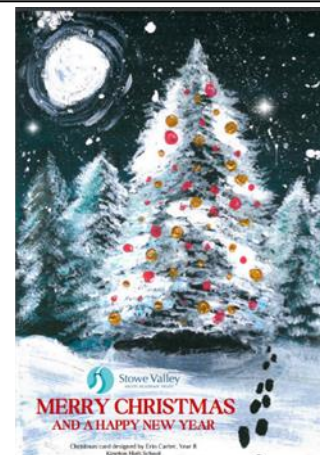
Thing to look forward to:

- School production- starting 29/1/25.
- Year 8 Virtual Options Evening -13/2/25
- World Book Day

Attendance:

For this term we are sitting around the 94% mark for attendance. Whilst I am pleased with this, attendance is so important, and I would love for us to reach 96%.

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approximately this number of weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 Days lost connection time	2 Weeks	50 Lessons missed
90%	19 Days lost connection time	4 Weeks	100 Lessons missed
85%	29 Days lost connection time	6 Weeks	150 Lessons missed



Wishing you a Merry Christmas on behalf of everyone at Kineton High School!

Miss Stallwood (HOY 8)

DofE News

This has been a busy term launching the scheme for this academic year. We have 47 students signed up to complete their bronze award, 18 for Silver and 14 for Gold. These are the biggest numbers yet and it is fantastic to see so many young people getting involved.

The silver group have kicked off at pace and have already had a training and planning day in school and a practice expedition to Exmoor. The weather was very changeable but it was fantastic for them to experience navigating across open moorland, through wooded valleys and along the coast. This is only the 3rd year we have used Exmoor but it is a beautiful and varied location which gives so much variety.

Both Bronze and Gold groups have started their training with a full day in school learning about maps, route planning, how to use Trangia's safely and some foods that are suitable for expeditions. The gold group will head out in January for a 3 day training session in the Dark Peak area of Derbyshire.

GOOD NEWS

Congratulations to the following who have all completed their awards this term:

Gold Awards - Elena W and William P, they will be heading off to Buckingham Palace to collect their awards.

Silver Awards - Romilly B, Sam H-W and Isobelle C.

Bronze Awards - Alba M-A, Hattie L, Maddie S, Ella N, Poppy M, Chloe B, Charlie M, Jack Y, Noah J-S, William M, Charlotte C, Daniel A, Byron S, Oliver G, Amy H, Amelia B, Ruby J, Charlotte B, Zac P, Tegan B-R, Samuel A-J, Jack F, Cale B, Jimmy P, Alice S, Jamie J and Daniel W.

To any of you who still have sections uncompleted come along and have a chat and we will try to get things signed off.

THANK YOU

We are very grateful to have received support from KINETON UNITED CHARITIES which has enabled us to purchase some new tents. Equipment is a massive expense to us and this has enabled us to replace some of our tents which are getting quite tired now. Hopefully this will mean our students get a more comfortable and dry night. Kineton United Charities is a local charity which aims to support the young people of Kineton and Combrook.

Mrs Briggs
DofE Manager



Sports News

Basketball



Well done to our Year 7 Basketball team who played in a friendly tournament at Alcester Grammar School on Wednesday 20th November and won 5 out of 6 games.

Netball



Congratulations to our Year 7 Netball team on winning their match against Shipston High School on Tuesday 19th November.

Football



Our Year 9 Football team hosted a 7-a-side competition at the end of November and came second overall.



On Tuesday 3rd December our Year 8 Football team hosted a 7-a-side tournament. They played some great football—well done.





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