

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,



It's hard to believe that we are half-way through an academic year already! I'm approaching the half term super-excited to be going on the trip to New York with Ms Purnell, Mr Daly and our Year 11 students. I feel very privileged to be going with them. It has also opened my eyes again to the incredible amount of work that goes on behind the scenes in planning trips for our students. This half term sees Kineton students going to Iceland, New York and France (skiing). Our staff are determined to offer wonderful memorable experiences for our young people and I'm very grateful to them for their efforts.

Notwithstanding, the amazing extra-curricular opportunities that students can get involved in. Perhaps a highlight of this half term has been the school production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Students and staff worked incredibly hard to deliver exceptional performances which were choreographed and performed brilliantly. Thanks to all our students who made it so special.

Have a safe and restful half term.

Ms Bridge



Notices

Considerate driving during drop-off and pick-up time

It has been observed and brought to our attention that some drivers are not displaying the consideration we'd expect to other road users and pedestrians at the entrance to the school site. It is important that everyone drives safely and considerately at key times of the day to avoid accidents and enable flow of traffic on the school site and through the village.

Please can you take note:

- There are clearly marked yellow zig-zags in front of the school which must not be parked on under any circumstance. Our community police team visited the site last week and have agreed to carry out spot checks of the road.
- The entrance to the school can not be used as a turning circle, either before school or at the ends of the day when school buses and staff need immediate access to the entrance. Traffic is having to wait at times, whilst drivers turn around in the entrance. Please use the one-way system on site or preferably, leave children to walk from a point which is safe to park on. (e.g. further along the Banbury Road)
- At the end of the day, from 2.15, cars should not come on site. They block access to the site for buses; we have 14 buses needing to park and collect our students at the end of the day.

Thank you to everyone for following these guidelines-it really helps to keep everyone safe and calm.

Spring Term Calendar

- ◆ *Monday 17th to Friday 21st February- Half term*
- ◆ *Monday 24th February - Year 11 Information Evening 6-7pm*
- ◆ *Tuesday 25th February - Year 8 reports issued*
- ◆ *Wednesday 26th February - Author visit for Years 10 and 11*
- ◆ *Friday 28th February - Year 8 into 9 Options forms to be submitted by 9am*
- ◆ *Monday 3rd February - Author visit for Years 7 and 8, No Pen Day for Year 9*
- ◆ *Wednesday 5th March - Silver DofE training day*
- ◆ *Wednesday 5th March - Year 13 Achievement Evening 5.30-6.30pm*
- ◆ *Tuesday 11th March - Year 11 reports issued*
- ◆ *Friday 14th March - Year 9 Geography trip to Cadbury World*
- ◆ *Thursday 20th March - Year 9 into 10 Options Evening 6-7.30pm*
- ◆ *Thursday 27th March - Year 10 reports issued*
- ◆ *Friday 28th March - PTSA Family Quiz Night*
- ◆ *Thursday 3rd April - Year 7 reports issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 10th April - Year 11 reports issued*
- ◆ *Thursday 10th April - Year 7 Parents evening 4-7pm*
- ◆ *Monday 14th to Friday 25th April - Easter holidays*

Year 12 Geography trip

Year 12 were lucky enough to be joined by Tim and James, Principle Planning Officers from Birmingham City Council on Thursday 6th February. They had a talk and tour of all of the regeneration sites in the city centre and were told about what is planned for Birmingham in the future. The students also conducted fieldwork at several sites with the view to assessing whether rebranding in the city has been successful. Overall the students worked really well and were a pleasure to spend the day with.

Mrs Lovell, Head of Geography



Birmingham
City Council



Careers News

Last Tuesday was the occasion of our annual Careers Fair. We had a good variety of exhibitors and were impressed by the level of student engagement with the different stalls. We even had a tractor from Moreton Morrell on site which proved a hit! It has been really helpful to read feedback from both exhibitors and students and this has given us helpful input into our preparation for next year's fair.

Well done to those Year 10 students who have organised their work experience placements and handed in their completed consent forms along with their Risk Assessment forms and Insurance Certificates. It's also great to hear that many students are on the way to having completed their forms and paperwork and we look forward to receiving those. **A reminder that the deadline for handing in completed forms and paperwork is 15th May please.** Work experience is such an enriching and confidence building experience for our Year 10 students.

The work experience paperwork and helpful links can be found on the careers page of our website: <https://www.kinetonhighschool.org.uk/careers>

Mrs Stock, Careers Coordinator



Sixth Form News

We are absolutely delighted to report that following a very successful and entertaining Charity Week before Christmas, we raised a staggering **£4813.06!** This has been shared equally between charities chosen by Sixth Form students; The Lily Mae Foundation and British Heart Foundation.

On Friday 24th January, we invited Ryan Jackson (Founder and Managing Director of The Lily Mae Foundation) to give a presentation to Sixth Form on the wonderful work the foundation does supporting parents and families after a Stillbirth, Neonatal Death, Miscarriage or Medical Termination. We also presented Ryan with a cheque for the money raised. Thank you to all our students, staff and families for their support and generous donations.



This half term has been a busy one for both Year 12 and 13; as well as submitting UCAS applications, Geography students in Year 12 visited Birmingham to look at regeneration in the city and Gold DofE students completed their first expedition. Year 13 have completed mock exams in lessons; submitted EPQs and enjoyed a workshop from Amazing Apprenticeships.

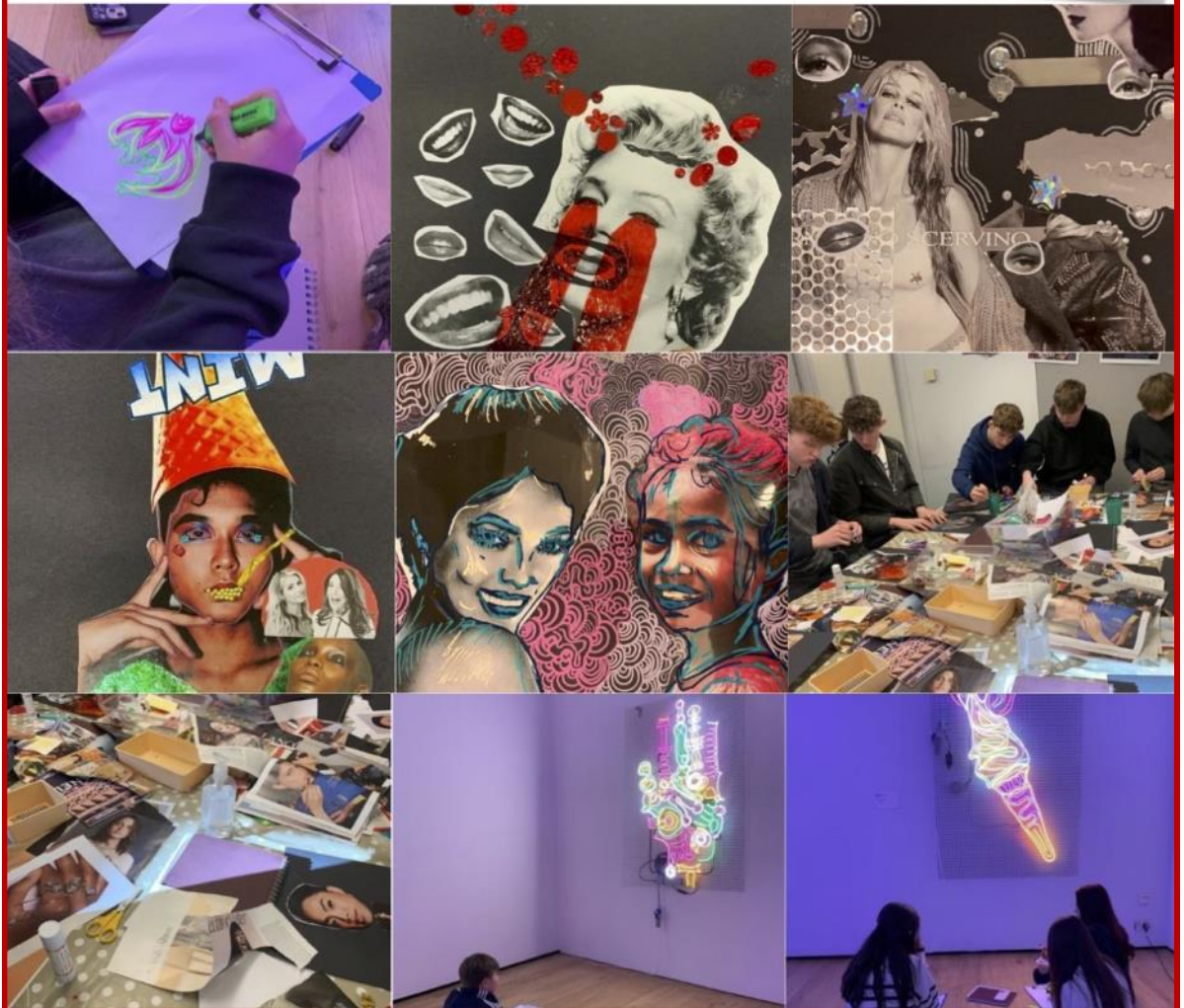
Look out for updates and information in the weekly newsletter from Mrs Moore.

Year 11 Art trip

Year 11 visit Compton Verney

On Tuesday 14th January Year 11 Art and Textile students spent the day at Compton Verney where they explored the phenomenal work of Chila Burman. Thank you to all the staff who worked with the students, in particular Emma and Elle; the students have made an amazing start to their Art/Textiles GCSE exam.

Ms Purnell, Head of Art and Design



COMPTON
VERNEY

Sports News

Athletics



Well done to our Year 7 and 8 girls teams who took part in an Indoor Athletics competition on Wednesday 29th January. Year 7 came second and Year 8 came third.



The Year 7 and 8 boys also took part in the Indoor Athletics completion on the 29th, Year 7 came seventh and Year 8 came third.

Football



On Wednesday 12th February our Year 7 boys team played against Aylesford School and won 4-3.



Our Year 9 boys team played a match against Myton School on Tuesday 11th February and came away with a draw.



Sports News

Hockey



On Wednesday 12th February our mixed Year 8 Hockey team played a friendly match against Shipston High School.

Rugby



Tuesday 11th February saw our mixed Year 7 and 8 team play against Shipston High School. Despite some great play they lost 6-4.

Year 9 Fits a Knockout Champions

THINK Active

5 THINGS THAT REQUIRE ZERO TALENT:
 - BEING ON TIME
 - STRONG WORK ETHIC
 - BEING COACHABLE
 - GOOD MANNERS
 - DETERMINATION

IF YOU THINK

SCHOOL GAMES

Huge congratulations to our Year 9 girls' team who won the Fits a Knockout County Finals on Tuesday 4th February.



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